
Chairman Consentino called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

Town Clerk /Tax Collector: Cindy Reinartz was present to clarify the tax deeding process for 2011 unpaid taxes. She had scheduled tax deeding for Friday June 27 at noon so that the Selectmen could review the deeds at their Thursday meeting to determine whether to deed the properties. Sel. Consentino pointed out that the Selectmen wouldn’t be available to sign the deeds during the day on Friday in order to record them at the Registry of Deeds. After discussion relative to the best way to schedule deeding, it was agreed that the deeding would occur at 4:15 on Thursday June 26, 2015. The Selectmen will then review the deeds at their regularly scheduled meeting, determine which properties to deed and sign. The deeds would then be recorded on Friday morning.

Minutes: Sel. Jesseman moved, seconded by Sel. LaPlante to accept the minutes of January 15, 2015 as amended. Motion passed.

Sel. Jesseman moved, seconded by Sel. LaPlante to accept the minutes of January 19, 2015 as corrected. Motion passed.

Sel. Jesseman moved, seconded by Sel. LaPlante to accept the minutes of January 22, 2015 as corrected. Motion passed.

Sel. Jesseman moved, seconded by Sel. LaPlante to accept the minutes of January 26, 2015 as presented. Motion passed. Sel. Consentino abstained.

Sel. Jesseman moved, seconded by Sel. LaPlante to accept the minutes of January 28, 2015 as rewritten. Motion passed. Sel. Consentino abstained.

Town Administrator Joyce Fulweiler, Agenda Items:

2015 Warrant:
- Delete Article 8
- Cannon Bridge: Sel. Jesseman suggested going ahead with Dennis Allen’s proposal of funding the Cannon Bridge project out of the Capital Reserve Fund which has sufficient funds. Sel. Dawson suggested that this would adversely impact road projects as it wouldn’t leave enough funds for roads. Sel. Consentino suggested putting the total amount for the bridge on the warrant and let the voters decide whether to take funds out
of the Capital Reserve Fund or not. Sel. Dawson couldn’t support raising tax dollars for this project. Joyce Fulweiler pointed out that Dennis Allen has been requesting $65,000 for the Capital Reserve fund annually in anticipation of the bridge project as well as road projects. If we put $65,000 in the fund this year there will still be enough money for road projects. Joyce explained that in order to designate the $52,000 Block Grant money for the bridge it would have to be earmarked in the budget to give the Selectmen the authority to spend it on the bridge project. It would be necessary to budget the $52,000 in the road construction line item and show that it will be offset by the block grant. Sel. Jesseman again stated that if we put the normal $65,000 in the Capital Reserve Fund there will be enough funds for the bridge in that fund for the bridge and the scheduled road projects. This issue will be further discussed before the Budget Committee public hearing.

- Remove Article 12 – recreational facilities
- Article 2 – Elderly Exemptions: Joyce presented a comparison of elderly exemption income and asset requirements of other similar sized towns. She believes that Tilton’s requirements have not changed since the 2005 revaluation and will conduct further research of town meeting minutes. With the current revaluation the median house value is $156,000 and Tilton has 70 disabled and/or elderly exemptions. Joyce suggested increasing the income limits for single and married and use the same requirements for disabled, who would move to elderly when they reach age 65. Sel. Scanlon suggested increasing the income limits by the amount of COLA each year so that someone would continue to be eligible with a Social Security increase. Sel. Consentino commented that even if we increase the income to $26,000 we will still miss a few people who don’t quite qualify. In 2014 Tilton had $4.5M worth of elderly and disability exemptions which equals $99,360 in tax that all other taxpayers have to pick up. After determining that the accumulated COLA since 2009 is 8.5%, the consensus of the Board was to increase the income limit for a single person from $24,000 to $26,000 and for married couples from $32,000 to $34,000. The asset limits and exemption amounts to remain the same.
- In discussion of the petition submitted for any T-N Aqueduct work to be completed one month before paving project, Sel. Scanlon suggested that this article needs to have a beginning and ending timeline so that a project is not stretched out for years by adding language that a road cannot be open more than a certain number of days. This will need to be amended at town meeting.

The warrant, except the Capital Reserve Fund, is ready to be sent to the Budget Committee with an explanation that the Selectmen are working on best way to fund the bridge.

**CDBG** –The Implementation Grant application for Gaslight Cooperative has been submitted. Eight projects were submitted for a total of $3.2M but only $1.9M is currently available although
there may be other funds. The Sewer Commission is working with Gaslight relative to connection to the White Rock pumping station.

**Other:**

- Joyce Fulweiler received a concern from a resident on one of the state roads maintained by the Town that their dug well located 20 feet from the road has very high sodium levels. Sel. Dawson stated that there are no health-based standards for sodium chloride under the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and that the EPA removed sodium from the drinking Water Contaminant List in 2009. Although chloride does not pose a human health concern, it can affect the taste of drinking water. The EPA has identified 250mg/L as a concentration at which chloride can be expected to cause a salty taste in drinking water. If the resident is still concerned about the quality of their drinking water they should test it periodically over the next year. The problem is road salt is not the only source of salt contamination. Natural brines and salt deposits, industrial and agricultural chemicals, and water treatment can all contribute to high levels of sodium chloride levels in drinking water.

- The tree in the Grange Road Cemetery has not been removed. A letter has been sent to the abutting property owner requesting they remove it. The hanging tree branch over the sidewalk and Silver Lake Road has not been removed. After discussion relative to the town’s liability should the branch fall, the consensus of the Board was to ask the Public Works Department to hire someone with a bucket to remove the branch at the least cost as soon as possible.

- Regardless of a legal opinion from the Municipal Government Center indicating it is not necessary, the Selectboard choose to be on the safe side and hold the 2 public hearings for the easements to be granted to WRTA on the “Ernie’s” property as soon as possible.

- Joyce has notified Committee Chairpersons relative to the members of each committee who are up for re-appointment.

- Septage agreement with WRBP – the revised document is the same as before, except for#5. Sel. Dawson will do further research relative to the wording of the document.

- At the Feb.12 meeting, Lauren Martin will be here for a non public session to discuss a tax appeal case.

- Atty. Alexander Buchannon, has informed the town that the Ron Martin property in Hill sold at foreclosure auction which has wiped out the Town of Tilton’s attachment. As this
finalizes the Martin case, Joyce will calculate and subtract the legal fees expended from the settlement amount so that the balance can be transferred to the Conservation Fund.

- Bittern Lane – Sel. Dawson is arranging a meeting with the Public Works Department, the Police and NHDOT relative to access to Rte 3/11 so that all departments hear the same requirements for development on Bittern Lane. DOT says Rte 3/11 would have to be widened to allow a right turn lane if development occurs. No application has been submitted at this time, but the Conservation Commission will be involved when a design is submitted.

- Joyce will arrange for refreshments at Town Meeting.

- Trash bags – a resident turned in a defective sleeve of bags which the Town exchanged. Sel. Jesseman stated that the trash bag company has been good about replacing any defective bags.

Selectmen’s reports:

Sel. Scanlon: Sel. Scanlon suggested putting a calendar on town website for recycling days. He also suggested the Board look at the town IT policy for security in light of recent issues. Sel. Jesseman suggested a closed loop that is not connected to the town server for internet access so that it won’t infect our system. Sel. Scanlon expressed concern that we don’t have a very strong policy that says not to download certain things. He will work with Tim Pearson to put something together for board review.

Sel. Jesseman: The Underground Storage Tank Committee has proposed raising the surcharge for diesel .02 and gasoline by .05 per gallon as the Committee needs to generate $25,000 in ten years to close down the tank and the current annual maintenance, inspection fees, etc. exceed the amount received from the surcharge. Sel. Jesseman thinks the group is headed toward closing the tank and ending the group agreement eventually. Sel. Dawson stated that we pay more per gallon because we are maintaining the tank. Sel. Jesseman reminded her that for years it has been beneficial to be part of the group and that it is only the recent reduction in prices of fuel that has made it more expensive. The group will seek the best price in June for next year. The tank may not necessarily be closed in ten years, but it is necessary to plan for it. Sel. Scanlon suggested closing the tank now at the estimated cost of $19,000 which would be cheaper than paying the surcharge for 10 years. The Town is only paying a small portion of the cost of the tank, but Sel. Scanlon pointed out that the taxpayers are also paying the surcharge and higher fuel prices through the School and Fire Districts. Sel. Jesseman suggested waiting for another year to see what happens to the price of gasoline as he is not in favor of cutting and running from our obligation to the group. Joyce Fulweiler noted that any entity can withdraw from the group,
so it is an option if Tilton wants to do it, but it may not be any cheaper. After further discussion the consensus of the Board was to approve the increased surcharge for diesel and gas.

Sel. LaPlante moved, seconded by Sel. Jesseman to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 PM.

*Minutes approved 02-19-2015*