

**Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, August 29, 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 was Scott Brooks, James Rines, Rob Cunio, and Barbara McEvoy.

Review of Mail, Sign Manifests, Approval of Minutes:

The accounts payable and payroll manifests, and red folder including correspondence was reviewed.

James Rines presented a plan for Sherwood Forest and discussed a septic that needs to be replaced on the what is known as the chalet lot owned by Camp Robinhood. James explained the proposal is to relocate the septic system to an adjacent vacant parcel making it more compliant but would require trenching along the roadway. Before they proceed further, they wanted to gain input from the Select Board. Road Agent Scott Brooks was also brought into the discussion. Scott explained the only one he is familiar with is the water line run along Ossipee Lake Road in the 1980's. The Town has a trenching procedure/permit process that would have to be followed. Scott further discussed parameters he would like to see met. An easement would be drafted. Les likes the idea of a continuous pipe and questioned who will be monitoring? James responded that Horizon would have someone onsite and they would also be handling the abutter notifications. All work would be completed in the off-season. It was agreed to be an environmental advantage getting one more septic system away from the lake.

Ernie made a motion to approve the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting and Non-Public Sessions held on August 22, 2022. Melissa seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Department Head Updates:

Highway Department – Road Agent Scott Brook reported the new Mack is back and running well. The sand shed is scheduled for completion this Tuesday/Wednesday. Paving will also be done on Swett Hill tomorrow. Several factors led to delays in paving including the plant in Northwood took a direct lighting strike and the Madison plant had multiple shutdowns. An estimate received to put the pavement back at the sand shed came in at \$27k with overlay so he will be proceeding with a patch without overlay to stay within the \$15k he had budgeted. With so many delays and shutdowns along with impending rain mid-week, the Highway crew worked all day Sunday so the project could get wrapped up this week.

Fire-Rescue Department – Chief Rob Cunio reported call volume including 4 medical aid, 1 fire alarm activation, and a partially submerged boat. Service and inspections are well underway. The Rescue is experiencing an issue with kicking into high gear and a module was found to be bad but there is no replacement available as they stopped being manufactured. Rob will be checking with salvage yards and ambulance companies to see if he can locate a module. The portable pump was repacked and is testing good. The battery tender was installed in the truck and pumped for 1-hour with no issue. The boat is done except for lettering. The registration was supposed to be ready last week but he did not hear anything on it. If he does not reach anyone tomorrow, he will be going to register the boat at

Wards. The insurance is already in place. The new rescue is in the queue for January-February 2023. Les questioned if there has been any progress made on listing the old rescue? Rob responded that he is still looking for comps to determine the value. Brantley Mountain did not recommend listing it until it was 4 months from disposal. Ernie questioned if any money has been paid on the new unit? Rob responded that the lease is all set but no payments will be made until the new rescue is delivered.

Town Office – Administrator Ellen White reported the RFP for the transportation of MSW has been posted on the website, NH Municipal Association’s website, and distributed to Casella and Waste Management and questioned if the board would like it advertised elsewhere? Newspaper advertising is expensive and has not been as effective. Ellen will also distribute to North Conway Incinerator. Ernie suggested the Dodge Report. Scott questioned if there will be consideration for hauling ourselves, requiring a truck be purchased? Cubby had expressed concerns for not having enough containers to swap out. Scott stated that if the containers are hauled out on a day when the Transfer Station is closed, it should be a non-issue. Ellen stated the proposals are due October 17. Is a mutual aid service something to be considered in the future?

Public Input:

Barbara McEvoy addressed the Board with a request to resume yoga classes at the Town Hall. The location is sought to allow more space for distancing. Concerns have been expressed about a for-profit business using the Town Hall to run said business. Barbara reviewed the history of her classes and product offerings. She considers yoga to be a community service that benefits the people of Freedom and the rate charged is not for profit. The fee charged gives a person incentive to come on a regular basis by paying in advance. If she is required to pay a rental fee it will absorb the monies she collects. Discussion ensued. Barbara agreed to not charge in exchange for use of the building with no rental fee. A donation jar can be made available. A handout was provided (attached to these minutes). Ernie feels that if money is being tendered, the Town Hall should be rented. Melissa agrees. Melissa reviewed the Town Hall Use Policy. Les suggests a fee if non-residents are using it but if it is strictly residents than no fee. Melissa agrees with the suggestion as a compromise. Ellen was asked to check with Primex for insurance requirements. Ellen suggested using a waiver to be signed by all participants to hold the Town harmless of any claims resulting from participation.

Appointments:

Not applicable.

Old / New Business / Discussion:

Ellen stated Senior Resource Coordinator Renee Wheaton has receive a grant through the Gibson Center allowing a van service to Freedom but it requires a few locations within the village for cars to be left and for the van to pick up residents. Ernie suggested the ballfield. Melissa suggested the town beach but it is not plowed or maintained by the town. The library could also be used on a Monday only. Les expressed concern with costs that may be associated with the grant as had been the case in past grants offering the same service. Ellen will require more information from Renee on the grant received. Ellen questioned the end of Cushing Corner as an option but this is noted as private property and not town-owned.

Non-Public Session(s):

Les made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:35 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a), personnel. Melissa 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 8:43 PM. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Discussion continued:

Ellen informed the Board the roll-off container at the 3 Ossipee Lake Road property was swapped out on August 24.

Melissa has been questioned on the status of dilapidated building on Eldridge Ave. Les stated there was a conditional approval granted by the ZBA requiring the removal of the building. Ellen will forward to the Zoning Officer to look into.

The Pequawket Trail transaction has been cancelled by the buyer. A perk test and title search has been conducted. The Board agreed to reimburse the buyer for the expenses in exchange for the reports with receipts.

Ernie would like to continue discussion on enrollment into the NH Retirement System as we approach budget season.

Les made a motion to appoint Denny Anderson as a full member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Pam Keith as an alternate. Melissa seconded. Ellen clarified that the appointments will be to fulfill the remainder of the vacant terms. All in favor, the motion passed.

Discussion regarding the Town Forester contract. Ellen suggests a joint meeting between FCC and FAC happen sooner than April to resolve any conflicts.

Adjournment:

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Consent Agenda:

Accounts Payable – Week ending 8/26/2022	Approved
Payroll Manifest – Week ending 8/24/2022	Approved
Authorization for Release of Escrow – Pequawket Trail Property	Approved
Employee Time of Request	Approved
Intent to Cut Wood or Timber – Watts/Haynes (Map 9, Lot 15) Old Portland Road	Approved
Intent to Cut Wood or Timber – McCluskey (Map 14, Lot 14) Durgin Hill Road	Approved

Correspondence:

Notices of Decision – ZBA App No. 1-16-22, Special Exception – Granted	Reviewed
ZBA App No. 29-6-22, Special Exception – Granted	Reviewed
ZBA App No. 29-6-22, Special Exception – Granted	Reviewed
ZBA App No. 29-6-22, Special Exception – Granted	Reviewed
ZBA App No. 29-6-22, Special Exception – Granted	Reviewed
Abutter’s Notice – Town of Wolfeboro re: Wireless Communication Tower	Reviewed
Email – Pamela Keith & Scott Lees re: Interest in ZBA position	Reviewed
Letter – Brock & Scott, PLLC re: 51 Freedom Point Road Auction Notice	Reviewed
Newsletter – Ossipee Lake Alliance re: Meena LLC Gas Station (8.23.2022)	Reviewed
Newsletter – Ossipee Lake Alliance re: Meena LLC Gas Station (8.28.2022)	Reviewed
Report – Budget Status – July 2022	Reviewed
Report – Action Ambulance – thru July 31, 2022	Reviewed
Receipt – Tax Payment as Agreed	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