

TOWN OF RANDOLPH
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

April 13, 2010
10:00 a.m.

BOS PRESENT:

Edward F. Gorham, Chair
Alfred A. Seymour, Jr.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Lynn Mealey, Town Clerk
Ron Cunningham, Fire Chief
John Crocker, Public Works
Sonny James, Pump Station Super

Residents:

R. Gloria Mansir Fitzherbert
Darryl Fitzherbert

Meeting was called to order at 10:05 A.M.

Al Seymour made a motion to accept the minutes of the **March 30, 2010** meeting. Ed Gorham seconded the motion. **VOTE – UNANIMOUS.**

Ed asked John Crocker when Sonny Barry would be doing the **street sweeping**. John said it would be the first of May.

John Crocker asked if the Board had had any contact from Peter Coughlan regarding the two pieces of State property. John said that the paperwork for turning over the **“Park & Ride”** to the Town was just about completed. He said that in Peter Coughlan’s correspondence with Peter Hanley, the mini park was not discussed and the DOT wants a letter from the Selectboard stating that they want this parcel also transferred to the Town but they will not act on it until they receive something in writing. John suggested that it could be e-mailed over to Peter Coughlan and he would get it to the proper department. Ed Gorham said that he will get in touch with Peter Coughlan.

John brought up **mowing** and asked if the Selectboard wanted to continue with the mowing being done by the Public Works. He stated that his grandson will come back to work for the town mowing and he has a granddaughter who will pitch in and help at a cost saving factor to the Town. Ed asked that John put it in writing as to exactly what he wants and it will be discussed at the next meeting. Ed stated that we would probably keep doing what we are doing for the time being and at least through June and the new budget year.

Appointments to the Board of Appeals. Ed Gorham made a motion to appoint Deborah M. Phair and Norman E. Lemar, Jr., to the Randolph Board of Appeals. Al Seymour seconded the motion. **VOTE – UNANIMOUS.**

Ed Gorham stated that the Town had received a letter from the **DEP** stating that they had approved the Consent Agreement with the Town on the illegal pesticide/herbicide spraying. The Town paid \$400 as a fine and received a copy of the agreement.

Ron Cunningham was asked to bring the board up to date on the **Pittston Fire** proposal to take over the Randolph Fire Department.

Ron said that he had a couple of questions. He asked the Board members if they had read the proposal given to the Selectboard by Jason Farris. Ed said that he did read the proposal and Al said that he had read it also. Ron asked them if they agreed with it or thought it was a good idea. Both stated that they had not agreed with anything but that they said they would listen to the proposal. Ron stated that the news article in the Kennebec Journal stated that the Randolph Selectboard was totally in favor of it. Both Ed and Al stated that this was not true.

Ron said that Mr. Hanley was quoted as saying that “the Selectboard is behind it” so therefore the Pittston Board feels that the Randolph Board is completely behind the proposal and that this was brought up at the Pittston Special Town Meeting last week. Ed stated for the record that the proposal was made to the board by the Chief of Pittston, they thanked him for his effort and they told him that they would take a look at it and that was the extent of any conversation about it. Two weeks later at the board meeting, Selectman Hanley raised the issue of an “escape” clause in the proposal.

Ron said that Seymour and Gorham stated to table the issue at that time. Ed said that the Chief from Pittston was supposed to bring back some kind of an proposal with an escape clause but other than that there was no further discussion and no stand taken by the Randolph Board of Selectmen.

Ron said the point he was making was that “one of the 3 selectmen” was talking for the entire Board. Ron said that in fact this selectboard members had gone over to Pittston and stated that everyone was in agreement and Ron felt this was a big plus for Pittston and that it was brought up numerous times at Pittston’s Special Town Meeting that BOTH boards were in agreement with the proposal. Ron has been fielding calls about this. Ron stated that Mechele Cooper from the Kennebec Journal calls Peter Hanley for the town’s side of the issue. Ed said that as far as he was concerned the issue had not been discussed and has not been decided and they have not seen a real proposal yet. Ed said that a lot of what was discussed was not in the document or proposal.

Ron reported that this was voted down at the Special Town Meeting in Pittston but that the issue was not dead and that they will keep trying until they end up getting it approved. It is a well known fact that there is usually not a big turnout at a special town meeting and some things are passed more quickly and with little opposition. Ron stated that the biggest questions that Pittston taxpayers had at the meeting was why they had not seen the proposal. It was available only 5 minutes before the vote. The board said that they will bring it up again and again but Jason said that he will do no further work on it until next year.

Ron suggested that the other two ask Mr. Hanley not to speak for the entire board if the information being given was incorrect. Ron said that he has many facts and figures that will show that this may cost the Town more than anticipated.

Darryl Fitzherbert asked if the Town was also seeking a proposal from Gardiner. Ed said that he told Rick Coty that he would provide him with a copy of the proposal from Pittston and he has not done that yet. Ed said that they were not entertaining proposals and were not out looking for a “*buyer*”. He said that he did not know the genesis of the proposal from Pittston or who started it. Al stated that he thought Jason Farris was the one who initiated the proposal and that he was told to get on the agenda and give the town a proposal. Darryl asked if the Town was going to send a letter to Pittston informing them that we were not interested in pursuing this any further. Ed said that he will pay them a visit just to bring them up to speed as to where we “aren’t” and where we are. This board has taken no action other than to table it the last time it was discussed.

Ron asked to make one final comment. He stated and Sonny James backed up the statement that 20 years ago Mr. Hanley went to the City of Gardiner and tried to do the same thing so as far as Pittston coming to Randolph first, he feels that it has been an ongoing thing to get rid of the fire department. Al stated that he felt that Jason Ferris started it and the intent was to save money for the town.

Sonny stated that Mr. Hanley has been against the Fire Department since his home burned. And has been against whoever the Fire Chief was since that fire. He stated that 3 years ago, Mr. Hanley went to the Deputy Chief, Andrew Cooper and asked him about consolidation but that he would not repeat what Cooper said. Sonny stated that we have the best mutual aid in the area and there is no need for this consolidation.

Selectman Hanley asked that it be noted that he was in disagreement with the comments made by Ron Cunningham and Sonny James with regard to the Fire Department.

John Crocker asked if the Board had any objection to him putting Stephen Thurston back on the payroll for the next couple of weeks until his helper gets back to help him getting cleaned up from the winter around town. Ed asked if it was for two weeks – John stated that it would be for approximately two weeks or until the next board meeting. Ed said that it would be okay.

Gloria Fitzherbert expressed concern about getting rid of the fire department. She also asked about the Pump Station project and if the Selectmen had a timeline. Ed said that as far as he knew, everything had been ordered and work continues. Ed said he has it on his list to find out about the progress and possible completion.

Ed stated that he has had other inquiries about the project and he will get hold of Charlie Smith who is the engineer so that he can have a report by the next Selectboard meeting. He stated that the last he had heard, it may be completed by October.

Ron asked if anything was going on this summer with regard to the **convenience store** at the corner of Windsor and Water Streets.

Darryl Fitzherbert commented on the **traffic** at the intersection and his concerns about this project. He asked if there was any kind of regulation in town where the number of businesses of the same type could be limited. Ed stated that there nothing that could be done as far as he was knew.

Al Seymour made a motion to **adjourn** the meeting. Ed Gorham seconded the motion.
VOTE – UNANIMOUS.

Next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 27, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned @ 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn R. Mealey, Town Clerk