

SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 24, 2011

Submitted by stoddard on Mon, 01/31/2011 - 9:35pm.

SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES

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

Immediately following the Pledge of Allegiance, Fred Ward rose to make a "point of order". Mr. Ward stated that Selectman Stymest should recuse himself because he has conflict of interest since he asked for the proposal [for the Gould house].

Selectman Stymest responded he did not think he should or will.

Mr. Ward: This is a quasi-judicial hearing, you made it that way, rules are more strict.

Selectman Stymest: Selectman Stymest then suggested that the hearing be postponed.

At this time some members of the public stated that there would still be quorum of selectmen.

The discussion was stopped by Chairman Holland since it related to a hearing that was not scheduled until 7:30.

A. SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS

7:00 Harry Power: Mr. Power asked about building permit rate changes and the Board stated that they had not yet discussed them. Mr. Power presented the Board with a building permit for James Champney, with a recommendation to approve. The permit was approved. Mr. Power then mentioned that he was working on an illegal deck owned by Jeanne Scanlon. The final item was the eviction of person living on the property of another without permission. It was agreed that the

property cleanup was the owner's problem and that we would not attend the court hearing for the eviction.

Terry McMahon, CIP Committee Chairman, asked if we had received copies of the update packages to be distributed and returned. Jim Coffey stated that they would be going out next week with the 2011/12 budget requests. Selectman Halter commented that that was logical.

7:30 Historical Society-Grant Hearing Per RSA 31:95-b

At 7:26 p.m., Chairman Holland recessed the Selectman's meeting, and opened the hearing to consider acceptance of a \$20,000 gift from the Stoddard Historical Society to make improvements to the Gould House that would allow its use by the town for more than a storage building.

B. SIGNED/APPROVED

1. Pistol Permit
2. Minutes of December 27 – January 3
3. Minutes of January 10
4. Payroll Manifest
5. Accounts Payable Manifest
6. Application for use of Town Hall - Pitcher Mountain CSA
The Board approved the use of the Town Hall by the Pitcher Mountain Association, and waived the fee.
7. Application for use of Town Hall – Carol Clark/Helen Wheeler
The Board approved the use of the Town Hall for Carol Clark and Helen Wheeler for a family event.

C. OLD BUSINESS

1. Perambulation Procedures were briefly discussed with Mr. Power.
2. Memo from Jim Coffey concerning audit questions from last meeting was read.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. The Board approved the ALS agreement with the City of Keene, which provides for emergency medical service intercept.
2. The Board discussed the State Highway Safety Grant program and, after a brief discussion with Chief Vaillancourt decided not to participate.
3. Wireless Telecommunications Opportunities literature was read and no action was required or taken.

At 9:09 P.M. the Board returned to the Selectman's Meeting.

At 9:10 P.M. Selectman Halter moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Stymest, and the motion was approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted

James Coffey, Administrator

Approved

Sandra L. Holland, Chairman

Arnold Stymest

John D. Halter

Board of Selectmen

**STODDARD HISTORICAL SOCIETY GRANT HEARING
JANUARY 24, 2011**

7:26 Chairman Holland recessed the Selectman's meeting, and opened the hearing to consider acceptance of a \$20,000 gift from the Stoddard Historical Society to make improvements to the Gould house that would allow its use by the town for more than a storage building.

Mrs. Holland stated that the procedure to be followed during the hearing is that

everyone would have an opportunity to speak, and two minutes would be allotted to each individual. She asked the people not repeat what others had said. Once everyone had a chance to speak once, the process would be repeated until all comments had been taken.

Fred Ward: Spoke to Selectman Stymest asking for the proposal [from architect] and then being on the approval side.

Selectman Halter: I think everyone in the room has an opinion, but does not want to taint a decision. He said that he was not sure of the relationship with the architect's report and would leave that to Selectman Stymest.

Jim Coffey: Suggested continuing the hearing until the matter was looked into.

Robert Fee: Reminded everyone that the majority [at town meeting] voted not to do anything to the Gould House, and nothing should be done without the Building Committee looking into it.

Chairman Holland: Stated that the Building Committee was advisory only, and suggested continuing the meeting on February 10.

Joanne Vaillancourt: We left town meeting with a vote.

Chairman Holland: Pointed out there was not impact on taxes.

David Vaillancourt: Asked what the Twenty Thousand Dollar gift is for.

Terry McMahon: Mentioned a memo he prepared before the last town meeting, and began to read it. He stated that the Cahill lot had not been turned down, but tabled. He went on to say the Gould House was an incomplete solution and mentioned some other reasons.

Chairman Holland then reminded Mr. McMahon that he had used his two minutes allotted to speak.

Pat McMahon: Mrs. McMahon then continued to read Terry McMahon's memo,

addressing other plans and properties.

George Davenport: Without Mr. Stymest voting there is still a quorum. He then went on to say that the majority said no [at town meeting] and it needs to go to the Building Committee. He also stated that proposal [gift] was slimy.

Lou Grandpre': Agreed with George Davenport and Bob Fee, at town meeting two thirds voted against it.

Chief Lamothe: Spoke to the change of use from residential to business and that the building must meet the new Life Safety Codes before it can be occupied. She went on to state that all future plans require the Fire Chief's approval and that all requirements need to be done at once and right.

Ed Saleski: Stated that the meeting he went to [2010 Town Meeting] voted a majority, but not two thirds. He pointed out that neither side will get a two-thirds vote and nothing will happen for fifteen years.

Harry Power: As a businessman, something needs to be done, [Gould House] and cannot be left empty. He also commented that the Town Hall need to money put into it, and that all commercial building need to meet fire codes.

Fred Ward: Several years ago we had a war, one-half for and one-half against, the store wars. Don't make a commitment with half for and half against. We do have a present Building Committee Chairman incompetent to do anything.

Carol Clark: Stated that our purpose is to get it [Gould house] usable for small meetings, particularly since we cannot use the school. She then went on address some potential uses and suggested bringing in Plan New Hampshire.

Jeanne Kelly: Gave examples of the lack of meeting space for various groups and how the Gould House could be used. So many uses and it sits idle.

Curtis Taylor: It is not going to cost anyone, why not go into the project. What part of the \$20,000 do they not understand?

Nancy Taylor: Spoke of respect of the past and our history and bringing some common sense.

Mary Lou Stymest: [Stoddard] is a lovely little town. We do not need a town hall in the woods. The State plows this road, we have a parking lot, why change the character of the town? She spoke about caring for the town and its many volunteers. Not even a toilet in the Library. Went on to mention the recognition of volunteers in Town & City, a NH Local Government Center publication.

Matt Wheeler: Stated that it is ridiculous not to accept the gift. He compared to a problem in the town he grew up in.

Carol Brier: Mentioned the Garden Club's efforts and about potential uses for small meetings. She then asked, what is the problem of accepting money from the Historical Society?

Dick Brier: Mr. Brier took issue with a recent letter to the editor that likened the gift to bribery. He asked, is this a bribe for the community? He went on to also speak in favor of using the Gould House for small meetings. The donation of the 8.8 acres was then suggested to be a bribery, or is it the donor? He commented that the Gould House is now being used for storage by Emergency Management, the Fire Department, Church and others. He also pointed out that the vote to buy it was two to one in favor. He finished his remarks stating that there have always been divisions since the Whigs and Tories, and that we should have warrant articles to sell the Gould House or the 8.8 acres.

Architect Rick Monahon: The goal of the professional architect is to protect health, safety and welfare. He takes the Fire Chief's remarks the most seriously. One has to have the cooperation of the Town's leadership and its employees. He supported the need for an additional opinion.

Chairman Holland then asked Mr. Monahon about his proposal. Mr. Monahon responded that he is not prepared to address the fire compliance now and that this type of small project needs cooperation to be successful.

Charles Chandler: Stated that it was okay for the selectmen to take a stand.

This issue has nothing to do with town meeting. He asked if you can accept the money for its intended purpose. Need three to take a stand. He also said there was no question about Mr. Stymest participating.

Dale Smith: When I hear people speak to a personal level, it should be stopped. He spoke at length about name calling that leadership does not do what is right.

Fred Ward: Addressed Charlie's point, and said that the gift comes with strings and will add up over the years. If POSH puts in money and Town sells it [Gould House] then the money goes back to the Town.

Chief Lamothe: Clarified that her letter, fire code concerns, does not say not to accept the money, just that the life safety codes need to be completed.

Terry McMahon: I hope temporary congress can do better. He then resumed reading his Build Committee fact list Mr. McMahon then spoke in favor of the present Town Hall building and maintaining the present kitchen, meeting area and stage.

Chairman Holland suggested to Mr. McMahon that he should provide a written statement. She then asked what is was that Mr. McMahon wanted. Mr. McMahon said the wanted a study of all facilities.

Robert Fee: Spoke against the Gould House because of a false promise. He said that he does not want the \$20,000 brought up at a town meeting. The \$20,000 should be put into the Town Hall building., Let the Building Committee do its job.

Mr. McMahon: Stated that a final design should be approved. Gave an analogy of getting money [grant] to buy a match and gasoline to burn down the Town Hall. He then went on to comment about designs building safety and said that he wants voter approval.

Angel Nicoletti: Mentioned her work with the Library and then said that if we continue to worship at the shrine of low taxes nothing will ever get down.

Nick Nicoletti: Likened the Gould House to an illegitimate child, but that was

not a reason to go forward. He said that we have to take care of it and that the Building Committee should be resumed, with both sides present.

Harry Power: Something needs to be done.

Fred Ward: Spoke again about recusal.

Chief Lamothe: Mentioned the meeting scheduled for next week [January 31]. We have needs for all functions and to go forward with the Building Committee and department heads.

Terry McMahon: Endorsed what PJ said and then began reading from his statement again. He quoted Chairman Holland who stated that she had no recollection of ever making that statement.

Carol Briere: Suggested getting back to the hearing itself.

Selectman Halter: Stated that is obvious that we have a divided town with good people on both sides, which is not productive. The question is the gift on the table. Is it possible to legally do what is intended? Would the gift be able to be honored, namely as a meeting room? If it does not it betrays the Town. Will the gift further divide the Town? I would have to take the money and give back what is expected. Chairman agreed with Selectman Halter's statement.

Jean Kelly: The money is there, intact. Everyone should be assured by 150+ donors that it was for the purpose [meeting rooms] , no other reason.

Dick Betz: Many people gave money for a meeting place. Before a vote is decided Rick and PJ should work together to see if it is feasible. He also spoke in favor of the need for meeting space.

Terry McMahon: When Building Committee meets they should work to restore confidence in the Town.

Dick Betz: Commented that all are long-term strategies and will not be quickly resolved.

Carol Clark: Spoke again about using Plan New Hampshire to bring people together.

Chairman Holland mentioned the school budget hearing in a week and one-half. She stated that the school projects increases for the next three years of about \$1.13 per year. With this it will be hard for the town to get a two-thirds vote to bond anything. Doing what we can now makes sense but there are fears of back door deals and divisiveness.

Terry McMahon: Suggest establishing a capital reserve.

Harry Power: Concurred with Terry McMahon.

At 9:09 P.M., Selectman Halter moved that the hearing be continued until the second Monday in February [February 14] at 7 P.M. Seconded by Selectman Stymest. The motion was approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted

James Coffey, Administrator

Approved

Sandra L. Holland, Chairman

Arnold Stymest

John D. Halter

Board of Selectmen