

**Selectmen's Meeting**  
**Monday, November 14, 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 Justin Brooks, Scott Brooks, Linda Mailhot, and Matt Plache.

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

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

A revised draft of the Solid Waste Management Facility Ordinance was distributed for review. Melissa questioned if any revisions had been made? Ellen responded that only the hours were updated to reflect the new schedule, the remainder of changes will be part of the public hearing discussion. Melissa questioned if any updates are needed if they decide to charge for brush removal? This would be addressed in the separate fee schedule. Justin stated that he would like to address it if we have to keep paying to haul the brush off. The burning process is becoming more of a hassle with weather conditions not being favorable and it has been over two years since they last burned. Justin will be addressing the cost of brush removal in his budget request.

The revisions suggested by legal to the contract for the hauling of municipal solid waste was reviewed. Ellen stated she still has to verify the insurance requirements with Primex. ***Les made a motion to authorize Melissa to sign the Transfer Station agreement with Casella. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.***

***Ernie made a motion to approve the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting and Non-Public Session held on November 7, 2022. Melissa seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.***

**Department Head Updates:**

Highway Department – Road Agent Scott Brooks reported they have been getting ready for incoming weather. He researched some pricing at O'Connor's while there last week and found a 2WD cab and chassis is currently \$140,000, with plow gear and sander an additional \$95,000. A 10-wheeler would be \$165,000 and over \$100,000 for the plow gear and body. The hired equipment rates will have to be reviewed and he will prepare for further discussion next week. The new employee started last Thursday and will be taking care of Ossipee Lake Road, Bennett Road and vicinity. A rental skid steer with blower attachment is being utilized to clean ditches on all roads and in the hills. All sanders and plows will be on by end of day Tuesday. The new town truck was taken to Palmers for additional spring installation to balance the truck with the way the sander sits on the new truck.

Transfer Station – Supervisor Justin Brooks reported steady traffic over the weekend. They have been actively checking for stickers and he has received resistance from a few with multiple vehicles. The credit card machine is now back online and working again. There is a two-step process in the approval process due to the third-party fee that is charged to each transaction, requiring the customer to put their card in twice. Ellen explained the issue with the batch processing that caused the machine to stop working and how it was rectified today. Some transactions from over the weekend were

processed officially today. Justin reported that he was able to complete a successful transaction this afternoon. Les questioned if we should get rid of the separate transaction processing fee? Ellen responded that it would be additional work for the Treasurer to reconcile the transactions and recommends staying as is for now.

Town Office - Administrator Ellen White reported he wiring install for the new phone system took place last Wednesday and they will return in early December to install the rest of the equipment and provide training. Preparations are being made to start the budget review process next week. Stacy will be taking care of next Monday's Selectmen's Meeting so all departments up for budget review that night will receive updated budget information by the middle of this week. Scott requested the private road inspection reports so he can finish up the road inspections. The tax rate is awaiting the Freedom Village Water Precinct's signed MS-434 and an acknowledgement that they want to remain user-fee based, and an updated MS-25 from the School District that was uploaded last Friday. Ellen is hopeful the rate can be finalized by mid-week so the tax bills can be sent to the printer before her vacation absence. Ernie stated last year, the rate was held up by the school and the prior year was held up by the county. The County tax bill has been received and will be hand-delivered the first week in December.

Les recessed the public meeting at 7:00 PM for the scheduled public hearings.

### **Public Hearings:**

*Carroll County Communications District Planning Committee (CCCDPC): Proposed District Agreement* – Linda Mailhot and Matt Plache were present. Linda stated the purpose of the district is to promote, facilitate and encourage high-speed broadband service in all 14-towns within Carroll County at no cost to the town. Matt provided copies of a draft document along with RSA 53-G. He then explained the benefit being that once the district is formed it would be considered a municipal entity eligible for grant funding. It has been designed with no cost to the town and specifies that no debt be incurred or raise revenue from any town unless received as a donation, as well as no request for taxation. The town is able to enter into its own agreement with operators or through a separate agreement with the district. Strength is in numbers. A lot of interest has been received from the operators. Many meetings have been held with NH Electric Co-op, Fidium and others who are focusing on Carroll County and getting this expansion in place. Town support in terms of providing access and ability to lay cables. Melissa commented on how some towns already have the technology in place but are joining in to make sure that the appropriate technology updates apply to their communities. Up to \$500 per passing is being offered by Fidium. NH Electric Co-Op is offering service to their members and is already doing so in Sandwich. Les stated that Freedom's agreement is that cable is to be brought to every home in Freedom and questions if this will bring in some competition? Melissa stated that more competition is better and is often seen to be beneficial in cities. A bill to change the broadband definition was updated this year to expand and open up availability for grant money to deploy more effective internet service, and to build in the unserved areas. The district is working with state reps to make this update happen. There is more need to better internet services to accommodate those working from home, children remote learning, taking advantage of telehealth services, etc. The district's governing board will consist of one member from each town plus one alternate. Les likes the concept and the possibility of more competition. Linda stated that Spectrum is already sending out mailings offering higher internet speeds. Mike explained that it is a non-partisan issue; one that everyone in Carroll County wants and needs. The language of the Warrant Article to be voted on at Town Meeting is set by statute under RSA 53-G. The language of the district agreement is in final draft and will be submitted

to the AG's office for formal approval after all 14 public hearings are held. There are no changes anticipated. The next steps are to continue public hearings; 3 out of 14 have already been held. A final committee meeting will be held followed by the final public hearing and then to vote at Town Meeting. Les opened the floor to public comment. None received. The Board is agreement with proceeding. Being no further input, this public hearing adjourned at 7:17 PM.

*Solid Waste Facility Management Ordinance Update* – A draft copy of the Solid Waste Facility Management Ordinance was distributed. Ellen reviewed the highlighted updates that have been discussed over the past few weeks. Justin stated that he no longer uses the notification through WCSH Channel 6 for weather closures, the website will be added as will a message at the Transfer Station. Add (603) area code to the Transfer Station number. Les stated the holidays to be observed will be New Years, Christmas and Easter. All other holidays, the facility will be opened and employees will be paid for the holiday plus time and a half for hours worked, or a floating holiday can be taken. Les stated with the recent schedule change, the Transfer Station needs to be open Friday through Monday except on those three holidays when it will be closed. Justin questioned the ability for him to take the holiday on the holiday? Agreed upon with appropriate coverage. Clarification on eligibility for Transfer Station permit to include residents or taxpayers of improved properties. All were in agreement with the language proposed. Campers are excluded because they are not property owners, they are only taxed on the building on land of another. Pay-per-bag program language was approved as proposed. The Planning Board will be looking for this language in how it will apply to Short-Term Rentals. Justin stated that Rickers will accept empty fuel tanks, cut in half. The Board was in agreement to leave the language as is - not accepted to eliminate the possibility of any contaminants. Justin stated that solid fill including concrete, brick, etc. is another area that has been accepted in limited quantity as it can be accepted by Casella. This will remain at the discretion of the Transfer Station attendant. Payment procedures can be updated to include the acceptance of credit cards. Attorney Gorrow has previously recommended an amendment to the fine structure. The current RSA provides fines up to \$3,000. Discussion on mirroring those fines outlined in the RSA or set to a new amount. No fines have been issued since Justin has been there. Scott suggested the first level fine be increased to \$200.00, then \$300.00 for the second, and \$500.00 for the third. The Board was in agreement to update the fines to \$150.00 for the first offense, \$300.00 for the second offense, and \$500.00 for the third offense. The uniform fine schedule will have to be updated to include these new amounts. Scott suggested adding in language for those violating the permit policy. Ellen suggests the first warning for those refusing to purchase a permit be that they are handed a copy of the ordinance, with fine implementation to follow. All were in agreement. Justin questioned if the fee for a commercial curbside pickup hauler be updated from \$1,200. It has not been updated since 2006 when the ordinance was originally adopted. Currently, there is only one permit holder this applies to. Justin suggests increasing the fee to \$2,000. Ernie suggests \$1,600. Discussion ensued. The permit is annual and requires an updated customer list be provided to the town. Ellen will send out a reminder before the end of the current permit expiration to permit holders. The Board was in agreement to increase the fee to \$2,000. Brief discussion regarding insurance requirement for permit holders. Coverage requirements will be discussed with Primex and will be addressed in a separate agreement. Being no further input, this public hearing was closed at 7:57 PM.

Justin will bring in additional information on brush removal with his budget request next week.

### **Old / New Business / Discussion:**

*Agreement for Transportation and Disposal Services* – Previously discussed.

Ellen questioned the signing authority of the gas permits. At some point, the responsibility transitioned to the building inspector. Although the inspection is being completed by both the Fire Chief and Building Inspector, the form requires the Fire Chief's signature and it is under the authority of the Fire Chief. Should the authority revert back to the Chief? Agreed.

Melissa stated the assembly permit at the Town Hall has expired.

Ellen reported that Mike Brownell will take care of the island by Maynard Thompson's. He has been maintaining it as part of the contract but it is a catchall for leaves and debris to collect. It will be taken care of this week.

Discussion regarding the overall condition of the ballfield. Scott was told by the Water Precinct to not run the sprinkler system two years ago and it has not been run since. Money is being spent annually for pesticide and fertilizer which is useless without consistent watering. Scott noted areas that need to be topped with fresh loam and re-seeded.

Ernie questioned the status of 3 Ossipee Lake Road. Ellen responded that the container was swapped out last week and Ricker's picked up their container of metals last week. She will check in on the status tomorrow.

***Ernie made a motion to appoint Jim Stone as Emergency Management Director. Les seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.***

Ellen stated the next Safety Committee Meeting is scheduled for December 13 at which time they will appoint a Safety Officer.

#### **Public Input:**

Not presented.

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

***Les made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:59 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 8:13 PM. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.***

***Les made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 8:13 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (l), 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 8:17 PM. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.***

***Les made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 8:17 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 8:20 PM. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.***

*Les made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 8:20 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 8:35 PM. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.*

**Discussion continued:**

Ernie reviewed what he would like to see happen with the tax rate.

**Adjournment:**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.

**Consent Agenda:**

Accounts Payable – Week ending 11/9/2022	Approved
Payroll Manifest – Week ending 11/11/2022	Approved
Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting & Non-Public Session – 11/7/2022	Approved
Request for Abatement – Brian Hampton, Map 16, Lot 1-01, Timber	Approved
Supplemental Timber Tax Warrant – Yvonne Hoyt, Map 16, Lot 1-02	Approved
Supplemental Timber Tax Warrant – Randal Cole, Map 12, Lot 26, et al	Approved

**Correspondence:**

Postcard – NH DRA re: Property inspection/monitoring in progress	Reviewed
E-Mail – Town of Ossipee re: Agreement to proceed with ambulance extension	Reviewed
E-Mail – Town of Eaton re: “ ”	Reviewed
Letter – Brock & Scott LLC re: Postponement of foreclosure sale, 51 Freedom Point	Reviewed
Receipt – Tax Payment as Agreed	Reviewed
Receipt – State of NH Locality Equipment Grant Allocations	Reviewed

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen N. White, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on \_\_\_\_\_:

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Leslie R. Babb

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Ernest F. Day, Jr.

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Melissa M. Florio