

**Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, January 9, 2023**

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, Rob Cunio, and Paul Elie.

Review of Mail, Sign Manifests, Approval of Minutes:

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

Melissa stated Scrub Oaks Scramblers has not obtained their permit for the Winter Carnival Event in February and questioned how soon it can be processed since it also requires approval from NH DRED? The form is available online under the FAC and will require approval from the FAC/FCC.

Melissa noted the attendance on the meeting minutes from the December 22, 2022 need to be corrected. No one was present.

Ernie made a motion to approve the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting held on December 19, 2022, and December 22, 2022 with noted corrections, as well as the Non-Public Sessions held on December 12, 19, and 22, 2022. Melissa seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

A Request for Appointment received from Michele Keenan was reviewed. ***Les made a motion to appoint Michele Keenan as a member of the FCC. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.***

A Request for Appointment received from Daniel Foottit was reviewed. ***The Board agreed to forward it on to the ZBA for their recommendation.***

An email received confirms Effingham's consent to move forward with discussion on the ambulance contract extension. Ellen stated that all towns have now responded and are being invited to attend a Regional Ambulance Meeting on February 6, 2023. Les requested contact be made with John Hatch at Action Ambulance to see if he can prepare documents to review that evening.

An email received from FAISC Chair Ned Kucera confirms the NH DES grant for invasive species weed control will be at a 50% matching contribution again in 2023.

Department Head Updates:

Rob announced the decision was made in December to cancel the Loon Lake Fishing Derby due to the poor weather conditions forecasted. The raffle, however, will still take place.

Transfer Station – Supervisor Justin Brooks reported things are going smooth for the most part. He then questioned if the Board has plans to do the renovations at the Transfer Station this year? Melissa and Les confirmed and stated it would be a separate Warrant Article. Scott Brooks was asked what may be needed. He responded that in addition to the curb cut, there would be trees to be removed

to the west (winter project?) and the power company would have to be involved. He then questioned if the driveway would be gravel or paved? All were in agreement that pavement would be easiest to maintain and there would be less erosion. The gravel is already there. The Board requested a rough number to start the Warrant Article process.

Highway Department - Scott stated that with the SB401 road and bridges money, he would like to look at reclaiming Huckins and Pequawket. He provided a sample letter to be sent to all property owners. Project would involve the section from Camp Huckins to the end of the asphalt, maybe further. The first year would be focused on drainage and widening, and year 2 would be grinding, gravel, and paving.

Scott also provided a memo for the Watson Hill project in three phases. Option 1 would be the easiest, option 3 the worst and most costly, and the second option the priority. He was hoping to purchase the culvert with any money leftover in the operating budget.

Additionally, the retainer wall along Ossipee Lake Road at Danforth is deteriorating from the salt. He would like to see CMA design a new wall constructed of granite.

Scott reviewed the recent issues with water line breaks in the village water system which have now been detected and questions how long the system can sustain. Should the town consider taking it over? He provided a brief history of the system containing pipes originating from the 1920's, along with the need for improvements there is no funding for, and no ability to apply for matching for potential grant funds.

The 2018 Ford F-550 has an active check engine light. The truck has 45,000 miles and it was found that there were pins missing from the turbo seal. The 5500 has a broken left-front center bolt. The issue with the new Mack has been confirmed to be the difference in gear ratio from front to back and a repair solution is anticipated for mid-late February. Meanwhile, chains at \$400-500/set are being utilized. Melissa questioned the status of the quotes for a new sweeper. Scott still has not received a price from HP Fairfield for an unknown reason. Leadtime is approximately 10-12 weeks from the time of order.

Fire Department – Chief Rob Cunio reported call volume including 5 calls for medical aid, 1 fire alarm, and a furnace issue. The new rescue chassis is on schedule for an estimated delivery somewhere between the end of January to early February. 38 calls have been received December 1 to date.

Town Office – Administrator Ellen White stated the permit fees that went into effect January 1 have been updated as well as all applicable forms and applications. Applications found online for electrical, plumbing, gas piping, and the building/zoning permits are now PDF fillable. Other forms will be updated on the website as well. Training for the new phone system is scheduled for tomorrow at 10 am. There may be a period of time the phones will be down while all staff is attending training. An announcement will be added to the website and email sent if that is the case. A question was raised as to the location of Town Meeting/Elections. The Board confirmed both will take place at Town Hall. Ellen has requested department/board/committee reports for the Town Report be submitted by January 31. The annual report will be going to the printer the week of President's Day in order to be distributed timely. The 2021 financial statements have been received from the auditor. Only one area of weakness was noted and has been corrected. The 2022 financial audit is also scheduled for the week of President's Day and the required recommittal audit for the Tax Collector's records will

take place just prior to the expiration of the current Tax Collector's term. Petition Warrant Articles are due February 7, 2023. Ellen reviewed the timeline for holding the public hearing on the budget. A tentative date of Monday, February 13 was suggested, and agreed, to be held at the Town Hall. W2 and 1099 will be processing in the next week. Lastly, there is no meeting scheduled for January 16th due to the holiday.

The Transfer Station is open on Monday.

Justin questioned staff coverage at the Transfer Station. Les responded that discussion is planned for non-public session.

Old / New Business / Discussion:

2023 Budget Overview - Updated operating budget worksheets were presented. Ellen noted the only change needed is to add \$1,000 to the Masonic Lodge maintenance line item. The Board agreed to schedule a work session on Wednesday at 8 am to review the budget line by line. Les requested all known Warrant Articles be available for Wednesday's work session.

The old town road off West Bay Road near Sherwood Forest was discussed for reopening the access in the winter months to assist with snow plowing. Ellen will make initial contact with White Mountain Survey to start the process, and will hand off to Scott.

Appointments:

Paul Elie was in attendance to discuss his request for appointment to the FCC. Ernie stated that Paul is very qualified, but is against the appointment. Melissa agrees with Ernie that Paul is qualified and expressed concern with a statement made by Paul when he resigned stating that he could not work with the Selectboard. Paul questioned making the statement and stated at that time he was upset with the process and lack of transparency (on an unrelated matter). Les expressed his concern is that at that time he resigned his elected position on the Planning Board as well as his membership on the FCC, and it may happen again. Paul responded that he was the Chair of the FCC in his prior role and if reappointed he would have to address any matters through the Chairman of the FCC. Ernie is still not in favor of the appointment. Melissa stated the FCC has provided a recommendation for Paul's appointment so she feels they should follow the recommendation. Discussion on the vacancies and terms available. ***Les made a motion to appoint Paul Elie to the FCC for a 1-year term. Melissa seconded. Roll call vote was taken, Melissa-yes, Les-yes, Ernie-no. Majority vote carried.***

Public Input:

None presented.

Non-Public Session(s):

Les made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:29 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 7:33 PM. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Les made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:35 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 7:58 PM. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Les made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:59 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 8:30 PM. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Discussion continued:

Treasurer Jayne Britton reported that \$2,777,000 was collected in December and she is happy to report that she was able to balance within \$1.00. She questioned what happens with unused sick and vacation time. It was explained that 80-hours are able to be carried forward for sick time and 80-hours are accrued at the first of the year so the max is 160-hours. Vacation time is lost if not used or bought out by the end of the year, and new time accrues January 1st.

Discussion on the budgeting process and special projects by Warrant Article. Review of encumbrances voted on and those still tabled including the use of funds received from SB401.

Adjournment:

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Consent Agenda:

Accounts Payable – Week ending 12/23/2022, 12/30/2022 & 1/6/2023	Approved
Payroll Manifest – Week ending 12/21/2022, 12/28/2022 & 1/4/2023	Approved
Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting– 12/19/2022, 12/22/2022	Approved
Minutes – Non-Public Sessions – 12/12/2022, 12/19/2022 & 1/4/2023	Approved
Request for Appointment – Michele Keenan, FCC	Approved
Request for Appointment – Paul Elie, FCC	Approved
Intent to Cut Wood or Timber – Brett & Monica Acken, Kidder Dr. (M3, L 79-28)	Approved
Timber Tax Levy – Margaret Gibbs Trust, Map 9, Lot 12	Approved
Certificate of Yield Taxes Assessed – “ ”	Approved

Correspondence:

2021 Financial statements & accompanying documents	Reviewed
Letter – to MacMulkin Chevrolet re: Intent to purchase 2023 Tahoe	Reviewed
E-Mail – Town of Effingham re: Commitment to discuss ambulance contract ext.	Reviewed
E-Mail – to Boards, Committees, Departments re: Annual report request	Reviewed
E-Mail – Ned Kucera re: NH DES milfoil grant contribution (50%)	Reviewed
Wetlands Permit by Notification – Laurence Foss, 356 Pequawket Trail	Reviewed

Receipt – Tax payment as agreed	Reviewed
Receipt – Camp Huckins – Donation	Reviewed
Receipt – State of NH – SB401 Bridge Aid	Reviewed
Receipt – State of NH – Room & Meals Tax	Reviewed
Report – 3 Ossipee Lake Road Demolition Expenses	Reviewed
Report – 2022 Groundwater Monitoring Data, Freedom Landfill	Reviewed
Newsletter – NHMA Legislative Bulletin No. 01 & 02	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