

SELECTMEN'S SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 9, 2012

Submitted by stoddard on Thu, 08/09/2012 - 3:28pm.

Preliminary

SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES

Special Meeting

August 9, 2012

The meeting opened at 10:00 AM.

Attendees included Arnie Stymest, Selectman, John Halter, Selectman Chairman, Louis GrandPre', Selectman, Jim Coffey, Town Administrator, Inspector DiGangi, of the DOL and Patricia Putnam, Administrative Assistant.

Others in attendance were Richard Gariepy, Richard Briere, Carole Briere, Patty Hill and David Vaillancourt.

The Inspector referred to the town's response, written by Jim Coffey on July 27, 2012, noting that several deadlines have past with no work being accomplished toward providing work place safety for town officers and employees. Reading from the notice of violations many items were discussed.

Gould House (swing space) has a 200 Amp electrical service installed but wiring must be installed to support 3 offices being moved to the GH.

Gould House structural issues - outline an acceptable repair schedule to shore up the main floor joists and install a 1hour burn barrier to allow for swing space use for officers.

Complete timeline? - Louis GrandPre' thought it would be 2 years before offices could be build. He also noted that any labor and money invested in the Gould House would a waste of time and money.

Arnie Stymest said he resented Louis GrandPre' statement.

Inspector DiGangi said the June 21st deadline has past with no progress on repairs.

He also said the town can ask for an extension for completion of deficiencies. The DOL has received a statement that the town was working on it in June. June is long past and no update in time line has been submitted.

Louis GrandPre' said they need to sit down and create a realistic plan for submittal. The delayed town meeting was discussed.

John Halter said that the town voters must approve a permanent solution, and that moving the Town Clerk requires a 90-day written notice to the DMV. The Board of Selectmen are looking to work on getting the Treasurer, Tax Collector and Board of Selectmen's offices moved. Arnie Stymest said simply shoring up on the main floor of the Gould House would provide space for temporary offices.

John Halter said the 2nd floor, 3rd floor and Red Room are not safe to occupy. The East side of the Gould House, on the first floor is easily prepared for temporary use. The Town Clerk's future office can be situated in the northern room, with some reasonable upgrades.

Jim Coffey said for an interim basis, the Town Clerk's Office could be placed in the Selectmen's office and use the Treasurer's office as security for storing supplies for the Town Clerk.

The Fire Marshall's requirements have interior of the Town Hall. In the near future the material on the inside wall coverings has to be removed as the material has been reported to be flammable.

Louis GrandPre' reported that the rumor of the Town of Nelson's offices being moved to a mill building in Harrisville is not true.

Inspector DiGangi asked if Stoddard has asked for an extension? Nelson has asked for an extension and includes a completion date.

Louis GrandPre' said Jim Coffey's letter to the DOL should never have been written and is null and void. He went on to say that the board needs to be specific on the extension needed and time line for completion to required upgrades. Mr. DiGangi said that the town must design a plan to provide a safe, common workplace for all employees. He also said he has to report to his supervisor (M. Small).

Jim Coffey said the board should also consider making null and void the response he wrote to the Fire Marshall.

Arnie Stymest supports Jim Coffey's letter response.

John Halter did not indicate his support of Jim Coffey's response or not.

Inspector DiGangi stressed that the town needs to create secure workspace for all town officers, where the employees are safe and the DOL needs hard dates for completion of that goal.

Louis GrandPre' said the board should be able to get a reply written by August 15 or 16. Jim Coffey said there is no extension to leave the Town Clerk's office in a residential building now that there has been a change in staff and the building's owner is no longer Town Clerk. After the conclusion of the Town Meeting, the town was supposed to notify the Department of Safety about the results of the Town Meeting, relative to the Town Clerk's location. Louis GrandPre' said that he supports the Town Clerk's office upgrade to include safety guidelines. Louis GrandPre' suggested that the present location of the Town Clerk's office be upgraded as an interim solution.

Arnie Stymest supported the upgrade for the Town Clerk's Office in the Town Hall.

Inspector DiGangi said put it in writing (over and over again).

Inspector DiGangi concluded his visit and left.

Richard Gariepy, referring to workplace violence, asked what is the level needed to satisfy the DOL. He noted that portable offices are available to rent, but would need to be plumbed to septic and water supplies and proved with wiring and electrical to support the work that is being done while the town hall is upgraded.

Carole Briere said Article 4 gives funds to repair the Town Hall. Arnie Stymest said the Selectmen are breaking the law and it needs to get safe workspace done.

Louis GrandPre' disagreed that the Selectmen are the breaking any law.

Richard Gariepy wisely said, Jim Coffey is trying to satisfy one side and the other side will not be happy. He agreed to write a plan over the weekend for review by the Selectmen on Monday.

Dick Briere noted that there were 5 members of the building committee in attendance and wondered if Richard Gariepy would consult with the building committee or as a private citizen. Mr. Gariepy said he would be writing a plan as a private citizen. Dick Briere reflected that there are too many different opinions and that others can feel free to submit their plan ideas.

Inspector DiGangi came back with a form for the Selectmen to sign that they are informed about what was discussed today, John Halter signed the form as chairman of the board.

ADJOURN: Arnie Stymest moved and Louis GrandPre' second to recess the meeting until Thursday, August 9, 2012 at 7:00 pm at the Building Committee meeting, the board approved. Louis GrandPre' and Arnie Stymest attended the Building Committee meeting but no decision was forthcoming. Please see the Building Committees minutes of the August 9th meeting for details.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia E. Putnam

Administrative Assistant

Approved:

John Halter

Louis GrandPre'

Arnie Stymest