

Selectmen's Meeting Monday, November 23, 2020

These minutes were recorded by Angela Rizzitano, Secretary. Town Administrator, Matt Sawyer Jr. , T.J. Eldridge, and Rick Cousens was in attendance. The meeting was held in the Bub Avery Memorial Gymnasium at Town Hall.

Chairman Martha Eldridge opened the Selectmen's Meeting at 3:00 PM.

Call to Order/Roll Call: Martha Eldridge, Jonathan Smith, Susan Simpson (absent)

Chairman M. Eldridge opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Discussion:

Selectmen M. Eldridge and Smith began by discussing the closure of the Town Hall. Smith advised that it's his opinion that it is the taxpayers building and it should be open and accessible to those who pay for it. He mentioned that it is no different than going to Walmart and believes it does not expand any more risk to anyone in the building by being open. M. Eldridge admitted to having a few doubts about closing but since the Governor mandate she believes they made the right decision to close as the cases continue to rise. She advised that Ossipee has been one of the few Towns open and with Covid now worsening in our area, she believes it was the right move to shut down. Smith disagreed that the Town Hall should be closed and asked how long will this be in effect. M. Eldridge advised this will be a week to week basis. Further discussion to be had when Selectmen Sue Simpson returns.

Public Input:

Ed Comeau discussed the Governor Mask Mandate and advised that it states masks should be worn when 6 feet distancing cannot be maintained. He believes the Town Hall gym has more than enough space to be socially distant.

Comeau also commented on the Union negotiations and believes that if a member of the Board has family in the union, that member should recuse themselves from negotiation discussions.

Comeau also mentioned that Commissioner Babson wants to know what the Town will be doing with the pine trees recently cut. Smith advised that the Forester will process those in the spring.

Comeau also mentioned that at the State House, if representatives don't want to wear a mask, they will be accommodated and thinks that should be factored into the decision of closing as well.

M. Eldridge commented on the Union negotiations and advised that it has been discussed with the Attorney at length and there is no problem with the Board weighing in on the Union Contract if they have family in the Union.

M. Eldridge advised that the Chickville Church will not have Christmas service this year due to the pandemic but would like to continue with the Holiday lights and decorations. M. Eldridge and Smith agreed to this.

Meeting Minutes:

Selectman Jonathan Smith made a motion to approve the minutes from the Work Session held on 11/2/2020. M. Eldridge seconded.

Selectman Jonathan Smith made a motion to approve the minutes from the Selectmen's Meeting held on 11/2/2020. M. Eldridge seconded.

Smith advised that the Meeting Minutes from the November 16, 2020 will be approved when Sue Simpson gets back.

Review of Red Folder:

The Board received a Contract for a road that was paved. He advised that he is asking the owner to release the Town from maintaining the road. Rick Cousens, Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer, presented proposed changes. There was discussion about erosion and run off as well. Discussion ensued. Smith made a motion to sign the contract. M. Eldridge seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received 8 supplemental tax warrants. This is due to the district not being set when the card was created. These warrants correct that and properly tax fire precincts. Smith made a motion to approve the warrants for Map 250, Lot 5, Sub lots 1-8. M. Eldridge seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a supplemental tax warrant. This is due to the district not being set when the card was created. These warrants correct that and properly tax fire precincts. Smith made a motion to approve the warrants for Map 250, Lot 5, Sub lot 0CL. M. Eldridge seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Water & Sewer Warrant for \$248.28 for Map 90, Lot 16. Smith made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a letter from the property owner at 59 Main St. regarding a Water & Sewer delinquent notice. The letter asks the Board to dismiss the \$15 penalty as the bill was not forwarded to the new mailing address. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a memo regarding upgrading the accounting software as the software being used now is not working for the Town. It was designed for a school district and we need something specifically for municipalities per Glen from MRI. Cost would be about \$29,500.00 and it would be separated into 2 payments. Smith and M. Eldridge both support this.

There was some discussion about the Library carpets being a little cheaper than originally expected.

M. Eldridge advised that Tax Bills are being mailed this week.

T.J. Eldridge, Public Works Director, advised that the Transfer Station holiday calendar is complete and will be posted on the website. Also, all holidays will be posted at the Transfer Station 2 weeks in advance as a reminder. Smith asked if giving taxpayers a copy of the list when they purchase their dump sticker would be a good idea. All agreed it would be. It will also be in the Town Report as well. T.J. Eldridge, Public Works Director, advised that the grader will be in next week and the Water & Sewer Department is excited to begin monthly billing. Tracy Waterhouse has transferred to the Water & Sewer Department. Applications are being accepted for a position with the Highway Department. They will begin interviewing for that next week.

Smith asked about the Whittier Covered Bridge. It was advised that bids will begin in January.

T.J. Eldridge also advised that there are lots of discussion about roads in Town. There was discussion about sealants for the roads. Pine Hill Road and Duncan Lake Road are pretty bad. He advised that he is doing everything he can to make those roads better.

M. Sawyer Jr. advised that Warrant Articles should be done by Monday He is waiting on the Police Department cruiser costs and the paving costs from the Public Works director.

T.J. Eldridge advised that he has lengthened the service agreement for warranty coverage of the Meter Neptune Reader through TI Sales.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Second Public Input:

None

Non-Public Session:

None

The next meeting will take place on Monday, November 30, 2020.

Adjournment:

Being no further input, M. Eldridge made a motion to adjourn. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Adjourned at 3:40 PM.

Martha B. Eldridge, Chairman

Susan J. Simpson (Absent)

Jonathan H. Smith

To be approved 11/30/2020