

Selectmen's Meeting Monday, January 19, 2021

These minutes were recorded by Angela Rizzitano, Secretary. The meeting was held in the Bub Avery Gymnasium at Town Hall.

Chairman Martha Eldridge reconvened the meeting at 4:15 PM.

Call to Order/Roll Call: Completed in the Work Session-Martha Eldridge, Jonathan Smith, Susan Simpson

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

Chairman M. Eldridge read a letter of recognition to Chief Joseph Duchesne. The letter highlighted multiple accolades and accomplishments from Chief Duchesne. The Board of Selectmen congratulated him on his retirement and thanked him for his service to the Town of Ossipee. Joseph Duchesne thanked past and present Selectmen. He thanked the Employees of the Town as well as the Towns people. He expressed a deep gratitude to the guys he worked with on a daily basis. Selectman Simpson presented Duchesne with a plaque for his service to our community.

Chairman M. Eldridge, on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, promoted Anthony Castaldo to Chief of Police for the Town of Ossipee. She congratulated him. Kellie Skehan, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, swore in Anthony Castaldo as the new Chief of Police.

Public Input:

Daymond Steer of the Conway Daily Sun asked the Board about the current Covid situation. Smith advised that he had Covid and a few employees are currently out due to close contacts with someone with Covid. Steer asked how many employees had Covid. Both Smith and Matt Sawyer Jr. advised that they do not have that number for him. Smith advised that he was sick for 2 weeks. Steer asked if he knew where he contacted it. Smith advised that people are getting it everywhere even at places with strict mask requirements, so he does not know where he contacted it. Discussion ensued.

Accounts Payable & Payroll Manifests:

The Payroll Check Voucher total was submitted for the week ending 1/9/21 with a pay date of 1/12/21 in the amount of \$39,877.16. There is no accounts payable.

The Payroll Check Voucher total was submitted for the week ending 1/16/21 with a pay date of 1/19/21 in the amount of \$40,672.49. Accounts Payable for the week ending 1/19/21 is \$195,879.03.

Review of Red Folder:

The Board received a property tax credit for a Veteran's Exemption. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a property tax credit for a Veteran's Exemption for 32 Baypoint Road. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received the Town of Ossipee Union Agreement with AFSCME Council 93. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a warrant to vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint 2 individuals to represent the Town to serve on Carroll County Broadband Committee for the purpose of drafting a district agreement per RSA 53-G:2. Matt Sawyer Jr. advised that he believes we already have representatives for that so he will find out and advise.

The Board received a Supplemental Warrant for Map 029, Lot 001, Sub lot 114, for property at 110 Nichols Road for \$146.00. The reason is that this property was sold in August and the Bill of Sale was just recently received. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Supplemental Warrant for Map 029, Lot 001, Sub lot 136, for \$113.00. The reason is that this property was sold in October and the Deed was just recently received. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a clerical abatement for \$146.00. The assessing clerk recommends to approve. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a clerical abatement for \$113.00. The property sold in October and the Bill of Sale was just received. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Notice of Intent to cut wood or timber for a property on Blake Hill Road. The logger is William Day. Taxes are paid. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Notice of Intent to cut wood or timber for Map 107 Lot 53, Map 106 Lot 3, Map 107 Lot 55 and Map 107 Lot 47. The logger is William Day. Taxes are paid. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a property tax credit for a Veteran's Exemption for 11 Woodcrest Drive. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received an abatement for 1314 Route 16 for \$2,113.00. Data corrections were made on the condition of the building as well as lost curb out access from DOT. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a clerical abatement for 50 Patch Pond Road #23 for \$500.00. The application was filed timely and the owner qualifies for a Veterans credit. Assessor recommends. Smith made a

motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Water & Sewer Warrant for \$ 201.39. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Water & Sewer Warrant for \$109.30. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Water & Sewer Warrant for \$84,008.03. Smith advised this is for bills going out. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Old Business:

None presented

New Business:

The Board received a letter of notification of retirement from William Eldridge, Highway Foreman, as of March 31, 2021. M. Eldridge read the letter. The Board thanked him for his service to the Town of Ossipee.

Selectman Simpson mentioned her concern over people not wearing masks in municipal buildings and feels it should be required. Simpson made a motion to require masks at the Town Hall. M. Eldridge seconded. Smith was opposed. Motion passed.

Smith asked what would be done if someone refuses to wear a mask. Simpson advised that masks will be available for those who don't have one. M. Eldridge advised that masks are required at most places and believes most people will comply but if someone refuses there is nothing that can be done. Discussion ensued.

Second Public Input:

Ed Comeau asked about the Town Meeting logistics. Chairman M. Eldridge advised that the Town will be proceeding with the same dates but there will be social distancing and mask requirements to keep people safe.

Melissa Seamans of Effingham spoke about the town employees who have recently had Covid. Her husband works for Ossipee Public Works. She thanked the Board for voting to require masks going forward. She asked the Board to implement and enforce policies and procedures to protect the health and safety of the public and the town employees. She discussed her husband being exposed to and testing positive for Covid and how a total of 19 people connected to the town have tested positive, including herself. She mentioned Selectman Smith's statement to the Conway Daily Sun about how everyone was ok and advised that she is still not ok. She mentioned concerns with the lack of diligence and how she could have spread it to her coworkers due to this. She is asking the Board to implement masks, temperature checks and quarantine if you go out of state upon your return to Ossipee. She said they have a duty and a responsibility as employers. Discussion ensued.

Daymond Steer of the Conway Daily Sun asked the Board for a copy of the letters written for Chief Duchesne's retirement and Chief Castaldo's promotion as they were both well done.

Steer asked for an update on the Harris case. Matt Sawyer Jr. advised that it is an on-going legal situation.

Steer asked for a briefing on the Covid situation. Selectman Smith talked about his experience with it and compared it to the flu he had 15 years ago. Steer asked for confirmation on how many employees had it. M. Eldridge and T.J. Eldridge both advised that 7 Highway Department employees and 2 Selectmen had it. Seamans commented that including family members of those employees, the total number was 19. Seamans also went on to thank the Public Works Director for keeping in contact with the employees who had it and keeping everyone informed. Discussion ensued.

Matt Sawyer Jr. mentioned that there has been a request from the Budget Committee to require all Outside Agencies asking for funds from the Town be a 501-c non-profit organization to receive funds. Smith believes the Outside Agency requests should be taken on a case by case basis. Chairman M. Eldridge and Selectman Simpson both agreed with Selectman Smith. No action is to be taken at this time.

Steer asked for a Whittier Covered Bridge update. Sawyer Jr. advised that the bid advertising will start January 21, 2021. Steer asked if construction would be possible during the warm weather season. Sawyer Jr. advised it will be possible for construction to begin in the spring of 2021. Discussion ensued.

The next Selectmen's meeting will take place on Monday, January 25, 2021.

Adjournment:

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

Adjourned at 4:52 PM.

Martha B. Eldridge, Chairman

Susan J. Simpson

Jonathan H. Smith

To be approved 1/25/2021