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TOWN OF THORNTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Town of Thornton • 16 Merrill Access Road • Thornton NH, 03285 • 603.726.8168

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes March 13, 2019

ROLL CALL: Chairman Roy Sabourn, Selectwoman Marianne Peabody, Selectman Brad Benton and Selectman Jack Gaites.

ABSENT: Vice Chairman John Paul-Hilliard

STAFF PRESENT: Town Administrator (TA) Debra Shepard, Jessi Fleury, Board Secretary

Agenda Items: (no public input unless approved by the Chairman)

3:40 P.M. Chairman Sabourn opened the Thornton Board of Selectmen meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance:

3:40 P.M. Non-public pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3, II (c-reputation and e-litigation)

MOTION: "To enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3, II (a, c, e reputation)"

Motion: J. Gaites

Seconded: B. Benton

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: Roy Sabourn – Yes, Marianne Peabody – Yes, Jack Gaites – Yes, Brad Benton – Yes.

Motion Passes: 4 – Yes, 0 – No

5:53 p.m. MOTION: "To exit nonpublic session."

Motion: B. Benton

Seconded: J. Gaites

Discussion: None.

Motion Passes: 4 – Yes, 0 – No

MOTION: "To approve an elderly and disabled tax deferral application for PID#10/8-5."

Motion: M. Peabody
Seconded: B. Benton
Discussion: None.
Motion Passes: 4 – Yes, 0 – No

MOTION: "To approve an abatement for PID#10/8-5 in the amount of \$3,582.00

Motion: M. Peabody
Seconded: B. Benton
Discussion: None.
Motion Passes: 4 – Yes, 0 – No

MOTION: "To deny approval of an elderly and disabled tax deferral application for PID#10/8-7-7 due to assets in excess of allowable limits.

Motion: M. Peabody
Seconded: B. Benton
Discussion: None.
Motion Passes: 4 – Yes, 0 – No

6:00 PM Weeping Birches Lane

Present: Joseph Monti, Maureen Patti, David Spinney

M. Patti provided the board with copies of their amended bylaws that reflect their intent to take responsibility for the water detention pond and maintenance of said pond. White Birches has agreed to sign an easement granting Grey Birches and the Town of Thornton permission to enter the property to maintain the pond. Resident of Grey Birches, Dave Spinney discussed liability of the pond with their insurance carrier and the association is fully covered. Chairman Sabourn told the resident attending that the BOS appreciates that this major concern is being taken care of and addressed. Chairman Sabourn stated that the town attorney still needs to review the new bylaws provided by Grey Birches. Chairman Sabourn shared his comments relative to a letter from WEVD's that had been generated in response to the Town's letter to Tom Avalone.

Chairman Sabourn shared with everyone that he feels the resolution of these issues is moving in the right direction. A resident asked if any discussions had happened between WEVD and the Town. Chairman Sabourn stated that no discussions between counsels has taken place yet but that he expects there will be discussion in the future. Chairman Sabourn explained that the Board has been in the middle of the budget process and intends to move forward with resolutions as soon as town meeting is completed.

Chair Sabourn felt that once the Board has an opportunity to discuss this situation with the town attorney, they will have more options to move forward towards a resolution.

Maureen Patti reported that she had emailed Corey Smith asking about the ownership of the 45-foot wings from the center of the road. R. Sabourn explained that this is

another area of concern that needs to be addressed so that there are no future problems maintaining the road after it is owned by the Town. R. Sabourn explained again that the Board and town counsel need to review the information after town meeting before the Board can comment or make any decisions at this point.

The requested as-built plan and the need to include John March in the resolution of the as built plan was discussed. R. Sabourn reported that he believes that Mr. March is not available at this time as he is out of the area and stated that he would be willing with Mr. March when he returns. Residents will follow up with the Town Administrator to schedule a meeting once more information is received.

MOTION: "To approve the vendor manifest for March 15, 2019 in the amount of \$347,988.08."

Motion: B. Benton
Seconded: M. Peabody
Discussion: None.

Motion Passes: 3 – Yes, 0 – No Abstained: J. Gaites

MOTION: "To approve the payroll manifest for March 15, 2019 in the amount of \$25,833.54."

Motion: M. Peabody
Seconded: B. Benton
Discussion: None.

Motion Passes: 3 – Yes, 0 – No Abstained: R. Sabourn

MOTION: "To approve the welfare manifest for March 16, 2019 in the amount of \$1,873.00."

Motion: R. Sabourn
Seconded: J. Gaites
Discussion: None.

Motion Passes: 3 – Yes, 0 – No Abstained: M. Peabody

ZCA

The Board reviewed the ZCA file.

MOTION: "To approve ZCA #2019-03 for PID# 10/11-14 for roof top solar panels."

Motion: B. Benton
Seconded: J. Gaites

Discussion: TA Shepard was made aware by the Town's Assessor that that beginning this year, solar panels will be assessed. She asked the BOS to put on their radar for next year, the need to recommend a solar exemption on the warrant for 2020 to address this change.

Motion Passes: 4 – Yes, 0 – No

MOTION: "To accept meeting minutes of February 27, 2019 as amended."

Motion: M. Peabody

Seconded: J. Gaites

Discussion: None.

Motion Passes: 4 – Yes, 0 – No

MOTION: "To accept non-public meeting minutes of February 27, 2019 as presented."

Motion: M. Peabody

Seconded: J. Gaites

Discussion: None.

Motion Passes: 4 – Yes, 0 – No

TOWN ADMIN PRESENTS

Certificate of Appointment Request

TA Shepard informed the Board that the Capital Improvement Committee has requested the Board appoint Al Lewis to the Capital Improvement Committee.

MOTION: "To approve an appointment for Al Lewis to the Capital Improvement Committee."

Motion: B. Benton

Seconded: M. Peabody

Discussion: None.

Motion Passes: 4 – Yes, 0 – No

Trustee of Trust Fund Requests

MOTION: "To approve a request for funds to be withdrawn from the Capital Reserve fund – Property Tax Maps for CAI Technologies Mapping Contract for professional services in the amount of \$4,000.00."

Motion: B. Benton

Seconded: J. Gaites

Discussion: None.

Motion Passes: 4 – Yes, 0 – No

MOTION: "To approve a request for funds to be withdrawn from the Capital Reserve fund – Assessing for Avitar Associates of New England, Inc for professional services in the amount of \$7,285.00."

Motion: M. Peabody

Seconded: J. Gaites

Discussion: None.

Motion Passes: 4 – Yes, 0 – No

Grant Application Request

Chief Miller is requesting permission to apply for a grant to reimburse training costs relative to an active shooter training that officers attended recently in Campton. The grant would reimburse the town \$1,040.27 for training costs. The Board approved this request.

Events Committee

The committee is working on an event called "Discover Thornton" and is asking the Board for ideas and feedback. The Board agreed to review the information provided and to have TA Shepard schedule the Events Committee on a future BOS Agenda for further discussion.

Complaint on Property use

TA Shepard informed the Board that the Town has received another complaint on the same property a past complaint was received on. When the original complaint was received the BOS sent the assessor out to confirm the property information was correct. The assessor reported that the property was correctly assessed and the TA wrote a letter to the person on the original complaint letter. That person called town hall to report he had not written that letter and that he felt others in the neighborhood penned the letter and typed his name to it. He was very upset and reported that he did not have any issue with the property in question.

TA Shepard received an email from Shawn Toomey, Division of Fire Safety with a complaint letter attached to it. The complaint was the same and this time the letter was signed by the RTE 175, Neighborhood Watch Group. TA Shepard let Mr. Toomey know that the town had already received this complaint and had taken appropriate steps to confirm that the property did not have any violations and was being assessed correctly. The town cannot respond to this new complaint letter as there was no signature and no return address..

Invitation to the School Board meeting

TA Shepard informed the Board that they have been invited to attend the School Board meeting on April 3, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss voting and the use of the school by the Town of Thornton for large elections. M. Peabody, B. Benton and TA Shepard will attend.

Chairman Sabourn discussed that there may be some concerns regarding safety if the school is used for voting purposes. The Board discussed some ideas to address these concerns.

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

Record Enterprise Article

Chairman Sabourn stated that an opinion article was placed in the Campton/Thornton News section of the Record Enterprise relative to a certain candidate who was running for office in Thornton. The Board agreed that this was not the appropriate place for this type of endorsement and will draft a letter to the Editor of the Plymouth Enterprise letting them know the board's position.

White Mountain National Forest

RA Kubik was approached by the White Mountain National Forest about a logging project in Millbrook, the road status, and the best time of year to schedule the project. There are some concerns from residents in that area that do not want the logging project to take place at all. R Sabourn agrees that the town cannot stop the project but

can work with the WMNF to best manage this project, including best time of year to do the project and the best route to haul the timber out of the area.

The WMNF is requesting permission to exceed the legal load limit on a town bridge. When the board meets with WMNF in the near future, they will be discussing load limits and how to obtain guarantee from the Federal Government for the use of the bridge. They will be seeking assurances that if something happens to the bridge, they will repair it at their own cost. The board is concerned that if the bridge is damaged, there are no other entrances or exits for residents to get in or out of Thornton Gore. The Board discussed other potential resolutions like allowing WMNF to install a new bridge or to take lighter loads out to prevent damage to the bridge.

The Board agreed to discuss this further with White Mountain National Forest on April 24, at 2:00 p.m.

7:40 p.m. MOTION: "To adjourn."

Motion: J. Gaites

Seconded: M. Peabody

Discussion: None.

Motion Passes: 4 – Yes, 0 – No

Respectfully submitted,

Jessi Fleury
Board Secretary