

Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, November 29, 2021

Chairman Leslie Babb called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectmen Leslie Babb, Ernie Day, and Melissa Florio, and Ellen White, Town Administrator, who recorded these minutes. This meeting was held at the Town Office.

Also, present were Rob Cunio, David Senecal, Scott Brooks, Gary Williams, Anne Cunningham, and Scott Lees.

Review of Mail, Sign Manifests, Approval of Minutes

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

Scott informed the Board that fill was added into the ditch where the culvert was removed on Burnham Road two weeks ago, and that has since been removed.

Ernie made a motion to approve the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting and Non-Public Session held on 11/22/2021. Melissa seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Ambulance call volume was verified to be in line with the spreadsheet provided by Madison at the last Regional Ambulance meeting. Next year's allocation has been updated to include the first three months at the 2021 rate which reduces the original proposed total by \$2,000.

Discussion on street signs for new subdivisions. Scott stated when the Town did the 9-1-1 addressing, the Town picked up the cost for signs for all roads public and private. New signs have not been purchased for new subdivisions created since and the estimated cost is \$50.

Department Head Updates

Fire Department – Chief Rob Cunio reported call volume including 2 motor vehicle accidents, 2 trees/wires down, and an increase in positive covid cases in town to 13. Rob researched the grant funds available for up to \$50,000 with a 10% town match. Equipment must be covid-related and the cardiac monitor qualifies. A quote provided with all necessary accessories is for \$43,170 with \$4,300 of that being the Town's matching portion. The current monitor was a refurbished unit from the hospital purchased for \$7,500 and is now 14-years old. Les made a motion to authorize the Fire Chief to apply for the grant for the purchase of a new cardiac monitor. Melissa seconded. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Highway Department – Road Agent Scott Brooks reported Jim's truck is back from Advanced Diesel and is running okay. The salesman at HP Fairfield is bringing in a hitch from another vendor and was going to get started in outfitting the new 5500 last week.

Town Office – Administrator Ellen White reported tax bills were mailed and a lot of calls have been coming in especially campers that have sold and relocated out of town, and new property owners with questions on the billing process. The Senior Resource Coordinator has been working on a separate

website she can update with information as she receives it and that has now been incorporated into the Town's website. Other updates are in process.

Appointments:

2022 Budget Review –

Building Inspector – David Senecal stated there have been no changes over the past few years and expenditures are on track with the permit fees collected. Inspections are being completed and the Avitar software is working great especially with Stacy inputting all the data. Phone calls are still incoming with foundation inspections. David will be working on a tally of new homes. Occupancy permits are now being issued with the software fully functioning. Les questioned if there is any idea of the total valuation change for new construction? David responded that the information is not always included in the permit application and that could be better determined by the Assessor. While on inspections, he is able to pick up whole house generators and other features that are not normally picked up by assessing in the cyclical review. Melissa questioned if applicable conditions are being checked for compliance. David responded that the software alerts him to any conditions so he is able to see what needs to be inspected. Zoning Officer Gary Williams has been great at getting driveway permit approvals from Scott prior to the application being handed off to David. Les stated last year's budget was \$16,163 and \$9,492 has been expended to date. David stated his payroll for the months of November and December still have to come out. Budget will be proposed as level-funded. A new PC is on order and should be arriving before the end of the year.

Zoning Officer – Gary Williams reported it has been busy and continues to be that way. The current budget was for \$9,300 and \$17,000 has been expended year-to-date. Discussion on hours worked per week. Les suggests increasing the budget to \$20,500. All were in agreement.

Planning Board – Chairman Anne Cunningham presented the proposed budget including an increase in postage but reduction in mapping since NH Granit will offer training on their system at no cost to the town. Overall, a budget reduction is proposed from \$3,400 to \$3,050.

Zoning Board of Adjustment – Chairman Scott Lees reported it has been a very busy year with a lot of applications and longer meetings than in the past. The budget has been the same for several years but an increase is necessary to account for noticing and postage. Discussion on increasing the application fee. Ernie questioned if Freedom is inline with surrounding towns? Scott will research this. A question arose on charging a new application fee for cases that require multiple meeting continuances. Scott will reach out to NHMA's legal services to see if it is legal to create an applicable fee schedule. The 2021 budget was for \$3,300 and suggested increase is to \$5,500. The Board was in agreement.

Public Comment

None presented.

Old / New Business / Discussion:

White has scheduled the public hearing for the review of proposed updates to the tipping fee schedule for 6:30 PM on December 13. Notice will be advertised in the newspaper, on the website, and posted at two public locations as required.

Melissa questioned expenditures on the Lakeview Cemetery. Les responded that the town has to have a burial option and the monies were incorporated into the operating budget after raised through a warrant article for several years. An option for a burial ground on the Town Forest property was closed by public lands. Scott proposed a subdivision of another potential property for cemetery use. Further discussion on winter sand availability at Watts Pit.

Ellen posed a question raised by Peg Scully regarding the expenditure of Heritage Commission funds to hire someone to do deed research. Discussion ensued. Ellen will reach out to Alan Fall for clarification on what they are looking to do.

Scott stated Bruce Morgan will be coming back to help with winter plowing but he is still actively looking for part-time seasonal help.

Discussion on increase in number of covid cases in town.

Non-Public Session(s):

Not applicable.

Consent Agenda

Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting Non-Public Session – 11/22/2021	Approved
Accounts Payable – Week ending 11/26/2021	Approved
Payroll Manifest – Week ending 11/23/2021	Approved
Abatement – Francis McDonough, Winnipisaukee Way (Map 60, Lot 1-N21)	Approved
Abatement – Joseph & Dianne Enaire, Winnipisaukee Way (Map 60, Lot 1-N45)	Approved
Abatement – Walter & Rebecca Oakes, Lafayette Street (Map 60, Lot 1-YLA06)	Approved
Abatement – Town of Freedom, Wabanaki Campground (Map 20, Lot 2-CG16)	Approved
Abatement – Town of Freedom, 3 Ossipee Lake Road (Map 3, Lot 13)	Approved
Intent to Cut – Donald & Victoria Tillet, Rice Hill Road (Map 14, Lot 51)	Approved

Correspondence

Minutes – Planning Board meeting 11/18/2021	Reviewed
Receipt - Tax Payment as Agreed	Reviewed
Receipt – Fines & Penalties Assessed	Reviewed
Report – 2022 Proposed Carroll County Expenditures & Revenues	Reviewed

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 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