

Selectmen's Meeting Monday, June 14, 2021

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

Selectman Smith reconvened the meeting at 4:15 PM.

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

Chairman Smith opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Input:

Dallas Emery commented on the Masonic Temple decision from the previous meeting. He stated that local Government needs to take charge and he believes what they did regarding this was a good thing. He also stated that he believes it is the people's choice and the people should make the decision. Smith said the people are the legislative body at Town Meeting. Smith advised that the Board of Selectmen are the governing body. Smith reached out to the BTLA and spoke with Ann Stelmach, who advised that taxpayers within the Town can draft a letter of grievance and send it to the BTLA to be overturned because granting a property tax exemption for what occurred is not allowed. An abatement was the proper procedure. Emery asked about putting it on a Warrant Article at Town Meeting. Smith advised that a Warrant Article is not binding, they are guides. Emery stated that the legislative body really is not binding then. Smith said it is for what is appropriated at Town Meeting. The Board of Selectmen determine how to best spend those funds going forward. Emery mentioned that Smith said the Board is put in charge by the legislative body and Emery states that Warrant Articles get voted on as well, he would like to know what the difference is. Smith advised that a Warrant Article cannot violate the laws. If someone submits a Warrant Article that is illegal, it cannot be processed. Discussion ensued.

Matt Sawyer Jr. advised that he received the Terms & Conditions of Aid from the Treasury Department and did not find anything overly concerning. We must follow government accounting practices, have an audit, and make sure we comply with the Social Security Act. Discussion ensued.

Ossipee Economic Council-Rail Trail presentation:

Chris Elliot began the presentation by thanking the Board for joining the Mount Washington Valley age friendly community. He stated that they are looking into creating a Rail Trail going from Center Ossipee up to Route 41. It is approximately 5.5. miles. There will be a Trail Study Presentation on June 30, 2021, at the Old Home Week Ice Cream Social by Dr. Shannon Rodgers. He advised that this process began 2 years ago in 2019. A study took place from the EDC with University Extension to look at economic value of a potential Rail Trail. They completed training, surveying and interviews with some people in Town. They also walked parts of the trail. Elliot believes a Rail Trail will have economic, social, recreational, and educational benefits. He is asking for permission from the Board to walk the trail and for their support on this project as well. He hopes Town officials will attend the presentation on June 30th. He mentioned a new group as well called FORT. Friends of Ossipee Rail Trails. This group is to develop a trail network along rail corridors that connect the villages of Ossipee. This is an effort to get community support, and this is not a fundraiser. Smith advised that the Town does not own the trails and that the corridor is public. It is owned by DOT, and they control the rail

bed. Permission is not needed from the Town. Joy Gagnon advised that this is being out together as cooperative extension and as a group. She advised that they are asking for a letter of support of the project. Smith and M. Eldridge both advised that they have no problem with that. Bruce Stuart, CVRTC President, advised that people can walk from the Route 28 bridge to Route 41 with no issues and he advised that this trail is the last complete North South Corridor. Stuart voiced some concern regarding inclusion with this project and wants to make sure the Rail Club, which has run on this trail since 2002, is included in the conversation. Gagnon advised that the goal is to have CVRTC, and the Snowmobile Club involved. She also advised that another goal is for this to look like the Wolfeboro Rail Trail to connect the 3 villages of Ossipee. M. Eldridge asked what type of activities can be done on the Rail Trail. Elliot advised that it can be used for walking, biking, roller blading, etc. It will be a community builder. Smith advised that the Snowmobile Club should be included and informed as well.

Whittier Covered Bridge Bids:

Matt Sawyer Jr., Town Administrator, opened the bids for the Whittier Covered Bridge. The results were as follows.

ME Latulippe of Ashland New Hampshire received 6/14/2021 at 12:20PM-\$1,732,425.00

GW Brooks of Freedom New Hampshire received 6/14/2021 at 12:57PM-\$1,714,059.00

CPM Constructors of Freeport Maine received 6/14/2021 at 1:55PM-\$1,653,426.00

Sawyer Jr. advised that these bids came in significantly higher than what was expected or budgeted for. The Federal Funds and DOT approval was for just under a million dollars. Smith advised that these will be reviewed by Hoyle & Tanner and a decision will be made at a later date.

Meeting Minutes:

Selectman M. Eldridge made a motion to approve the minutes from the Work Session held on June 7, 2021. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Selectman M. Eldridge made a motion to approve the minutes from the Selectmen's Meeting held on May 24, 2021. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Selectman M. Eldridge made a motion to approve the minutes from the Public Hearing held on May 24, 2021. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Accounts Payable & Payroll Manifests:

The Payroll Check Voucher total was submitted for the week ending 6/12/2021 with a pay date of 6/15/2021 in the amount of \$46,788.20. Accounts Payable is \$160,202.15. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Review of Red Folder:

The Board received a Water & Sewer Warrant for \$132.05. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received an Administrative Abatement Request for \$257.07 for Map 104, SubLot 014002, Lot 0T1. The assessing clerk recommends granting this abatement. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received an Administrative Abatement Request for \$255.47 for Map 104, SubLot 014002, Lot 0T1. The assessing clerk recommends granting this abatement. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received an Administrative Abatement Request for \$275.15 for Map 104, SubLot 014002, Lot 0T1. The assessing clerk recommends granting this abatement. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received an Administrative Abatement Request for \$81.44 for Map 104, SubLot 014002, Lot 0T1. The assessing clerk recommends granting this abatement. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received an Administrative Abatement Request for \$82.14 for Map 104, SubLot 014002, Lot 0T1. The assessing clerk recommends granting this abatement. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received an application for Tax Credit for a Veteran's Exemption. The application was received too late. Smith made a motion to deny this request. M. Eldridge seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Land Use Change Tax for Map 274, Lot 5. This property no longer qualifies for current use. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Land Use Change Tax for Map 274, Lot 2. This property no longer qualifies for current use. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Land Use Change Tax for Map 274, Lot 4. This property no longer qualifies for current use. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Old Business:

None presented

New Business:

The Old Home Week calendar is now on the Town website.

Second Public Input:

Joy Gagnon discussed the Ossipee Round Table. She advised they meet every other week and would like for more local government officials to become involved. They meet every other Thursday. Smith told her to reach out to Matt via email regarding the meeting and he would advise accordingly.

Dallas Emery asked the Board what the Uniform Relocation Assistance Act means. Smith advised that the Board does not know but it is the Federal Government, so expect to be confused. Matt Sawyer Jr. advised that this has been in place since the 1970's and a quick google search brings up the following information. The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended, 42 U. S. C. 4601 *et seq.* (Uniform Act) provides important protections and assistance for people affected by federally funded projects. Congress enacted the law to ensure that people whose real property is acquired, or who move as a result of projects receiving federal funds, are treated fairly and equitably and receive just compensation for, and assistance in moving from, the property they

occupy. The governmentwide regulation implementing the Uniform Act is title 49 CFR part 24. Emery asked how he can get an answer and Joy Gagnon advised that the Roundtable has some Senator representatives that attend meetings, and she could give Emery their emails. Emery wants to know if they are bringing illegals in with this money. Discussion ensued.

Frank Burke asked about the 3 bids received and asked for clarification on if the government money is to subsidize that. Sawyer Jr. advised that the Federal and State money pays for 96% but only approved \$970,000.00. Sawyer Jr. hopes they realize that it will cost more than that because the Town only has \$100,000.00 in a Capital Reserve for the Whittier Covered Bridge. Discussion ensued.

The next Selectmen's meeting will take place on Monday, June 21, 2021.

Adjournment:

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

Adjourned at 4:51 PM.

Jonathan H. Smith, Chairman

Susan J. Simpson

Martha B. Eldridge

To be approved 6/21/2021