

Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, September 18, 2023

Meeting with School Board 6:30 PM

Present were Chairman Les Babb, Selectmen Ernie Day, Melissa Florio, and Stacy Bolduc, Town Administrator, who recorded these minutes. This meeting was held at the school.

Selectmen met with the Freedom School Board and discussed their budgets and challenges. Some of the challenges are finding bus drivers, and budget negotiations.

The tuition went up 8% this year. Melissa asked where the board is on deciding on the high school contract. Sara said at the March district meeting they will recommend they discontinue the contract with Kennett, then they can start negotiating new contracts. They have researched their options and they hope to have those options available for voters to vote on.

If the Board votes not to renew the contract at the March District meeting nothing would happen until 2027. Bus schedules are tight do too Kennett changing start time. The School Board is still looking for bus drivers. Starting pay is \$20.00 for a sub and if they were hiring part time, they would look at experience. This is comparable to other bus driving positions.

Scott questioned how the new gate was going to work with snow plowing. The principal said if Jay the custodian will unlock it if it's going to snow. Scott said they are here all hours of the night. It's a swinging gate hinged on the building side. It was agreed the school will be responsible for the opening of the gate. The point of the gate is to keep people from going out back when school in session. This was a recommendation from Homeland Security. How the kids exit the building will be discussed tonight.

The kitchen project was briefly discussed. They are still ironing out the details if they just build a kitchen or a full cafeteria. They are looking at the space they have and how to best use it.

Budget constraints include health ins. increases and budget negotiations.

Public Meeting

Also, in attendance were: Scott Brooks, Rob Cunio, Jamie Mullen

Public: None: Bill Carney

Review of Mail, Sign Manifests, Approval of Minutes:

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

Ernie made a motion to approve the Selectmen's Meetings minutes and Nonpublic Minutes of September 11, 2023 as written, Melissa seconded; Motion passed 3-0-0.

Department Head Updates:

Highway- Scott updated the board that the crew finished screening sand last Thursday, and it's all in the sand shed. It will be a week before Scott can get to the Transfer Station entrance. The fall grading has started this week. shoulders that still need to be graveled on Swett's Hill. The FEMA grant is almost completed, and we should receive just under \$200,000.00 in funds. Scott questioned if the money would be used to supplement his budget. He said Huckins Rd. needs repair and wants to ensure the FEMA money goes towards the highway budget. Les said it would because the

money was expended from the highway budget. Scott's instructions from FEMA are that the money goes towards road infrastructure. Stacy will talk to Greg Colby about this when he comes in October.

Police- Jamie reported an unattended death on Rt. 153. There were no signs of foul play. Multiple departments assisted in the investigation. The cause of death is still unknown. Jamie updated the board on the upcoming triathlon. He does not feel the conditions at the intersection on Bennett Rd. is ideal for a triathlon. The road gets taken up with activity people should not be doing making for an unsafe situation for Jamie to manage. The road is not engineered for a triathlon. The operator of the triathlon has been told in the past they need a better plan for the intersection. The board supports Jamies position on the triathlon. Boca is doing well with her training. How to collect donations for Boca was discussed. Selectmen need to recognize the money in a public meeting and then the money will go into the gift account. The gift account is already set up.

Fire Department- Rob gave Selectmen reappointments for himself and the deputy wardens to sign and Stacy witnessed the signatures. He also had them sign the agreement with Forest and lands for the truck and boat. There are no bids on the truck yet. He also gave an update on calls. The boat will come out of the water next week. There will be an open house on October 5, 5:00 pm- 7:00 pm, so folks can view the new truck. It's also Fire Prevention Week. Seven people are watching the rescue truck on the website. Rob has answered some questions regarding the four-wheel drive and the VIN number.

Transfer Station-

Public Comment-

Bill Carney came before the board to discuss the placement of the fire escape. He was surprised to see how close it is to his property line and would have appreciated a conversation with the Selectboard before making final plans. He and Gary Williams met to go over the plans, and he was under the impression that the fire escape would be more in the center of the building, not to the side, which is 2-3 feet from his property line. He understands under NH Municipal law, municipalities do not need to follow their zoning ordinances, but he still would have appreciated a conversation. A couple of years ago, the board asked Bill to remove some trees on the property line. He explained if he had not done that, they would have had to discuss the placement of the fire escape. Given how close the office is to his property line, he asked that he be informed of any construction in the future. Les apologized to Bill for not contacting him when discussing the proposal. The old fire escape will be taken down.

The tree out front was discussed. Nobody is sure whose tree it is. Bill is sure the tree needs to come down. After a brief discussion, it was decided Bill can take the tree down.

Old Business

Les asked if Scott had a total station to create a plan for the transfer station. He has one but not the software to do what Les wants to do. Les asked if he could do an overlay on a tax map. Scott said wasn't sure but would check with Scott Jr. Stacy will try to get the digital copy of the transfer station survey/plan for Scott.

Scott will get the site ready for the fence. The layout needs to be done for the grant Jim Stone is applying for.

Scott asked if the board had appointed anyone as a department head for the Transfer Station. Les said not yet, but the board will discuss it tonight in nonpublic.

Stacy said Health Trust has a couple of things the Town can take advantage of that will not cost the Town any money. One is a health savings account and the other is early retirement insurance. Les would like to make sure that the department heads are present when it's time to meet with Andrew from Health Trust. Stacy said she and Lindsay are looking at an employee newsletter to communicate updates and any changes.

Stacy will talk to Gary about taking down the flags in November after Veterans Day. Ernie will reach out to Jerry Knirk about Jean Marshalls position on the Lakes Region Planning Board.

Melissa has been talking to Apparel Impact for a bin for text tiles at the Transfer Station. They said they would prefer the bin be located somewhere where there would be more access. Melissa talked to Rob about the Public Safety Building. Les asked Melissa to reach out to a business that they already deal with to see how happy they are with them. Rob Troon has one on his property she can check with.

Appointment

None

New Business

Les made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:50 pm pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (A), Employee, Ernie seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Les- yes, Ernie-yes, Melissa-yes, All in favor, the motion passed. Ernie made a motion to resume the public session at 8:10 pm Melissa seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Les made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 8:10 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. Ernie made a motion to resume the public session at 8:12 pm Melissa seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Adjournment:

Being no further input, Earnie made a motion to adjourn. Melissa seconded. All in favor, the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Consent Agenda:

Accounts Payable – Week ending 9/15/2023	Approved
Payroll Manifest – Week ending 9/13/2023	Approved
Request for Abatement – N/A	Approved

Correspondence: None

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Bolduc, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.

Melissa M. Florio