

Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, February 28, 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 in attendance were Rob Cunio, Scott Brooks, and Justin Brooks.

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 Sessions held on 2/21/2022. Melissa seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Scott distributed a draft copy of a request for proposals for paving services to be distributed to a select list of recipients. Scott would like to have the proposals due at 6:00 PM on Monday, March 7. The Board was in favor of distributing the request.

The Board requested a meeting start time at 5:30 pm on 3/7 so they can attend the School District Annual Meeting.

A certificate of acknowledgement for tree qualifying for the New Hampshire Big Tree Program was received. This will be forwarded onto the Conservation Commission.

Department Head Updates

Highway Department – Road Agent Scott Brooks reported all is fine. Salt and sand supply is good but another 1-2 loads of salt will be ordered before the end of the winter season. Road bans will go into effect on Friday, 3/4. Notice of such will be advertised in the Conway Daily Sun, Town website and all other posting locations.

Fire-Rescue Department – Chief Rob Cunio reported a few weeks of call volume including no active covid cases, 14 medical aid, 3 motor vehicle accidents, 1 mutual aid-fire, 1 fire alarm activation, 1 tree/wires down, 1 illegal burn, and an electrical issue. Cintas will be completing fire extinguisher and emergency lighting testing at all locations on March 15. The Scrub Oaks Scramblers Winter Carnival took place this past Saturday with no issues. Rob has been researching values for the Rescue but has been unsuccessful in finding a comparable 550 chassis walk-in. The final approval has been received on the grant for the cardiac monitors. The grant is available for up to \$50,000 so there are residual monies available after the Town pays the 10% matching contribution. Rob would like to replace two older Zoll AED using the State bid pricing of \$900/each for the remote package. The Board was in favor. Call volume year-to-date is at 83. Rob attended the Chiefs' meeting last week and announced Effingham has a new Fire Chief in place. Freedom's current roster is reported at 22 with 15 volunteer members. Center Ossipee is the only area department that is not struggling for volunteers.

Transfer Station – Supervisor Justin Brooks reported finding 9-bags of trash left at the gate over the vacation week. He commented that short-term rental property owners should be responsible for their own trash removal rather than leaving it up to the renters. Les discussed the potential impact on the room and meals tax revenue that will be lost when properties convert from full-time residency to rental.

Town Office – Administrator Ellen White reported final revisions to the Town Report last week. Reports were delivered today and are available for distribution at the Town Office, Post Office, School, Library (tomorrow), and a PDF version is on the Town’s website. Town Meeting preparations are in process.

Public Input:

None presented.

Appointments:

Not applicable.

Old / New Business / Discussion:

Open Proposals Received for Legal Services – Les announced the opening of proposals received for legal services at 7:00 pm. Proposals were received from the following: DTC Lawyers; Drummond Woodsum; Soule, Leslie, Kidder, Sayward & Loughman; Wadleigh; Starr & Peters, PLLC; and Devine Millimet. Melissa commented that at a glance, the rates are within \$25-50/hour of each other. The Board was in agreement to table the proposals for review and schedule as an agenda item for next week.

Melissa reported she received a complaint regarding the library’s mask mandate in effect. She advised the person to contact the Library Trustees.

Ernie questioned who is plowing the 3 Ossipee Lake Road property? Unknown.

Ernie also questioned what will happen if the school budget does not pass as proposed and default budget prevails? This appears unlikely based on current enrollment. Melissa stated there is a request for bids in circulation to repave the parking lot.

Scott noted a discrepancy in Article no. 17 on the Town Warrant stating the box culvert is for Swett Hill Road, not Durgin Hill. This correction will be announced at Town Meeting.

Ellen reported she received a call from Lee Fritz who wanted to express her support for green burials. Lakeview Cemetery is noted as a private cemetery. Ellen further stated the Cemetery Trustees are in the research phase of creating bylaws. She also reminded the Board of planned discussion tentatively scheduled for the end of March regarding abandoned cemeteries.

Ernie reviewed next week’s schedule; meet at 5:30 PM, open and review bids for the 2016 Ford F-550 and the paving contract, review and act upon the legal services proposals, and adjourn by 6:30 PM to attend the School District Annual Meeting.

Non-Public Session(s):

Not applicable.

Consent Agenda

Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting & Non-Public Sessions – 2/21/2022	Approved
Accounts Payable – Week ending 2/25/2022	Approved
Payroll Manifest – Week ending 2/23/2022	Approved
Application for Veteran’s Tax Credit	Approved
Application for Abatement: Rick & Deanna Meagher, Echo Ln (Map 60, Lot 1-P03)	Approved
Application for Abatement: Alice Ward, Lincoln Ln (Map 60, Lot 1-YLI33)	Approved
Application for Abatement: Aaron & Lindsay Bailey, Main St (Map 60, Lot 1-E21)	Approved
Employee Time-Off Requests	Approved

Correspondence

Letter – NH Hampshire Big Tree Program	Reviewed
Letter – NH DES re: Shoreland Violation, 38 North Broad Bay Rd (Map 31, Lot 27)	Reviewed
Letter – FCC to Effingham Planning Board re: Proposed Gas Station on Rt. 25	Reviewed
E-Mail – MWV Chamber of Commerce re: Request for issues related to tourism	Reviewed
E-Mail – Freedom Old Home Week re: 2022 Parade participation request	Reviewed
E-Mail – GOFERR re: Locality Equipment Matching Program Approval	Reviewed
Receipt – Tax Payment as Agreed	Reviewed
Report – Unpaid Tax Receivables	Reviewed
Motion for Reconsideration – ZBA Case no. 19-8-22, William Larson Trust	Reviewed

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 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