

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Minutes of February 5, 2007**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mr. Stearns called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Selectmen Roger Hohenberger, Alan Carpenter, Margaret Crisler, and Dennis Senibaldi was present, as was Town Administrator, David Sullivan. Mr. Stearns led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**NON-PUBLIC SESSIONS:** Mr. Hohenberger motioned to go into non-public sessions in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, IIC. Mr. Senibaldi seconded. Roll call vote – All members – yes. The subject was tax abatements. The Board, Mr. Norman and Ms Davis were in attendance.

**PUBLIC SESSION:** Mr. Stearns stated that the Board granted 3 hardship abatements and denied one.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Mrs. Crisler announced that the NHOS Sixteenth Annual Orchid Show will be held February 25 and 26<sup>th</sup> at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Nashua.

Mr. Carpenter urged residents to attend both the School Board Deliberative Session on Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at Golden Brook School and the Town Deliberative Session on Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.

**LIAISON REPORTS:** Mrs. Crisler reported that the Planning Board passed the relocation of the Cooperative Kindergarten on Industrial Drive with conditions.

**TRANSFER STATION WORKSHOP:** Mr. Poulson, Transfer Station Manager, presented the Board with a seven page handout outlining the discussion for this evening.

Mr. Poulson read the following memo he submitted to the Board:

“We are at a timeframe that demands us to make decisions regarding the future of solid waste management for Windham. Increases in population, solid waste quantities, disposal costs, operational overhead, and logistical restrictions have impacted the operational/CIP budgets and overall performance of the current Transfer/Recycling Station. All these cited factors have contributed to rising budgets and reduced performance. We need to examine alternative options to Windham’s solid waste management and decide on a future course of action. You cannot provide services without the will to fund those services. As a manager, I have observed the Town struggling with developing and implementing an organizational strategic plan and the stress during the budget process. The following information is a fact finding study to review before we commit to the formal bid process. This analysis will provide costs and other relevant information comparing Windham to other municipal programs. After this review, the Board may elect to retain the existing Station with the same level of services and make appropriate modifications and upgrades to ensure the long-term success of this commitment. Keep in mind, Windham is part of +/- 200 municipal transfer/recycling facilities through-out New Hampshire. Our goal is to commit to an action and develop the strategy to implement that action.

Be advised, one major obstacle is the logistical design of the existing Station. It limits the potential for growth and design change. We are restricted to one building, are designed for a labor related operation (sorting line), have limited monitoring, have limited space, and have little to no potential for a scale transaction operation. The site and operational design may limit interest from the private sector or impact the cost in bid proposals.

If the decision is to discontinue our public operation, I would ask the Board to consider the welfare of the existing staff and ways to reduce the impact of this transition. I would suggest this transition give staff adequate time to make provisions to adjust their lives and try to secure their futures.”

Mr. Stearns explained that the Board has been meeting with Mr. Poulson over the last few years discussing how to handle solid waste disposal in the future. The Board asked Mr. Poulson to outline some options for their consideration.

Mr. Poulson stated that he was here this evening to present those options to the Board but that he was not advocating for any one and has no agenda. He further stated that Windham offers many services and the budget reflects those costs. He asked the Board that if they decided to retain all services, what would be (if there is one) the spending cap.

Mr. Poulson’s other handouts included:

*Solid Waste Management Analysis:* Compares our annual budget, population and per capita cost to 11 other NH communities. Mr. Poulson noted that while some other town budgets are lower, services may be limited.

*Solid Waste Curbside Program:* Pros and cons of each program.

*Description of 4 Public Programs:* Descriptions of services provided in Hooksett, Goffstown, Pelham and Salem.

*Data Correlation:* Salem, Hudson and Atkinson’s services were compared to Windham’s.

*Internal Changes to Reduce Cost:* Outlines 13 possible changes in Windham to reduce cost.

*Solid Waste Transfer Facilities – Waste Stream Fees (Non-Conventional Waste):* Outlined range of fees charged for C&C, Bulky Waste, Tires, Appliances, Carpet, Propane Tanks, White Good and Electronics at other area facilities.

The Board and Mr. Poulson discussed many aspects of these handouts. Mr. Carpenter suggested that Windham stop accepting C&D (Construction and Demolition) for a month and evaluate residents input. He also suggested that they visit other facilities so they can compare their services and operation.

The Board had a lengthy discussion on C&D – options included stop accepting it, limit the number of visits, charging fees, etc.

After further discussion on many aspects of the presentation, Mr. Sullivan suggested that Mr. Poulson arrange visits to other facilities and then consider the options for savings presented to them this evening. The Board expressed their interest in visiting Pelham and Hooksett. Mr. Poulson will follow-up making the arrangements.

**OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS:** Mr. Sullivan stated that he had two tax abatement requests for the Board to consider. He explained that these are to correct administrative errors in billing.

The first request was to abate \$1,954.23 on parcel 8-B-4700-00608 as the taxpayer had sold part of this parcel to the Windham Conservation Commission during the year and the full amount was billed to the previous owner. Mr. Carpenter so moved to approve the abatement as requested. Mr. Senibaldi seconded. Passed unanimously.

The second request was to abate \$1,125.00 on parcel 19-A-801-22451 as the taxpayer was only credited for half of the Veteran's exemption he was entitled to. Mr. Carpenter so moved to approve the abatement as requested. Mr. Hohenberger seconded. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Sullivan told the Board that requested changes had been made to the Entry Agreement with Mr. Mesiti and the Town to allow for test wells on the Town Complex on Fellows Road to determine water quantity. The Board agreed to allow Mr. Stearns to sign the agreement.

Mr. Senibaldi told the Board that the scout, who had initially expressed interest in building the bridge at Griffin Park connecting the center walkway (near the bathrooms) to the soccer field for his eagle scout project, has decided to pursue another idea and not do the bridge project. Mr. Carpenter suggested that the Board contact a resident who is an engineer and has helped in the past, for his input on this project and other alternatives to gain access. The Board agreed and Mr. Carpenter will contact the resident.

Mr. Hohenberger discussed the status of the water issues for the restrooms at Griffin Park. The Board asked Mr. Sullivan to have Mr. Barlow get quotes for the necessary repairs and guarantees for their meeting on February 26th.

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION:** Mr. Senibaldi moved and Mr. Hohenberger seconded to go into non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, IIe. Roll call vote – all members – yes. The Board, Mr. Sullivan and Ms Davis were in attendance. Mr. Senibaldi updated the Board on an ongoing legal issue. Mr. Sullivan will instruct Mr. Campbell to send a letter.

Mr. Carpenter motioned and Mrs. Crisler seconded to adjourn. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Davis, Human Resources Coordinator

*Note: These minutes are in draft form and have not been submitted to the Board for approval.*