

**Selectmen's Meeting  
Monday, February 6, 2023**

Chairman Les Babb called the meeting to order at 6:55 PM immediately following the adjournment of the Regional Ambulance Meeting. 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 Bill Elliott, Scott Brooks, and Rob Cunio.

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

Bill Elliott recapped on his experiences with Action Ambulance and commented on the wonderful service they along with first responders for the town provide.

Les commented on the importance of the inclusion of the Lucas device noting that Freedom and Ossipee Corner are the only departments within Ossipee Valley Mutual Aid, other than Tuftonboro. Tamworth has a band unit but it is not deemed as effective. Cost for a Lucas device is noted to be approximately \$15k with accessories.

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

***Ernie made a motion to approve the minutes of the Selectmen's Meetings and Non-Public Sessions held on January 30, 2023 and February 1, 2023. Melissa seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.***

**Department Head Updates:**

Highway Department – Road Agent Scott Brooks reported tree cutting at the Transfer Station took place today. Presence of emerald ash borers has been found and they have affected a lot of ash trees. There is a dead maple on the corner lot of Elm and Village that will need to be removed by a boom truck. Scott will reach out to the power company to see if they can assist with the removal in exchange for the roadside trimming the town completes on the opposite side of the road from utilities. Discussion regarding communication lines belonging to Consolidated Communications that remain on poles to be removed and how to get them moved over to new poles.

Melissa fielded a message regarding the condition of West Bay Road. Scott explained the difference between a chip seal and sand seal application. He does think there is anything to be concerned about but will look into the area of concern. Loon Lake Road, West Bay Road, Nason Road, and the entrance of Square Brook all received the same application. A rubberized chip seal was used on Rice Hill Road.

Fire Department – Chief Rob Cunio reported call volume including 1 mutual aid, 1 motor vehicle accident, 1 fire alarm and a chimney fire. Cintas will be completing their annual inspection of fire extinguishers and emergency light on 2/28/2023. The CPR certification class is still on schedule for 2/7/2023 at 6 PM at the Town Hall. The Freedom Firefighter's Association will be assisting at the Winter Carnival on 2/18/2023 along with the mule. Ellen stated she received an inquiry about a rather large towing sled that has been left at the Town Forest. Rob explained that it is being used to haul items out for the carnival and will also be used to transport during the carnival. Rob reported

that he spoke with Glen today regarding the new rescue and they are still waiting on a ship date from the manufacturer. No orders are being taken at this time due to availability.

A brief update was given on the FEMA storm declaration from December. EMD Jim Stone has spoken with the State agency and Ellen has spoken with the FEMA representative. Information regarding work completed and repair work left to be completed is being compiled and will be sent for consideration.

Town Office – Ellen reported that four petitioned warrant articles have been received. Tomorrow is the deadline. One petitioned article requesting paving on North Broad Bay Road does not contain an amount and there is question as to whether it is legal. Scott stated that land was given to the town to widen areas and there was an agreement that the road would never be paved. Scott reviewed what preparations would need to be made in order to bring the road to standard before paving.

**Public Comment:**

None presented.

**Appointments:**

Not applicable.

**Old / New Business / Discussion:**

*Winter Parking Ban* – Ellen requested clarification on the proposed ban. The purpose is to ensure plowing and road maintenance and public safety for emergency vehicle and equipment access. The effective dates were confirmed to be 11/15 to 5/1 which is the prescribed winter maintenance period. Ellen informed the Board that Darwin Moulton provided feedback that it should be disallowed for anyone to clean off their vehicles in the road. The Board was in agreement that this is a separate issue of the winter parking ban, similar to regulating mailbox cleanouts.

*2023 Operating Budget Review* – Review of preparations for the Budget Hearing scheduled for next Monday. Ellen will forward updated operating budget and monetary warrant articles to the Board for review.

Further discussion on petitioned warrant articles. One is to allow green burials in town cemeteries. The Cemetery Bylaws drafted allow them to a certain extent. Another is to accept Friedman Lane as a town-maintained road. Les recollects that Friedman Lane was not to be accepted as a town road as part of the subdivision approval. Research will have to be conducted.

Ernie discussed the cover of the Town Report. Department photos are being collected and will be showcased on the cover with dedication being made to all town employees, elected officials, board and committee members. All were in agreement of this idea. Memorial dedications will be made accordingly.

Rob questioned if the Board will be moving forward with the fire pond dredging. This has been included as a separate warrant article.

Bill Elliott commented that the Town is fortunate to have all.

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

Les made a motion enter into a non-public session at 8:00 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a), personnel. Ernie seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Ernie-yes, Melissa-yes, Les-yes. All in favor, the motion passed. Ernie made a motion to resume public session at 9:05 PM. Melissa seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

**Adjournment:**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

**Consent Agenda:**

Accounts Payable – Week ending 2/3/2023	Approved
Payroll Manifest – Week ending 2/1/2023	Approved
Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting & Non-Public Sessions– 1/30/2023 & 2/1/2023	Approved

**Correspondence:**

Letter – Freedom Village Water Precinct re: Membership & Management of System	Reviewed
Letter – Bergeron Technical Services re: Town Office Advisory Scope of Work	Reviewed
Letter – CASA re: Request for funding support	Reviewed
Letter – CASA re: Town Report	Reviewed
Newsletter – NHMA Legislative Bulletin No. 06	Reviewed
Newsletter – GMCG Watershed News	Reviewed
Notice – Public Hearing – Winter Parking Ban – 2/13/2023	Reviewed
Notice - Town & School Filings for Candidacy	Reviewed
Receipt – State of NH – Highway Block Grant	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