

## **Selectmen's Meeting Monday, April 5, 2021**

These minutes were recorded by Angela Rizzitano, Secretary. Matt Sawyer Jr., Town Administrator, was also in attendance. The meeting was held in the Bub Avery Gymnasium at Town Hall.

**Chairman Jonathan Smith reconvened the meeting at 4:15 PM.**

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

Chairman Jonathan Smith opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Recognition of Employees:**

T.J. Eldridge, Public Works Director, asked Billy Eldridge to come forward. He read a letter of recognition for B. Eldridge's service for over 2 decades. B. Eldridge was born and raised in Ossipee. The Highway crew thanked B. Eldridge for working alongside them. T.J. Eldridge congratulated him on his retirement. J. Smith presented B. Eldridge with a plaque commemorating his service to the community on behalf of the Board of Selectmen and extended congratulations on his retirement.

T.J. Eldridge asked Neil Eldridge to come forward and he announced that as of April 5, 2021 N. Eldridge would be promoted to Highway Foreman. N. Eldridge is a 20-year employee of the Town of Ossipee and has demonstrated he is more than capable of taking over the role as Highway Foreman. He did an amazing job taking care of the Town owned dams last year and has received lots of positive feedback from the residents. He has also taken over the Y Field improvements and the residents offered appreciation for that as well. T.J. Eldridge thank him for his service to the Town where he is raising his family and congratulated him on his promotion.

T.J. Eldridge introduced Scott Muggett who will be taking over Neil's truck driver position. He has over 25 years' experience and a great work ethic. T.J. Eldridge advised that he had worked with Scott in the past and he demonstrated daily the desire to complete projects. T.J. Eldridge welcomed him to the crew.

### **Department Head Reporting:**

Police Department – Anthony Castaldo, Police Chief, advised that it has been busy. He advised that so far this year there have been 9,967 total dispatched calls. The ACO# for the Dog Officer or this year is 38 calls. There have been 11 arrests, 30 welfare checks, and 54 assist citizens. The applicant for Detective out of Dover has accepted the position and will start at the end of the month. They have 1 patrol position available to fill and they will be at full staff. The 2 cruisers have been ordered and will arrive at the end of May.

Highway Department – T.J. Eldridge, Public Works Director, advised that they have installed tire changes, cleaned up daily from the winter wind storms now that the snow is mostly gone and began fixing potholes. Also, Neil Eldridge, has been getting the trucks ready for summer maintenance.

Government Buildings, T.J. Eldridge, Public Works Director, advised that they worked on furnace issues at the Town Hall. They replaced the circulator pump, and it seems to be working fine now.

Recreation Department – T.J. Eldridge, Public Works Director, advised that basketball finished March 30, 2021 and was a huge success with 80 participants. The Easter event went well. Softball winter workout program had 14 participants. Softball season started March 30, 2021 with 25 participants. T-ball and dodgeball start April 6, 2021. A brochure will be going out in the next few days regarding Spring activities and a sneak peek for Summer programs. Registration for summer day camp starts in May. Contacted staff about returning for the summer and he spoke with Jen Berkowitz regarding partnering with Schools Out for summer programs. Basketball open gym starts April 15 from 6:00PM-7:30PM.

Water & Sewer Department – T.J. Eldridge, Public Works Director, advised that they performed routine maintenance and recorded daily flows at the pumps. They completed the final installation of the Neptune meters. They were called to 30 Route 16B after a vehicle struck a house with possible damage to the water service. It was assessed and fixed. The Emergency Operation Plan was completed and sent to the DES. Fire extinguishers were certified throughout the Town. They had a 6-inch water main break on 16B. It was fixed but they lost about 165,000 gallons of water. They put a 6-inch coupling in. He advised that a squirrel caused some problems at the wells. It sent voltage into breakers and messed stuff up. They had it fixed and got a great deal. Water pump stations were cleaned, and systems were painted. Also, they ordered new pieces that we use on the watermain.

Transfer Station – T.J. Eldridge, Public Works Director, advised that they have received 1 bid for the scale and are waiting on 1 more. They are going to be changing the flow of the Transfer Station. The scale will be above ground to make it easier to clean under it. The scale will be 40 foot and they will have a smaller shack.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector – Kellie Skehan, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, advised that for the month of March the Town Clerk collected \$124,000, which is approximately \$24,000 more than last year. A majority of this was autos and marriages. The Water & Sewer bills will be going out and are due May 10<sup>th</sup>. There is a balance of \$846,865.05 of unpaid taxes.

Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer – Rick Cousins, presented the board with his report. He has done about 61 permits for the month of March for over \$3000. He is projecting a busy year. They have had 5 new houses put in. He has received a lot of calls regarding lack of builders, plumbers, etc. He is averaging about 20 calls per day. Smith asked if he has received any zoning complaints. Cousins advised that the complaint recently has been about the political sign in West Ossipee. Someone put a chain around it and pulled it down.

Selectmen's Office - Town Administrator, Matt Sawyer, Jr. advised that the Whittier Covered Bridge Project has not received any bids the first time around, so they edited the timeline and did not get bids the second time either. They are hoping to advertise in the winter for the project to be completed in 2022. Town Meeting went well. Sawyer Jr. thanked the school, Principal Fournier, and Superintendent Kathy Cuddy Edgbert. He advised there is still 2 open positions for employment. Cemetery groundskeeper and part time transfer station attendant. Tax deed courtesy letters went out to about 120 recipients. Angela Rizzitano, Jessi O'Blenes, and Matt Sawyer Jr. worked hard on getting those out via certified and regular mail. The Milfoil Project is under way and the abutters have been notified.

Treasurer Karen Deighan is on board and currently working well with Finance Director, Andrea Picard and Sawyer Jr. to get the TAN note started which allows the Town to borrow in anticipation of taxes. He advised he is getting preliminary guidance on the Rescue Plans Funds that are being distributed Federally by the State. There is lack of clarity on what these funds can be used for. Janet Yellen of the Federal Treasury is expected to issue additional guidance in the next month. He is hoping it can be used for capital improvements.

#### **Public Input:**

Daymond Steer, Conway Daily Sun, asked about the Whittier Covered Bridge. Smith advised that it has been put out to bid and none was received. They are putting it back out to bid in 2022. T.J. Eldridge advised that he has 2 contractors interested but they are booked through 2021.

#### **Meeting Minutes:**

Selectman M. Eldridge made a motion to approve the minutes from the Work Session held on March 29, 2021. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Selectman M. Eldridge made a motion to approve the minutes from the Selectmen's Meeting held on March 29, 2021. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

#### **Accounts Payable & Payroll Manifests:**

The Payroll Check Voucher total was submitted for the week ending 4/3/2021 with a pay date of 4/6/2021 in the amount of \$122,264.35. Accounts Payable for the week ending 4/6/2021 is \$35,178.72. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

#### **Review of Red Folder:**

The Board received a Town of Ossipee Water application for new service for Tanya Spaulding of 190 Moultonville Road with a check for \$1500.00.

The Board received a Town of Ossipee Sewer application for new service for Tanya Spaulding of 190 Moultonville Road with a check for \$1500.00.

The Board received a Warrant for Excavation Tax for John Jeddrey for property located at Map 244, Lot 2 for \$738.36. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Request for a Clerical Abatement was received for the property located at 1 Terrace Pines for property owners Michael and Theresa Towne (Map 104 Lot 01400H, Sub 006). The request is in the amount of \$162.00. The reason for this abatement is this camper sold in July of 2020. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Request for a Clerical Abatement was received for the property located at 110 Nichols Road for property owner Charles Johnson (Map 029 Lot 001, Sub 017). The request is in the amount of \$221.00. The reason for this abatement is that this camper sold in August of 2020. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Notice of Intent to Excavate for property owner Calvin Coleman of Map 124, Lot 23. Taxes are paid. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Notice of Intent to Excavate for property owner Downey Shea of Map 243, Lot 002. Taxes are paid. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received the Recycling Center Daily Cash Log for the month of March. Total collected was \$10,819.00. This will be on file in the Selectmen's Office.

The Board received a Supplemental Warrant for property owner John Cunha of 1 Terrace Pines, Map 104, Lot 01400H, Sublot 006 in the amount of \$162.00. This property was sold in July of 2020. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Supplemental Warrant for property owner Jessica Quint of 110 Nichols Road, Map 029, Lot 001, Sublot 017 in the amount of \$221.00. This property was sold in August of 2020. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Warrant for Excavation Tax for property owner Arnie Martel of Map 277, Lot 004 for \$48.00. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Warrant for Excavation Tax for property owner Downey Shea of Map 243, Lot 002 for \$137.20. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Notice of Intent to Excavate for property owner John Jeddrey of Map 244, Lot 002. Taxes are paid. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board composed a letter regarding the AARP MWV Age Friendly Community Program. The letter states that the Town of Ossipee will agree to support this program on 2 conditions. This is only good for 1 year and this support does not bind the Town to a financial commitment in any way. Smith made a motion to sign the letter of support. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

#### **Old Business:**

None Presented

#### **New Business:**

None Presented

#### **Second Public Input:**

Executive Councilor, Joe Kenney, discussed Covid-19 funds, Gacit, the 10-year highway plan and the Town of Conway Pathway Project. He also advised that they are currently looking for qualified applicants to fill positions at the Circuit and Superior Courts as well as on Boards throughout NH. He discussed ideas for use of the stimulus funds including infrastructure and possibly a community center.

Sawyer Jr. mentioned that the stimulus cannot be used to offset taxes and Kenney confirmed. Kenney advised that there are programs available to assist in many areas but now is the best time to inquire about those. Daymond Steer asked if there was a deadline for submitting ideas and Kenney advised now is a good time for that. There was also brief discussion about the round-a-bout and how well it is doing. Discussion ensued.

Daymond Steer, Conway Daily Sun, asked about the White Pond situation. Sawyer Jr. advised that it is in compliance and complete.

Daymond Steer asked about the Transfer Station scale project and if the Town could get assistance with that using one of the programs Councilor Kenney discussed. Kenney advised that there may be a program to assist with that. Smith advised that this project was raised by a Warrant Article.

The next Selectmen's meeting will take place on Monday, April 12, 2021.

**Adjournment:**

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

Adjourned at 4:55 PM.

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Jonathan H. Smith, Chairman

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Susan J. Simpson

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Martha B. Eldridge

To be approved 4/12/2021