Selectboard Meeting

Agenda Item IV.1

November 14, 2005

Present: Selectboard Chairman John "Peeker" Heffernan, Selectmen Doug Corkins, Armand Compagna, Dave Sharpe, and Warren Baker. Also present were Town Clerk Penny Sherwood, Town Administrator Bob Hall, Paul Ralston, Dick Merrill, Pam Jennings, Bob Stetson, Jim Quaglino, Scott Powell, George Smith, Phil Randall, Lester Delisle, Clayton Holcomb, Randy Crowe, John Moyers, Tom Pollack, Ronnie Ethier, Carol Clauss, Tim Steady, Patrick Palmer, Peter Diminico, Gary Russell, Andy Jackson (arrived at 8:30 p.m.), James Robertson, Joel Bouvier, Lee Beckwith, Bunny Daubner, Jeff Forbes, Travis Forbes, and Scott Olsen from Casella. Joined for executive session by Attorney Jill Spinelli. The meeting was filmed by Bob Davis for NEAT T.V.

- 1. Meeting opened at 7:02 p.m. Doug moved and W. Baker seconded to name Dave Sharpe Chairman pro-tem until Peeker's arrival. So voted.
- 2. Dave noted that many of the people present were probably there to discuss the camera and didn't want to re-hash the issue again. Tom Pollack wanted to make a formal request to make the output from the police camera to go to a web cam. Dick Merrill asked how much it would cost to make it a web cam. Tom thought we might get a donation from Waitsfield Telecom to help. Bunny wanted to add that the camera would an alienation of the youth. Peeker arrived at this point. Paul Ralston wanted to hear how the board would go forward on the camera issue. Ron Ethier wanted to know where we're going with the petition about the junk ordinance and the clerk explained how the petition process works. Ron asked why there wasn't a hearing for the junk ordinance and Dave explained that enacting an ordinance doesn't require a hearing. Gary Russell asked about what evidence has been presented about the use of the camera and if it solves one crime it's worth it. Go with fact, not opinion.
- 3. Bob Stetson in to discuss a zoning issue regarding Chris Dion's property at the intersection of Rte 17 and 116. The ZBA turned down the original request to sell cars at that property and when Bob Stetson did some investigation the land owner said he was a used car dealer and could put used car plates on the cars. Bob Stetson found that Bob Hall had signed the application that allowed Chris Dion to sell used cars. Dave suggested that Bob Hall might have signed the application when Dion, was in fact, in compliance with town zoning regulations. Bob Hall agreed. It was suggested to draft a letter saying to DMV that there was a misunderstanding and explaining that the property had been turned down as a used car lot. Not in violation prior to getting the dealer plates but was after. Bob Stetson will draft the letter.
- 4. Scott Olsen told the board that he had been asked by Patrick Palmer to attend the meeting because Pat was having trouble with the tipping fees at the landfill so in order to stay in business with his horses he wanted Casella to leave a 15 yard roll-off container at the landfill just for his trash. Scott Powell asked about the recyclables picked up at curbside and Pat said they would still be left at the town landfill. If we're not handling the rubbish we can't handle the recyclables. Dave doesn't think it's fair to favor one contractor over another. Scott Powell agreed. Dick Merrill asked if there were more people interested in doing curbside pick-up would we need containers for them too. Tim Steady asked about a break for commercial haulers. Doug said we aren't interested in commercial haulers because if we go over the thousand tons we'll be closed down. Bunny thought it might be an exception that should be considered. Paul thought it was special to have the horses in town and congratulated Casella for trying to help. Pat explained that he picked up trash on the sides of the road during the regular trash pick-up day. Scott Powell will check with the state and our other current contractor to make sure we aren't violating any current arrangements with either.
- 5. Jeff and Travis Forbes in to discuss how to prevent future problems with our cement work. Travis explained what some of the problems have been with the powder. Dave explained that we have had some serious problems with our sidewalks and Travis said some of the problem might be with our bid process and we should specify a heavier mix of concrete. Jeff said that salt also is problematic for sidewalks and building the sidewalks earlier in the year would be helpful. He also suggested putting a curing agent on the sidewalks after putting them in. Pete Diminico said there are products on the market that will bond to concrete and it might be an idea to check into those products so the sidewalks can be repaired instead of pulling up the sidewalks to put in new ones. The board assured the Forbes that they would be welcome to bid on future bids. Dick Merrill noted that it should be included in any contract given in the future that there would be no spalling of the concrete.
- 6. Moved by D. Corkins to approve the minutes of November 1<sup>st</sup>, November 5<sup>th</sup>, November 7<sup>th</sup> tax sale and November 7<sup>th</sup> public hearing as read. A. Compagna seconded. So voted.
- 7. Discussion of the camera among the board. Dave has been bothered by the language used in regard to the two board members that voted in favor of the camera and felt it was unfair to those board members and he went to the hearing with an open mind but didn't hear anything to change his original vote. Thinks a town wide vote would be problematic because of who would be allowed to vote and the possible constraints that might result from that. Armand also went with an open mind and would vote for the stationary camera if he felt the public supported it but from his own poll it was two to one to

have the camera operational. Didn't think it should be a town wide vote because the police district bought the camera. Doug also listened carefully at the hearing and was worried about the camera's misuse and was bothered by the camera watching the camera which means the police must realize the possibility of misuse. The split on the board mirrors the split in the community. Warren said he's been kept up at night with this issue and took his own poll at the hearing and also a poll of business owners on Main St. and results of the business owner's poll, were nine in favor of a rotational camera, three in favor of stationary and three no answers. He said there's been a lot of misinformation circulating and it's a disservice to the board and to the community. Fuels false expectations of the camera. Not a cure-all. He has changed his mind on the issue and it is a town-wide issue not just a police district but does mostly benefit the business community. This debate has changed the character of the community – for better or for worse, we don't know yet. John Moyers reported his opinion of how people felt at the hearing and felt we missed the original sin of not allowing people the opportunity to decide if we wanted the camera or not.

- 8. Moved by D. Sharpe to have a special meeting on November 21, 2005 to discuss personnel in executive session, seconded by W. Baker. So voted.
- 9. Moved by D. Sharpe to go into executive session to discuss personnel, contracts and upcoming court action. Seconded by A. Compagna. So voted.
- 10. Moved to come out of executive session. Chief Gibbs and Bob Hall will work to draft conditions for use of the camera on the clock tower including a line of communication. To be completed within two weeks.
- 11. D. Corkins moved and W. Baker seconded to approve and sign the two access permits on the former Lawson Hammond property. One for Bruce Ladeau/Charlie Graham and the other for Scott Driscoll. So voted.
- 12. D. Sharpe moved and A. Compagna seconded to award the Slope Stabilization bid to G. W. Tatro Construction, Inc. for \$88,100.00. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 PM.

Penny Sherwood, Clerk