

**Selectmen's Meeting  
Monday, January 31, 2022**

Chairman Les Babb called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectmen Les 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 and Jake Stephan

**Review of Mail, Sign Manifests, Approval of Minutes**

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

Letters of decision from the last ZBA meeting were review; one application was denied.

The Board reviewed a letter received from Jeffrey and Felicia Ledgard regarding the proposed gas station in Effingham (formerly Boyle's Market) and the potential impact on the watershed.

Les questioned if the Highway Block Grant payment received is less than normal? Ellen explained that the first half is always lower than the second half of the year because the State is a on fiscal year.

Ernie made a motion to approve the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting held on 1/24/2022. Melissa seconded. Les abstained (absent). All in favor, the motion passed.

**Department Head Updates**

Fire Department – Chief Rob Cunio announced the Loon Lake Derby is officially canceled due to poor ice conditions. A recent check of ice depth only provided 8-1/2” and his limit is 10” to ensure safety of all. The raffle drawing will be held next week at the Station and will be live on social media. Call volume for the week included an additional 2 positive Covid cases for 13 total, 6 medical aid, and presence at the Pond Hockey Event at King Pine at which time a heater caught a stack of tables and tent on fire (no injuries reported). Rob spoke with Brindle Mountain again last week on the Rescue. He will be sending some photos for them to evaluate for a valuation. Discussion on grant awards to the department with help from Jim Stone. Over \$220,000 has been received to help with major purchases such as the \$180,000 radio upgrade which only cost the town \$4,200.

Town Office – Administrator Ellen White reported she has been compiling the reports for the Town Report and working on finalizing the budget figures and warrant articles for the upcoming Budget Hearing. There was an electrical issue at the Town Office Thursday that shut down the phone system and internet. Temporary measures were put in place and was able to get the repair taken care of that afternoon.

**Old / New Business / Discussion:**

Operating Budget Review: The Board was in agreement to change the welfare operating budget line back to \$25,000 to include potential clean up of a tax-deed property.

A Request for Appointment form to Forest Advisory Committee was reviewed. Les made a motion to appoint Janet Johnson to the Forest Advisory Committee. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed. Les stated that Janet was previously on the Committee and is welcomed back.

**Public Input:**

Jake Stephan was present to discuss the proposed school budget. Ernie questioned if the rumor is true that the school budget is going down? Jake confirmed stating the proposed budget is down \$531,900 due to staff and enrollment reductions. Ernie requested the school board and Selectmen meet twice annually to re-open communication. Les reviewed how meetings had taken place in the past but changes over several years resulted in those meetings ceasing. Melissa stated the importance in meeting and coming together to help stabilize the tax rate and maintain healthy increases.

Jake reported that Kennett’s tuition negotiation is in progress. Other schools are being looked into as well including Kingswood Regional and Moultonboro, with Moultonboro being the more favorable at \$18,000. Kennett is reportedly down but is still \$35,000. Madison and Tamworth are also shopping around. Les stated that Sacopec Valley was around \$9,200 around 5-years ago as another option. Fryeburg Academy is reportedly \$28,000.

Ellen offered to send a formal request to the School Board for a semi-annual joint meeting of the boards. The Board thanked Jake for attending and providing the information.

**Discussion continued:**

The Board agreed to meet on Friday at 7:30 AM to review the budget figures in preparation for the Budget Hearing. The petitioned warrant article deadline is tomorrow and any that come in will be added in to the warrant article list.

The filing period for open town and school positions closed on Friday. The only two positions that did not receive candidates were for the School Board Clerk and Town Treasurer. Jayne Britton missed the filing deadline but will accept write-ins.

The Board reviewed candidates for the Town Report dedication and memorial.

**Non-Public Session(s):**

Les made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:25 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (e) for legal. Melissa 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 7:44 PM. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

**Consent Agenda**

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting – 1/24/2022                                      | Approved |
| Accounts Payable – Week ending 1/28/2022                                       | Approved |
| Payroll Manifest – Week ending 1/26/2022                                       | Approved |
| Form A-5: Land Use Change Tax - Panagiotakos, Haverhill St. (Map 1, Lot 1-1-2) | Approved |
| Land use Change Tax Warrant: “ ”   | Approved |

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Form A-5: Land Use Change Tax – Kershaw, Shawtown Road (Map 6, Lot 7-12)     | Approved |
| Land Use Change Tax Warrant – “ ”  | Approved |
| Abatement Request: David & Linda Jackson, Camp Calumet (Map 5, Lot 4-JAC001) | Approved |
| Abatement Request: Louis Rapoli, 5 Isolation Pt. (Map 60, Lot 1-TIS05)       | Approved |
| Abatement Request: Karla & Rob Polce, Echo Lane (Map 60, Lot 1-P16)          | Approved |
| Timber Tax Levy: Edward Barosky, 150 Scarboro Rd., (Map 9, Lot 13)           | Approved |
| Contract: Aqualogic – Diver assisted harvesting of milfoil                   | Approved |

**Correspondence**

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Report – Action Ambulance Annual Report – 1/1/2021-12/31/2020                    | Reviewed |
| Report – History of Unreserved Fund Balance Usage (2015-2021)                    | Reviewed |
| Notice – ZBA Decision: DJH Investment Trust – Variance Granted w/Conditions      | Reviewed |
| Notice – ZBA Decision: DJH Investment Trust – Special Exception Granted “ ”      | Reviewed |
| Notice – ZBA Decision: William Larson Trust – Variance Denied                    | Reviewed |
| Letter – Jeffrey & Felicia Ledgard re: Meena LLC proposed gas station, Effingham | Reviewed |
| Letter – State of NH Dept. of Safety re: Body-Worn and Dashboard Camera Grant    | Reviewed |
| Receipt – State of NH – Highway Block Grant Aid FY22 Qtr. 3                      | Reviewed |
| Bulletin – NHMA Legislative Bulletin   | Reviewed |
| Request for Appointment – Janet Johnson, Forest Advisory Committee               | Reviewed |

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 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