

**Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, September 27, 2021**

Chairman Les Babb called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM. Present were Selectmen Les Babb, Ernie Day, and Melissa Florio, and Ellen White, Town Administrator, who recorded these minutes.

Also, present were Justin Brooks, Scott Brooks, Rob Cunio, and Gary Williams.

Review of Mail, Sign Manifests, Approval of Minutes

The accounts payable and payroll manifests were reviewed as well as the red folder containing correspondence.

Ernie made a motion to approve the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting and Non-Public session held on Monday, September 20, 2021. Melissa seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Department Head Updates

Fire Department – Chief Rob Cunio reported call volume including 5 calls for medical aid, 1-4 Covid cases, a smoke investigation, and standby for Police Department. Awaiting a drawing from E-One to be followed up with a price once accepted. With the radio grant monies received, Cunio will be ordering the radios using the State bid award. Les explained that there is no need for formal vote to authorize the expenditure when State bids are used for purchasing. Forestry I is at Advanced Diesel for a black smoke issue, assumed to be a head bolt from the repair completed this past year. Forestry II batteries were all dead and are being replaced by Advanced Diesel for the cost of the battery only at \$126/each. Napa was looking to charge the cost of the battery plus a core charge and shipping and handling for over \$300/each.

Highway – Road Agent Scott Brooks reported he has received some verbal quotes on truck bodies: EB Bodies out of Claremont quoted a dump hoist on an aluminum body at \$10,000 plus \$2,200 for installation. There is no time available to install so it would be a cash and carry purchase. CM Bodies out of Hudson has a fixed body option only at \$4,800 installed. Hughes in South Portland has not responded to the inquiry. They supply steel only, not aluminum as preferred.

Another section was cleared at Watts Pit estimated at 2,000 yards. 800 yards is available to screen although 1,200 is what is normally needed so it will be tight. Once this excavation is complete there will be no further excavation. A warrant article will be needed to crush approximately 3,000 yards total. Estimated cost is for 4,000-6,000 yards at \$3/yard. Wednesday Rice Hill will be sand sealed. The new plow for the pickup was received last week.

Les questioned if a trade value had been received on the F-550? Scott saw an F-350 4WD cab and a half diesel with a stainless v-plow at Rowe Ford for \$77k. There are no new trucks on any lots, availability is in question. A 4-door diesel is preferred over gas especially if being used for plowing. Current budget is to be reviewed to see if there is money available to use toward a dump body purchase. Brief discussion on culvert engineering costs already to come from the highway budget. Scott stated the winter budget has approximately \$200,000 remaining and he needs at a bare minimum \$120,000 to work with.

Florio posed a question asked by a resident on whether a brine is being used in place of road salt. Brooks explained that it is a practical application in high traffic areas in the early stage of a storm which is not suitable for Freedom.

Transfer Station – Justin Brooks announced the new container was received last Wednesday. Winter hours at the Transfer Station go into effect on Saturday, October 2. Rickers still has to haul out the scrap iron before winter. TVs were hauled out about a week and a half ago. There is a downed telephone line at the Transfer Station to be repaired; service cannot be reactivated until a repair is completed. An injury was reported last week. Numbers still have not been received from Ossipee on the Household Hazardous Waste Collection. Ellen will follow up to see if she can get the figures.

Town Office – Administrator Ellen White reported that all tax inventory archives from 1881-1999 and historical vital records from the Town Clerk's office have been moved to the vault at the Public Safety building. Question raised as to whether the Masonic Lodge building can start being used for storage of documents? Les discussed storage options at the Public Safety Building. Concern raised with storage at the Masonic Lodge without appropriate fire alarm system.

Old/New Business

Discussion on Burnham Road drainage issues and whether the problem culvert can be removed. Ellen stated that judgement was ordered in the town's favor for the reimbursement of road repairs resulting from the non-permitted driveway access. Follow will be made with the Town's attorney.

Public Comment

None presented.

Non-Public Session(s)

Les made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:15 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (l) for legal. Ernie seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Les-yes, Melissa-yes, Ernie-yes. All in favor the motion passed. Les made a motion to reconvene public session at 7:50 PM.

Discussion

Zoning Officer Gary Williams discussed some want items for consideration including remote access to the building permit software, GIS software with town map overlay for road use, consistent issuance of occupancy permits showing a project followed all the way through to compliance and completion.

An email received from Bruce Howlett addressing some concerns for the water level at Danforth Pond was reviewed. Les requested the email be forwarded to Jim Gallagher at the Dam Bureau.

Gary also discussed some proposals for Zoning Ordinance amendments including written definition of driveways and regulations and to lighten up the tree count methodology. Brief discussion on requirement of certified/licensed professional engineering to be required only in enforcement of violation. Brief discussion also on application processes. The Town Office will begin prioritizing the driveway application process in the new building process.

Signs on trees and poles throughout town were discussed. With 9-1-1 addressing, the need for names at the ends of the roads is unnecessary. It was also noted that most are probably outdated.

Discussion on an upcoming ZBA case where a request for driveway access for a semi-truck is being sought on a property pending sale. Les discussed a past legal case disallowing the parking of a tractor trailer because when allowed, you cannot stop access or travel on a weight-restricted road. Buses and public safety vehicles are the only exempt vehicles from road postings.

Les may be unable to attend next Monday's meeting and will be absent on 10/23.

Ellen gave the Police report for the week in the absence of Chief Mullen: Last week they had a court appearance, Sgt. Laferriere attended a sexual assault response team training, and all three cruisers were inspected at Advanced Diesel.

Further discussion on the truck needs of the Highway Department. Les discussed transferring the Police Department's pickup truck to Highway a year earlier than planned. This will change up the rotation for replacement of cruisers but he will speak with Jamie to see if it is feasible. Ideally this option would negate the need to purchase a dump body and would give Highway a truck that will fill their needs soon. The F-550 could be sold outright at a premium with appropriate exposure and the Tahoe could be disposed of.

Ernie discussed the annual Public Officials meeting. Dates were reviewed to hold the meeting. October 25th was confirmed. Town officials and department heads will be invited to provide an update on their department and also discuss their wants/needs.

Consent Agenda

Minutes – Selectmen's Meeting & Non-Public Session – 9/20/2021	Approved
Letter – Bill Elliott Resignation Acknowledgement (FAISC)	Approved

Correspondence

E-mail – Barry Keith re: Timber Harvest & Town Forest Report	Reviewed
Letter – NH DES re: Forestry Permit by Notification (Town Forest)	Reviewed
Letter – NH DES re: Approval for Subdivision of Land (Map 3, Lot 42)	Reviewed
Letter – NH DOT re: Public Hearing Schedule for Transportation Projects	Reviewed
Photos – Archive records at PSB Vault	Reviewed
Receipt – Tax payment as agreed	Reviewed

Being no further input, Les made a motion to adjourn. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen N. White, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.

Melissa M. Florio