

**Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, June 13, 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 Jamie Mullen, Scott Brooks, Justin Brooks, Rob Cunio, Bonnie Elie, Paul Elie, Bonnie Burroughs, Janice Zecher, Doris Sirois, Bill Carney, Nancy Bossi, and Karrie Buttrick.

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 announced he has spoken with Gary Williams regarding the installation of flags on the utility poles and Greg Williams has agreed to assist with the install.

Ernie made a motion to approve the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting and Non-Public Session held on June 6, 2022. Les seconded. Melissa abstained-absent. Majority vote carried.

Discussion regarding three grants available through NH DES that may be available to assist with culvert replacements on Watson Hill Road. CMA is willing to assist with the filing for approximately \$3,000.

Les questioned if the check has been received from NH DOT for the bridge reimbursement? Ellen responded that it has not yet but is expected within the next two weeks.

Contractor and engineering surveys related to the Danforth Bay Bridge project were reviewed. Scott will provide assistance in formulating responses.

Ernie made a motion to have Les sign the agreement with Eversource for temporary pole attachments. Melissa seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Department Head Updates:

Transfer Station – Supervisor Justin Brooks had nothing new to report. Ernie questioned if Justin recommends any changes to the language in the request for proposal for the hauling contract? No changes were recommended.

Police Department – Chief Jamie Mullen reported a high-speed pursuit originating from Ossipee came into Freedom and was broken up along Route 25. Freedom did not respond; criteria has been set to determine when they engage in pursuit in order to maintain public safety. Investigations are in progress.

Fire Department Chief Rob Cunio reported no new Covid cases; 6 transports with 1 critical transport completed by Freedom Fire-Rescue; and 1 fire alarm. The fire pond on Watson Hill was pumped by Engine II on Tuesday and only last for 45 minutes before mud was being sucked up. Rob will be

seeking grant funding to assist with the cost of dredging as the fire ponds have been identified in the Hazard Mitigation Plan as a necessity. The paperwork arrived from the state today for the AED orders. All radio items are in for the grant and the radios have been reprogrammed. The boat has come back from the marina; all checked out fine, new batteries were installed and the boat was de-winterized. Rob is awaiting the registration for the boat and trailer so they can commence training.

Highway Department – Road Agent Scott Brooks stated they were unable to complete the dust control last week but it should be completed by this Thursday. They also held off on the grading due to the rain last week. Gravel will be added to Youngs Hill Road. The new truck is scheduled to be picked up tomorrow and will be transferred to HP Fairfield on Wednesday to be outfitted with plow gear. Gravel crushing has been completed. 6,800 yards of material were to be crushed; yielding 900-yards of crushed asphalt, 1,400 yards of ¾” crushed; 3,000 yards of 4”, 200-yards of 5” Riprap and 1-1/2” & ¾” stone. Scott contacted R&D for updated pricing on asphalt; when put out to bid the liquid asphalt was \$650/ton, in June it’s \$735/ton and anticipated to be \$850/ton in August. This equates to an additional \$24,400 needed. Allstate provided their increase as announced last week (\$60,000 needed). Les announced a public hearing has been scheduled to spend an additional \$85,000 from unassigned fund balance to cover these price escalations. Projects have been delayed due to the pandemic and cannot be delayed further without deterioration to the roads. The Public Hearing is scheduled for June 27th at 7 PM here at the Town Office.

Town Office – Administrator Ellen White reported the Public Hearing has been scheduled for July 27, this is the first step in the process. Once the public hearing has been held, a letter is written to the Department of Revenue with the request for funding and determine the source of the funding. Ellen thanked Mark McConkey for his assistance with the reimbursement request to NH DOT on the State Bridge Aid. He was fast to respond and immediately got Commissioner Sheehan involved. Responses were received in about 24-hours after the contact was made. The Ford F-550 sold to the town of Hiram was picked up last Friday and a copy of the check for \$15,000 is in the red folder. IT updates are still in progress; Dave Wells was in last Wednesday to install the last of the new PCs in the Building Inspector’s office. The bookkeeper and treasurer computers were updated a few weeks ago. A letter of violation to the short-term rental property owners has been prepared by the Town Attorney and Anne Cunningham is looking for a signature block to be used on the letters sent out to each individual property owner.

Public Input:

None presented.

Appointments:

Bonnie Burroughs re: Flags – Bonnie referenced a list of 490 veterans prepared by Brandy Buttrick and spoke as a representative of them on the importance of the proper handling and display of the flag. She acknowledged the Board changed their vote last week regarding the request to install the flags on the utility poles and thanked them for doing so. Bonnie had heard the Board turned down the request at a cookout in Wolfeboro and promptly followed up with Bill Carney. He confirmed that it was accurate and referred to the reasoning for the denial that was told to him was due to the number of flags already on display in the village along with ones placed by property owners during the Memorial Day, 4th of July and Labor Day holidays, and too many being tacky. She then referenced the minutes and saw there was question as to whether the request was necessary. She reached out to a number of

people and received several letters from community members actively serving or who have served in the military, reading two of those letters into the record from SMSgt Kyle Nason and MSgt Daniel Hatch. Copies of these letters and 8 others were distributed to the Board for review. Bonnie requests a letter of apology be written to send to those who took the time to attend or wrote on the matter. Ernie responded that he does not recall the word tacky being used. Les offered to write a letter in response. He further stated his reasoning for the original denial being that there was question on the length of time they would be displayed and more importantly who would be putting them up and maintaining them from a public safety aspect. Last week Gordon Nason came in to discuss the flags and Les and Ernie agreed that they would approve the request if a representative from Eversource would take care of the installation. Bonnie reiterated her point is on the question as to whether too many flags are necessary. Melissa made a personal statement and included her support of veterans and the flags. She further stated that there were questions communicated during the meeting and Bill was not present to answer those questions but their concerns were more from the safety aspect. It was never anything to do with disrespect to the flag or those serving or who have served this country. Jamie spoke as a veteran in attendance at the meeting when the flags were discussed and confirmed that the spirit of the letters written did not match the spirit of the conversation that was held that night. He stated that things can often get taken out of context and he respects the flag, and acknowledged that it can be displayed in a tacky manner such as underwear, bathrobes, bathing suits, etc. Statements were taken out of context by people were not present during the conversations, and he appreciates all who defend the flag but many were misguided. Janice asked to keep in mind what is relayed, especially with how things go around town and are overheard such as a comment made by a former Selectmen regarding a memorial bench, on behalf of the people you work for. Bonnie Elie stated a person in the room told Bill one of the Selectmen said tacky and asked Ellen who it was? Ellen responded that no one did and if that is the word she relayed to Bill Carney, she apologizes as it was the wrong word; there was discussion about there already being a lot of flags on display. Bonnie E. stated what the Selectmen do is wrong including firing an employee for no reason, and although their actions may be legal, they're immoral.

Old / New Business / Discussion:

Crack seal and paving update – Previously discussed.

Selectmen's Representatives to Board/Committees - Les stated Melissa is on the FAC and he is on the Planning Board and he proposes they swap since there appears to be a lot of confusion on the forest and what goes on and he was involved in the writing of the stewardship. Ernie was in agreement, as was Melissa. The next FAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 6 and Planning Board is meeting next on Thursday, June 16. Ellen suggested Melissa bring up the appointment of a Planning Board representative to the FAC.

Transfer Station MSW Hauling & Disposal RFP – Previously discussed. Justin stated he will be surprised if we receive any proposals. Ellen questioned when it should be advertised because if it is too soon, and fuel continues to increase, they may not be able to hold pricing. The current contract expires at the end of the year. The last RFP process was advertised in August. Ernie questioned if the a 3-year contract request is the way to go? Scott responded that he does not think anyone will put in for a 3-year contract. The RFP will be requesting a 3-year contract but the results may vary and the language may be different than what has been seen in the past. Scott discussed a regional collaborative with surrounding towns to cost share, an idea he had discussed with Madison several years ago. It may be a route that will have to be taken in the future. Justin stated that he does not have enough containers,

they would need to be backfilled. Currently, he has 4 ready to go. Melissa questioned if covering the containers would be beneficial? Justin responded that compacted materials are fine it's only the snow load on the C&D that poses an issue. Brief discussion on the costs associated with purchasing a truck to haul. Scott estimates \$225-275k for a triaxle. The trucking cost and availability of space within landfills is in question as well as staffing to drive the truck. Justin will research the cost of trucking to be used as a comparison.

Non-Public Session(s):

Les made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:20 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c) for reputation. Ernie seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Les-yes, Ernie-yes, Melissa-yes. All in favor, the motion passed. Les made a motion to reconvene public session at 7:30 PM. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Les made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:30 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) for personnel. Ernie seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Les-yes, Ernie-yes, Melissa-yes. All in favor, the motion passed. Les made a motion to reconvene public session at 7:33 PM. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Discussion continued:

Ernie made a motion to sign the purchase and sales agreement on the Pequawket Trail property (Map 1C, Lot 12). Melissa seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Non-Public Session(s):

Les made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:34 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) for personnel. Ernie seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Les-yes, Ernie-yes, Melissa-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.

Les made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:45 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (l) for legal. Ernie seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Les-yes, Ernie-yes, Melissa-yes. All in favor, the motion passed. Les made a motion to reconvene public session at 7:54 PM. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Discussion continued:

The violation letters prepared for those with short-term rentals who have not applied for a conditional use permit were reviewed. *All were in agreement with the letters as written. Les made a motion to sign the signature block as requested. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.*

Ellen confirmed that the Intervale Ave. property (Map 22, Lot 9) will be advertised for bid with no minimum.

Brief discussion regarding the flags on utility poles. *The Board agreed to proceed with purchasing the flags to be installed from the patriotic purposes budget. Ernie will make arrangements with Gary Williams for Greg Williams to schedule the install.*

Further discussion on purchasing a truck to haul the MSW containers. Concerns were expressed with the escalating cost of fuel and the hiring struggle.

Adjournment:

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Consent Agenda:

Accounts Payable – Week ending 6/10/2022	Approved
Payroll Manifest – Week ending 6/8/2022	Approved
Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting & Non-Public Session – 6/6/2022	Approved
Letters of Violation re: Short-term rentals, signature block	Approved
Purchase and Sales Agreement – Pequawket Trail, Map 1C, Lot 12	Approved

Correspondence:

Letter – NH DOT re:Ossipee Lake Rd. Bridge, Final Project Reimbursement Notice	Reviewed
Letter – New England Vacant Land re: Vacant land purchase solicitation	Reviewed
Email – Josh Bouchard, CMA Eng. re: NH DES grant opportunities for culverts	Reviewed
RFP & Notice – Transportation and Disposal of Municipal Solid Waste	Reviewed
Receipt – Tax Payment as Agreed	Reviewed
Report – Facilities update, June 13, 2022	Reviewed

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen N. White, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.

Melissa M. Florio