

Rollinsford Budget Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2011

I. Call to Order

Ed Jansen called to order the Rollinsford Budget Committee Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m. on June 15, 2011 in the Rollinsford Grade School.

II. Attendees

The following members were present: Tasha Botelho, Michele Small, Ed Jansen, Paul Turgeon, Denise Knowles, Madeline Cambo, Bill Irving, Caroline Lamoureux, Carlton Spencer and Dennis St. Hilaire.

Visitors: Members of the Town of Rollinsford

Absent: Mike Rollo, Greg Cordeiro, Dan Marquis

III. Condo Land

The meeting was called to ask for public comment on spending \$200,000 to purchase land near Tri-City Road and Pinecrest Lane which would be put into conservation. Mike Garrepy said that in 2008 the planning board received an application by a developer to put condos on this land. The court said yes he could do so, the planning board declined the application. The developer was looking at either 105 single detached homes or 270 townhouse condos. The town is looking into putting the entire 90 acres in conservation land. The conservation program would fund the developer. The developer thinks that the appraised value is in the 3.5 million range. The town would only need to provide \$200,000. The money is already appropriated in the land trust fund. A town meeting has to authorize the withdrawal from the land trust fund but in 2005 the town voted for a \$1 million bond. The bond would then get paid back after the town meeting. On July 12th, there will be a town meeting to authorize the selectman to borrow \$200,000 by bond. This is a very inexpensive way because the cost of kids to go to a school and we may have to build a new school if condos go in. Robin asked if the feds have a cut off date for this money. Ed said that the feds are interested in the land and there is no cut off date that he has heard of. Lucy asked if there is an aquifer under that area. Ed said that he doesn't know but he wouldn't be surprised. There is no finalization, the property has to come in at a certain price. There will also be another warrant article and behind Hannaford there are 22 parcels owned by the town that they want to put into conservation at the same time. Larry asked if the developer was having trouble financing and that is why this

came up. Mike said that he has done this many times in different towns. He has no problem with financing. Bill Irving was concerned about the appraisal but it has to be done by a conservation appraiser. Carlton said that he thinks if we purchase it we should put it into commercial because we need the tax dollars. Mike said it might be good for office space but we would still need to purchase it from developer for 3 million so this is our best bet. Bill asked about the tax cost but there is no tax cost since the money is already there. Al said that we are not buying the land we are putting it into conservation. Madeline asked if we are sure that the federal government will give us the money. Mike said that even if we leave it, it is a scary thought we should just try this to save us in the end. Charlie Putnam wants to thank selectman, budget committee and planning board for their support. His personal input is that he hopes all will act favorably. Al said that he hopes people will get involved. Pat said that our land is valuable and will hope people would get involved. Bill made a motion that the Budget Committee recommends supporting the expenditure of \$200,000 for bond for land. Caroline seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Denise makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Michele seconds the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Adjournment

Ed Jansen adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Tasha Botelho, Secretary