

TOWN OF BELGRADE

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS

TUESDAY / NOVEMBER 4, 2008 / 7:00 P.M. / TOWN OFFICE

SELECTPERSONS CONVENED 7:00 P.M./ ADJOURNED 9:47 P.M.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Melanie Jewell	Selectperson	Jack Sutton	Budget Committee
Ricky Damren	Selectperson	Gayle Finkbeiner,	Budget Committee
Chris Merrow	Selectperson	Dennis Purington,	Budget Committee
Dan Newman	Selectperson	Tom Streznewski,	Budget Committee
Richard Carey	Selectperson	Pam Tracy	Treasurer
Dennis Keschl	Town Manager	Scott Damren	Facility Maintenance
Gordon Pow	Building Committee	Bruce Galouch	Transfer Station Com.
Fred Perkins	Board of Parks & Recreation		
Gen Hall	Board of Parks & Recreation		
Gary Fuller	Code Enforcement Officer		

Others in Attendance: Julia Schnee

Order of Business:

1. Melanie Jewell declared a quorum and opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. The Board reviewed the meeting minutes from the October 21, 2008 meeting. Ricky Damren made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Dan Newman seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSTAIN (CHRIS MERROW)**

Unfinished Business:

1. The Town Manager addressed the agenda item concerning the Regional Code Enforcement. He said that he would like to get a clear understanding of what the Board would like to do in the area of Regional Code Enforcement. **(Please see the attached document on the background of Regional Code Enforcement)** The Town Manager recommends that the Board consider putting an amount of \$40,000 into a Water Quality Fund, instead of the originally discussed \$20,000. This would provide monies for legal actions that will be taken in the near future for potential shore land zoning violations. Also recommended to consider, is the town video-taping its shore land on a bi-annual basis to provide a record that may be used for any future violations. The \$40,000 could either help pay for the shore land video-taping to be done and/or purchase the camera needed to do the job. Melanie Jewell said she thought it makes sense to place an amount of money into a legal fund versus a Water Quality Fund for legal violations. Melanie further stated she felt a Water Quality fund should still be developed. Ricky Damren said he is not ready to vote for the water quality fund and the regional code enforcement at this time. The Town manager said that he could speak with the town lawyer to see what the anticipated costs of the upcoming legal actions may be. Pam Tracy informed the board there are currently legal fees in code

enforcement's budget, but only \$500, and perhaps the Board should consider adding the additional consideration of money for legal purposes into this line item. This discussion will be brought to the budget meeting for November 15th.

New Business:

1. Pam Tracy provided the third quarter financial review to the Board of Selectpersons and the Budget Committee. **(Please see the attached document)**
2. The board reviewed the information provided concerning the request for the Town to cut down the trees on Town property. Patti Kimball was not present for the meeting. The Town Manager provided the background information to the Board. **(Please see the attached background statement and pictures)** The tree warden was not present for the meeting, but has been down to the site and conveyed to the manager that the trees are perfectly healthy and there is no need to have them removed. Mike McCray, from CMP, is looking to remove a maple tree that is in the area and is a hazard. CMP has looked at the maple tree and are contacting the property owners concerning the removal of the tree. Dan Newman said the trees that Mrs. Kimball is requesting the town cut, are 30 to 40 feet high and they were planted by the Kimballs, so he feels that Mrs. Kimball should go get a second opinion concerning the trees and forward both the opinion and the credentials of the individual providing the opinion to the Town if she wants them removed. Ricky Damren made a motion to deny the request to have the trees removed. Dan Newman seconded the motion.
CLOSED 5/0
3. Fred Perkins was present from the Board of Parks and Recreation for the discussion concerning a non-resident sitting on a town board. Fred stated he feels that Julia Schnee, as a taxpayer and non-resident, should have the chance to be allowed to be a voting board member on the Board of Parks & Recreation. He further commented that he understood the board not want to set a precedence in reference to people from away sitting on boards, but he feels that Julia as a Belgrade business owner, and a taxpayer of two properties in Belgrade, is a volunteer at the local school, community center and very active in the town. Fred feels the Board should consider to allow for 10% of town boards/committees to be filled by a non resident.

Melanie asked if the Board of Parks & Recreation had taken any vote on a recommendation to amend the Board of Park & Receptions bylaws. Fred said they had not.

Dennis Purington said as a citizen many of the items being voted on are monetary and this would mean individuals from away would be making recommendations for the town residents. Fred responded and said they were already taxpayers in the town.

Gordon Pow recommended that the distinction between citizen and resident be made as both terms are being used. He asked the question as to what does it take to make a great organization? With volunteerism being down, shouldn't the board consider this, as it speaks to regionalization? He feels perhaps the board should set up a rule in regards to non-resident membership and to consider trying it on a trial basis. He feels that 10% of the representation on most boards is not going to take control of a board.

Tom Streznewski said he felt that both sides had good arguments and he felt that people who are taxpayers from away should not be telling us what we are going to do. However, Tom feels that the Schnee's business and commitment to the Town are the same as someone who is a resident of the town.

Julia Schnee made a statement on her behalf. She said that her love of Belgrade is the reason she likes to be involved with the community and its activities. She currently participates in most of the recreational activities at the Center and does not have a vote on agenda items considered. She said originally they wanted to purchase property in Belgrade and just did not find any affordable property, therefore they bought property in Rome, adjacent to Belgrade.

Bruce Galouch stated that there were two non-residents on the Transfer Station & Recycling Committee. The Town manager stated that was because they were employees at the Transfer Station.

The Town manager said that Cheryl Abbott lives here 12 months out of the year, but lives during the week down in Massachusetts. She was told by the board that she can only be on the board as an advisory member. She makes a regular commitment on attending every meeting, where there are other board members who do not make many of the meetings. In fairness to the situation the board needs to consider this.

Dan Newman asked why Julia felt it was important to be a voting member. Julia stated because she feels that she is a vested volunteer in the community.

Jack Sutton suggested that the Board of Parks & Recreation propose a revision to their by-laws and then make a recommendation to the Board of Selectpersons.

Gayle Finkbeiner suggested that the board consider placing a 10% sunset provision on the decision. This would put something in place that is not set in stone and would be on a trial basis for the timeframe of perhaps a year.

Fred Perkins commented after listening to the discussion, he proposed that the Board of Parks & Recreation first formalize a recommendation to an amendment to their bylaws, and then bring this back to the Board.

Ricky Damren commented that perhaps this should be an article on the town warrant for the residents to vote on. The town manager responded that he felt this is a policy that has been set by the Board of Selectpersons and there is no requirement for it to go to the Town. Ricky replied, he felt if the Town voted on this, then it would clear the air for everyone.

Dennis Purington commented he thought perhaps this could just be a change in the bylaws.

Dan Newman stated he did not have any objections to a non-resident on a Town Board if they were not seasonal and if they had a business. He felt the Board could impose stricter

than the normal requirements from non-resident Board members versus the requirements for a resident board member.

Melanie Jewell stated she feels the policy the Board set is overall a good policy and it may just have to be redefined.

The Town Manger stated he would be willing to work with folks and draft considerations that have been discussed at the meeting tonight.

Melanie Jewell felt some of the changes may have to include;

- Folks who have other participation other than a business in town
- A policy that does not change the face of the town boards/committees.
- Protection of the interest of the Town

Melanie recommends the Board of Parks & Recreation review their board bylaws and makes a recommendation to change their bylaws. Melanie requested all the Town Boards and the number of members each committee has be part of the supportive information for the November 18th Board meeting.

Melanie Jewell made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to draft up all the considerations discussed this evening towards a board policy on non-residents participating as board members and to send the document out via email for the board and others to review. Chris Merrow seconded the motion. **CLOSED 5/0** Ricky Damren said he wanted to make sure that all the boards were looked at.

4. The Board reviewed the information about a plaque for the Fire Chief. Ricky Damren made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to move forward with ordering a plaque for the Fire Chief. Chris Merrow seconded the motion. **CLOSED 5/0**
5. The Town Manager informed the Board there were no bids on the RFP for the Transfer Station Addition. Through a consensus email to proceed as a Town project he has had the facility maintenance look into acquiring bids. Melanie Jewell requested the quotes to be brought back for the next meeting for the board's review. Ricky Damren made a motion to authorize Scott Damren to move forward in acquiring quotes to get the work done. Dan Newman seconded the motion. **CLOSED 5/0** The Town manager stated if this does not work, then the Transfer Station staff will move the small building up to where the waste oil will be hooked up so that people can get warm.
6. Gordon Pow was present from the building committee. **(Please see the attached documents)** Gordon updated the Board on the property being considered. The property is in foreclosure and the lien holders have agreed to release the property for what the trustees are willing to pay. Several options were presented to the building committee members.

The majority of the members voted for option # 4. The Committee has decided to not present this project to the Town for financial support this upcoming year given the status of the economy, and both fuel and food costs. The Committee will ask to recommend the town fund the next portion of the project with the engineering and permitting processes. Gordon asked whether the Board wanted the building committee to move forward, as their job is completed as they were charged to do. The conceptual design is completed and it is now time to educate the public. All the information has to be put together and communicated to the citizens of Belgrade. The committee is recommending asking an amount between \$60,000 and \$70,000 in the 2009 Town Warrant to continue the project. The price of building the facility is listed in the options provided and they are ballpark numbers based upon square footage.

Jack Sutton commented that speaking from the perspective of a budget committee member, he feels the next step of requesting the \$60,000 to \$70,000 brings with it a little more than these costs. He feels that the town should be made aware that this has the potential to be a three million dollar project. Jack asked what the set-up of the food pantry would be, and if this is a proper legal basis of a town facility. He also feels that people should know how much they are spending on the building of a food pantry. Jack said that he thought some of the information provided should include an estimation of the contribution of the Town and the from the Library's approach.

Gordon requested the Board provide him and the building committee with a charge at this point.

Ricky Damren made a motion for the Building committee to move forward with the next phase of requesting the money for the architectural and the education of the public through public forums. Richard Carey seconded the motion. **CLOSED 4/0/1 ABSTAIN (DAN NEWMAN)**

7. The Town Manager informed the board that he would either like to set a date for the NIM'S training for elected officials or people can take this program online. He is asking that the office staff take 100 & 200. Melanie Jewell said she would take this online, and suggested that a deadline of December 1st be set for a deadline of the required NIMS training. Ricky Damren and Dan Newman have already taken the NIM's training and will provide the office with their certificates.
8. The Board reviewed the policy on payment of bills to the town. Ricky Damren made a motion to approve of the policy submitted to the Board and to have each and every vendor/contractor receive a copy of the policy with their invoice. Richard Carey seconded the motion. **CLOSED 5/0**
9. The board discussed the day after Christmas, which falls on a Friday. The Town Manager asked if the Board would consider allowing the employees the additional day off as he was fairly sure that the State would give their employees the day off, and the town follows the

State's holiday schedule. Melanie Jewell made a motion that regardless of what the State does, the Town Office employees can have the 26th of December off with pay. Chris Merrow seconded the motion. **CLOSED 5/0**

10. The Board reviewed the proposed snow date for the Town Meeting. Ricky Damren made a motion to set a snow date of Monday, March 23, 2009 @ 6:00 p.m. at the Center for All Seasons. Dan Newman seconded the motion. **CLOSED 5/0**

11. The Board reviewed **Municipal Warrant #11** for the amount of **\$616,935.45**. Melanie Jewell made a motion to approve of **Municipal Warrant #11** for the amount of **\$616,935.45**. Ricky Damren seconded the motion. **CLOSED 5/0**

12. The Board reviewed **Manual Warrant # 2359** for the amount of **\$4,709.56**. Richard Carey made a motion to approve of **Manual Warrant # 2359** for the amount of **\$4,709.56**. Ricky Damren seconded the motion. **CLOSED 5/0**

Updates and Announcements:

- Town Manager **(Please see the attached updates)**

Ricky Damren made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:47 p.m. Dan Newman seconded the motion. **CLOSED 5/0**

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary J. Vogel, Executive Secretary to the Board of Selectpersons