

**Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, October 24, 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 Hall.

Also in attendance was Justin Brooks, Rob Cunio, Gary Williams, Scott Brooks, Pete LaChapelle (Waste Management), and Amber Vecchiarelli (Casella).

Non-Public Session:

Les made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:04 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c), 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.

Old / New Business / Discussion:

Review Proposals Received for Transportation and Hauling of Municipal Solid Waste - Justin calculated the difference between the two companies to be \$3,000 with Waste Management coming in lower. Both companies offer a 5% incremental increase and variable recycling fees based on the market. Justin stated he has not had good luck with Casella since the service was moved from Scarborough, ME. His recommendation is to award the contract to Waste Management.

Ernie calculated Casella to be the lower proposal at \$1,767 less. His concern is that Waste Management has more added fees.

Justin added that the turnaround time with Casella is not being met and the excuse given is the travel through the notch. Two weekends this summer, the roll off containers were not swapped out and trash had to be off loaded into an open top. Ernie still thinks Casella is the better deal and stated the issues could be resolved. Justin stated there was no issues with Scarborough. Rochester is the same distance and the travel would no longer be an issue.

Les questioned if the cans the town owns can be swapped out? Pete from Waste Management confirmed. Justin also responded that the town owns 3 roll off containers, but only 2 are used; 1 is not in rotation at all.

Discussion regarding the recyclables charge. Pete stated that every municipality load is dirty but of the 105 towns served in Maine in NH, there has not yet been a contamination fee charged. Education is very important. He recommends utilizing the town's website to get the recycling information posted for residents to reference. Justin discussed issues present with the recycling program.

Melissa stated the numbers are close, but she also calculates Casella as the cheaper option. She shares concern with rate changes due to the semi-annual fuel review and the 48-hour lead time required to request hauling.

Ernie stated that similar to the paving contracts, all factors are considered. Justin feels his opinion

does not matter. Amber from Casella stated she is taking notes on Justin's concerns and will be bringing them back to Mr. Casella. Justin is disappointed with the lack of personal contact since service was moved out of Scarborough.

Melissa's concerns mirror Ernie's. The figures are close but they as Selectmen are responsible for making the best financial decision for the town. She questioned if Ellen received any information from Madison or Wakefield on their private hauling? Ellen reached out but has not heard back from either town.

Pete understands the Boards' position and noted he has been a city councilor in Rochester for 19-years. Justin acknowledged the Selectmen's responsibility in financial decision making and is happy to have Amber's contact information.

Ernie made a motion to award the contract to Casella. Melissa seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Justin and Amber agree to meet on Tuesday morning to discuss the issues further.

Review of Mail, Sign Manifests, Approval of Minutes:

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

Ernie made a motion to approve the minutes of the Non-Public Session held on October 11, 2022, and the Selectmen's Meeting and Non-Public Session held on October 17, 2022. Melissa seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Department Head Updates:

Highway Department – Road Agent Scott Brooks discussed a driveway permit application received for Robin Hood's old pit on Ossipee Lake Road. There is 300' of site distance to the east which is sufficient but only 250' to the west. He questions if this acceptable to permit? It would require a blind driveway sign east of West Bay Road. His reservation is the 250' falls within the crest of the hill and the speed limit is 35 MPH. 100' of site distance is required for every 10 MPH. Les stated there are other options available for the driveway location. Scott thinks a blind driveway sign installed east of West Bay Road may cover the town. The access is not understood; the location does not contain usable space, there is 5' of stumps buried in the ground and the access would require a culvert and stabilization including a storm water ditch. Melissa stated that based on Scott's opinion, her vote is no. Ernie agrees that it is not a good idea. A letter to the property owners acknowledging the denial of the driveway permit due to insufficient site distance to the west to grant a driveway permit in that location will be drafted for signatures at the next meeting. Rob stated that the intersection at West Bay Road is already dangerous, especially in winter road conditions. It would be safer to create an access off West Bay Road. Scott added that the argument may be that the access is already existing, but it was not a permitted access. There has been no activity at the site since the Wintergreen Ridge development was built.

Fire-Rescue Department – Chief Rob Cunio reported call volume including 2 medical aid, 2 fire alarm, and 1 motor vehicle accident. Next Monday, they will be handing out candy at the Village Station. Coverage for Rob's vacation absence has been established and will be handled by individuals with dual

certification. Call volume is at 355 year-to-date. The boat has been lettered and is in storage for the winter. Melissa questioned if Rob has received any calls with issues with ambulance transportation charges like was reported by Ossipee. Rob has received maybe one call and he referred them to work with Action. The charge is what they charge Medicare, and being the first on scene, they are often the last party paid. Gary and Melissa provided their own personal experiences with Action transports.

Transfer Station – Supervisor Justin Brooks reported that the new employee Charlene started last Friday and is doing well so far. She can run the backhoe and is very easy on the equipment. They are in the process of getting cleaned up for the winter. Justin is hopeful the contract award to Casella will help to iron out the past issues. The new hours signs have been placed at the outside gate and on the side of the building. He will be working with NRRRA to get the large sign on the gate redone through the NH the Beautiful program. Justin stated the posting requirements include the hours of operation and the operational permit number.

Les questioned if Rob is in favor of renegotiating the contract with Action Ambulance for 5-years. Rob agrees. His only issue is with on-scene times but they are showing up to the calls with multiple trucks and providing good patient care. Action is also addressing all issues that are presented to them. The equipment is good and they arrive 99% of the time at a higher level than advanced. The proposed contract extension at the 3% increase is unheard of in today's market conditions.

Scott reported that he interviewed Barry Kittredge for the part-time seasonal position and he has accepted the job offer. Scott also met with Rusty White who has his CDL-B license, but minimal plowing experience, for the full-time position and he also accepted the job offer. The new hire paperwork and pre-employment testing are in progress for both applicants.

Ellen announced that the person with a non-public request did not show up and suggested dismissing Gary Williams for the evening.

Melissa discussed the letter received from NH Municipal Association regarding the disposition of their legal files and the request needed to turn the files over to the town. Ellen stated that the legal services are used for general topics and the information may be helpful to have for reference. A letter requesting the files be sent to the town will be drafted.

Melissa also questioned if additional options have been presented for health insurance plans. Ellen will reach out to Health Trust to see what other offerings Anthem has available that would not reduce services provided to the employees or create network changes.

Discussion regarding offering of NH State Retirement plan to all employees. It was agreed that it would be beneficial in opening a better hiring pool in today's employment market. Scott stated that the towns of Eaton and Freedom are the only ones in the area that do not participate in the NH Retirement system but Eaton is starting the enrollment process. Ellen stated the only other option would be to increase the town's level of participation in its retirement program from 3% to a more competitive percentage.

Ellen stated that she has the job description has been drafted for the Tax Collector position and she will circulate it to the Board for review before advertising the position. Ellen questioned what the Board would be looking for in terms of office hours for the position? Brief discussion on combining the Tax Collector duties with the Town Clerk, which would require a separate vote of Town Meeting.

Les stated that there was push back received in the past but things have changed and now opportunities are being considered. Scott stated that it would be helpful in the appointment of a deputy, by providing more work load.

Justin questioned coverage at the Transfer Station to cover vacation absences. Can he use per diem help that has been used prior? Les stated the discussion can take place in non-public session.

Public Input:

None presented.

Non-Public Session(s):

Les made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 8:23 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a), 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 9:00 PM. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Discussion Continued:

Ellen presented a quote received from GW Brooks to finish up the cleanup at the 3 Ossipee Lake Road property. The quote is for \$2,625 but the soonest it can be completed is the week of 11/14. Another quote received verbally from Dig & Doze came in at \$1,000 and they can do it this week. Two containers are currently on site and one has to be swapped this week to avoid the long-term storage charge. Both companies estimate at least 3 containers will be needed. ***The Board was in agreement that the cleanup needs to happen as soon as possible before there is threat of snow. All were in favor of proceeding with Dig and Doze.***

Adjournment:

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Consent Agenda:

Accounts Payable – Week ending 10/21/2022	Approved
Payroll Manifest – Week ending 10/19/2022	Approved
Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting & Non-Public Sessions – 10/17/2022	Approved
Minutes – Non-Public Session – 10/11/2022	Approved
STR Conditional Use Permit Application – Patricia Sutton-Knight, 131 Pleasant Dr.	Approved
STR Conditional Use Permit Renewal – Sharon Tan & David Wong, 34 Chick Dr.	Approved
STR Conditional Use Permit Renewal – Michelle Cutlip, 123 East Danforth Rd.	Approved

Correspondence:

Minutes – FAISC Meeting – 10/13/2022	Reviewed
Minutes – Planning Board Meeting – 10/20/2022	Reviewed
Letter – NHMA re: Disposition of member legal files	Reviewed
E-Mail – Jeff Nicoll re: FCC member request for appointment	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