

Stoddard Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of February 14, 2011

Submitted by stoddard on Fri, 02/25/2011 - 4:21pm.

SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES

February 14, 2011

The meeting opened at 7:00 P.M., with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Holland asked Selectman Stymest to chair the meeting due to illness.

Selectman Stymest accepted.

GOULD HOUSE HEARING CONTINUATION

FEBRUARY 14, 2011

At 7:02 p.m. Selectman Stymest reconvened the hearing. He stated that the purpose of the hearing was to address outstanding items from the initial session.

The following items were discussed.

Review Items Outstanding from January 24, Hearing

- 1. Concern pertaining to public comments that Selectman Stymest should recuse himself.**

Jim Coffey read an email to the New Hampshire Municipal Association's legal staff concerning comments from the previous session that Selectman Stymest should recuse himself. Chairman Holland commented that on June 6, 2010 Selectman Stymest was asked to get information on the Gould House. The NHMA opinion was that there was no reason for Selectman Stymest to recuse himself. Fred Ward voiced an objection.

2. Discuss Fire Chief's concerns/letter:

A letter from the Fire Chief was read concerning fire code requirements for the Gould House. The letter asked that a properly qualified independent third party inspect the building. The Board agreed to do this and selected Mr. Jerry Teppe to conduct the survey of the building.

3. Determine when to reconvene the Hearing.

Selectman Halter moved to continue the hearing until February 28, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Selectman Holland and passed 3-0.

At 7:13 p.m. the Board opened the regular Selectmen's meeting.

Mr. Harry Power mentioned changes in IRS rules for 1099s. He also spoke briefly about a deck for property owned by McDonald at Tax Map 114, Lot 6. There was also a brief discussion about carbon monoxide detectors with no decisions made.

At 7:25 p.m. Selectman Stymest opened the meeting to public comment. Virginia GrandPre' spoke with the Board about a number of items. The discussion began with a brief conversation about GASB 34 and the threshold used for capital expenses. Stoddard will be using a value of \$5,000 with a three year or more life expectancy for capital items. Selectman Halter mentioned that Keene State College uses a similar threshold.

Mrs. GrandPre'' then mentioned the McCourt Trust, explaining that once a year a check from the Trust is deposited into the Trustee of Trust Funds cemetery checking account with other perpetual care money. Mrs. GrandPre' also mentioned that the McCourt fund was for specific lots. Selectman Stymest asked about the proceeds from the sale of lots and it was explained that the proceeds from the sale went into the trustees of Trust Funds perpetual care fund as principal. It was then asked who signs the deeds and Mrs. GrandPre' informed the Board that the Cemetery Commissioners sign them. She mentioned that Alan Rumrill was in charge of this.

Mrs. GrandPre' also mentioned the effort needed to get some interest on the investments.

The next item discussed was the problem Joan Read was having getting minutes off the internet for her files. It was agreed to provide Joan with signed copies for now.

Mrs. Grandpre' also stated that she was sorry about the incident with Patricia Putnam concerning her minutes.

Mrs. GrandPre' said that Lou GrandPre' asked if her questions were answered and should the answers be in the minutes of that meeting. It was suggested that the answers be attached to these minutes. (See attachment at end of minutes.) There was also mention of an item in the Trustee's minutes about David Young needing a new mower, for the cemeteries.

The discussion then went to the Cahill Honors Account which is now being depleted. Without additional funding she explained that the account will disappear next year.

There was some discussion during which Selectman Halter raised concerns about using tax dollars for gifts, and the legality of doing that.

7:38 p.m. Mary Lou Stymest asked about the McCourt Trust and they had a brief discussion.

At 7:45 the open session closed.

The Board then discussed building permit fees and it was stated that the 2008 ATM, Article 27 gave the Planning Board the authority to set the fees. Selectman Halter mentioned that we should consider a fifty percent fee for renewals of permits that have lapsed.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE SIGNED/APPROVED

- 1. Minutes of January 1, 2011**
- 2. Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber – 10-425-08**
- 3. Pistol/Revolver License**
- 4. Elderly Exemption Application-Reviewed by Administrator**

5. Property Tax Abatement 2011-3-14-A, Veteran's Tax Credit Omitted

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Letter from SWRPC for Grant Opportunities for Culvert Replacement, recommend that we look into this. The Board will look into this. Other items were reviewed with no action taken, or necessary.**
- 2. Email from Ruth & Fred Ward to Reclassify the Class VI portion of Juniper Hill Road to a Class A Trail.**
- 3. Letter from Senator Ayotte**
- 4. Audit Form MS-60A from DRA, Form Has Been Filed, File Copy in Folder**
- 5. Dredge & Fill Application, Map 122, Lot 19**

8:05 p.m. Selectman Halter, seconded by Chairman Holland moved to enter non-public session under RSA 91A:3 II c, matters which if discussed in public, would likely adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the body or agency itself. The motion was approved, Holland-yes, Halter-yes and Stymest-yes.

8:38 p.m. The Board returned to public session. No decisions were made. Selectman Stymest, seconded by Selectman Halter, moved to seal the minutes. The motion passed 3-0.

At 8:39 p.m. Selectman Stymest, seconded by Selectman Halter, moved to adjourn. The motion was approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted

James Coffey, Administrator

Approved

Sandra L. Holland, Chairman

Arnold Stymest

John D. Halter

Board of Selectmen

ATTACHMENT

January 17, 2011

Memo to Board of Selectmen

Subject: Response to questions from Virginia GrandPre' dated January 10, 2011

1. The fee for the audit is \$8,610
2. The DRA form MS-60 is not required when a town has a professional independent outside audit. During all, or most of, the years the fiscal year was the calendar year.
3. The audit is being done in two phases. The initial phase began in July in order to have the MS-1 completed by September 1. The other phase began this past Autumn.
4. It is standard practice to ask for balance statements to be furnished directly to an independent auditor to compare with statements held locally.
5. Jim Coffey was holding it to send with some other information to the auditor. The McCourt statements he received were not statements from the financial institution. What the auditor wanted was copies of the statements from the financial institution to compare with local records.
6. The "Draft" is a full report, but it is intended to be reviewed by the selectmen and town staff before it is finalized.
7. There will be a complete audit. I can bring in a sample from another jurisdiction.

8. Yes

9. **GASB 34 is not used for reporting to the DRA. It is important for the town to be in compliance should there be any future need for credit. The effect on Stoddard is to provide a listing of all properties, buildings, and roadway and bridge improvements (not repairs) and all new capital expenditures of 5K or more with a life expectancy in 3 years or longer. There are also other new standards that most likely do not presently apply to us.**