

Selectmen's Meeting Monday, December 6, 2021

These minutes were transcribed by Angela Eldridge, Secretary. Matthew Sawyer Jr., Town Administrator, and T.J. Eldridge, Public Works Director, was also in attendance. The meeting was held in the Bub Avery Gymnasium at Town Hall.

Chairman Smith reconvened the meeting at 4:15 PM.

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

Selectman Smith opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Department Head Reporting:

Town Clerk/Tax Collector- Kellie Skehan, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, advised that there is a new employee in the Town Clerks office. Her name is Jennifer Huckman and she started on October 18th. She has 7 years of experience from the Town of Wolfeboro. She lives in Ossipee so she can also be the Deputy Town Clerk for election time. In November, they did 574 car registrations. They also did a lot of birth, marriage, and death certificates. They have boating decals in for 2022. The 2022 dog tags are also available. Tax bills went out on November 23rd and they are due on December 28th. They can be paid via in person, or online and with cash, check or credit card. There is a service fee to pay online of 2.95%. It can also be put in the drop box in front of the Town Hall. The total warrant was for \$8,453,615.00 and they have collected \$1.2 million so far. She advised that her office will be closed December 23, 2021, at 12PM and December 24, 2021. They will also be closed December 31, 2021.

Recreation Department- Justin Chaffee, Recreation Director, advised that field hockey season ended in October, and it was a great season. Soccer season ended November 6th with 75 participants. October 29th was the family Halloween dance. There was a great turn out. The winter brochure went out November 3rd. Weekly programs include tumble bugs and pickleball. They are hoping to expand pickle ball to Constitution Park in the summer. The walking group started back up. November 5th, they held paint night with 20 participants. They held the first safe sitter babysitting class on November 6th with 6 participants aged 12-15. Sporty shorties' program for kids aged 3-5 years old is on Fridays with activities like t-ball, kickball, and basketball. Parents night out was held on November 12th with 20 participants. Parent night out will also be held multiple times in 2022. November 16th was Court sports with 41 participants, and it will be held for a few more weeks. Dodgeball had 40 participants. Winter registration is now open for basketball, skiing, mini day camp for vacation week, cornhole in January. The programs are up and running and going well. He is also working on 2 projects. The first is the Constitution Park trails with Edwina and Bob Boose, who orchestrated the trail clean up with 17 other people. Tim Otterbach built and installed a kiosk and new signs were put up as well. They have formed the Friends of Constitution Park organization and they are now a 501c3 organization. They would like to include disc golf at Constitution Park, and they presented the design to the Board. TheY advised that it won't interfere with any programs over there and they are paying for it so there is no cost to the Town. They will need help cleaning brush but there will be no maintenance once installed. Smith asked if court sports is open gym for teens. Chaffee advised that it is for grades 1-6 and they do stuff like kickball, floor hockey, etc. Smith thanked Chaffee for all his efforts. Chaffee advised that it has been a group effort and he thanked all those involved, including Friends of Constitution Park.

Police Department, Anthony Castaldo, Police Chief, spoke briefly about the yearly stats. He advised that the cost for services were \$17,080 this year. There were 139 motor vehicle accidents and a lot of DWT's. There were also other motor vehicle violations. The ACO had 224 calls for service. They had a test for part timers but only 1 applicant showed up. That participant advised that he would be taking a position elsewhere, so OPD is still looking for part time officers. He spoke about the on-call service and advised that officers are getting called out about 19% of the time. Frank Burke asked if an officer quit. Castaldo advised yes. Discussion ensued.

Transfer Station, T.J. Eldridge, Public Works Director, advised that they baled 3 aluminum cans, 16 cardboard, cleaned around the area, pushed the compost pile back and cleaned the storage containers. They also sent 2 pallets of batteries to Rickers, shipped 28 containers of garbage, and got the scale track insulated. He advised they are no longer recycling plastic and mixed paper. Discussion ensued. He is also working on a project regarding the glass recycling. They currently pay \$104/ton to haul it away, but we can haul it ourselves for about \$40/ton.

Water & Sewer, T.J. Eldridge, Public Works Director, advised that they checked the pump stations, recorded daily flows, flushed hydrants using 100,000 gallons of water and winterized hydrants. They also checked water depths at Camp David, turned off water services and pulled meters for seasonal customers and pumped down the lagoons at Camp David for winter. Water samples was taken from all monitoring well and surface water was delivered to Concord. Water testing was done for quality reports. They pumped a septic at 33 Dore Street, had an inspection with DES for the lagoons and discussed a misprint with how many gallons are allowed with the permit we have, which is 960,000 gallons instead of 624,000 gallons. Smith asked T.J. Eldridge to mention the obligations of homeowners regarding frozen meters. He explained that it the responsibility of the homeowner to make sure meters are insulated and don't freeze. Discussion ensued. They are looking into getting a new truck for the Water & Sewer Department as well. He advised that Jim and Tracy are doing a great job.

Highway Department, T.J. Eldridge, Public Works Director, advised that they helped put the granite benches in at the library. They finished the scale at the Transfer Station and discussed the paving schedule and total cost of the project. Only about 40% of the paving is complete due to covid issues but the paving company advised they should be able to finish in the spring. The equipment has been undercoated for the winter and they completed repairs at Mill Hill. Smith advised that this saved the town money by completing the project and not getting it reengineered. They regulated the dam for winter and are working with engineers to get it completed. They cleaned ditches in preparation for spring, issued a lot of driveway permits and installed a new fuel treatment system that prevents algae in the tanks. Smith advised that it also helps eliminate carbon build up. The job was quoted for \$30,000 for 3 trucks but Scott did it for \$4,000. Sawyer Jr. asked if that was only for diesel vehicles. T.J. advised yes.

Selectmen's Office, Matt Sawyer Jr., Town Administrator, advised that the assessing clerk and the assessor did a good job getting the MS1 out on time, which is necessary to get the tax rate set. The finance director and Sawyer Jr. stayed on top of the fire precincts to submit their paperwork to the DRA on time. The assessing and tax office worked together to get the trial warrant out. Tax bills went out. Sawyer Jr. drafted a tax explanation letter to highlight reduction in municipal taxes and to educate taxpayers that most of the taxes they pay go to the school. The audit results are back, and the unassigned fund balance has been met and exceeded in 1 year of being fiscally responsible. He advised

that the 2022 budget process is ahead of schedule. The MS737 is drafted, and the budget committee will have more to do so it will get redrafted, but we are a few months ahead of schedule. The new accounting software made this process easier and better for the taxpayer. He discussed fiscal policies of the town and the possibility of not using the TAN this year. This is due to a team effort from the Board and the finance director. The tax auction happened on Saturday, December 4, 2021. There were 55 bidders and 100 spectators. The total received for those properties were \$230,000. Some of that comes to the town. Some goes back to the previous owner and there are fees that go to the auctioneer. He discussed the cost sharing of the recreation program with Effingham and asked them to increase from \$10,000 to \$30,000. Their Board of Selectmen supported this, but their budget committee did not. So, they will present it at their town meeting for \$10,000. The Board advised that if it does not pass for the amount asked for then they will discontinue Effingham from participating in our recreation program. Discussion ensued.

Selectmen Smith advised that there is no report for Building and Zoning. He advised that Rick Cousins has resigned. He will be missed. He was a kind soul, and the public liked the service he provided.

Public Input:

None presented

Accounts Payable & Payroll Manifests:

The Payroll Check Voucher total was submitted for the week ending 12/4/2021 with a pay date of 12/7/2021 in the amount of \$46,358.22. Accounts Payable for the week ending 12/4/2021 with a pay date of 12/7/2021 is \$50,671.53. Water & Sewer accounts payable is \$3,912.62. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Meeting Minutes:

M. Eldridge made a motion to approve the minutes from the Work Session held on 11/22/2021. Smith seconded.

M. Eldridge made a motion to approve the minutes from the Selectmen's Meeting held on 11/22/2021. Smith seconded.

Review of Red Folder:

Smith advised that Steve McConarty will be helping in the Building Department 3 days a week on a part time basis. He also advised that he himself will be helping with Zoning on a part time basis. He made a motion to appoint McConarty as the ex officio for the planning board. M. Eldridge seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board sent a letter to the Trustees of the Trust Funds regarding the Warrant Article Funds below.
Warrant Article 10- Add \$20,000.00 to the Bridge Replacement/Repair Expendable Trust Fund.

Warrant Article 13-Add \$20,000.00 to the Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling Expendable Trust Fund.

Warrant Article 14-Add \$30,000.00 to the Invasive Species Control Fund.

Warrant Article 15-Add \$5,000.00 to the Chickville Church/Meeting House Fund.

Warrant Article 16-Add \$10,000.00 to the Government Buildings Improvements Expendable Trust Fund.

Warrant Article 21-Add \$45,000.00 to the Highway Equipment Fund.

Warrant Article 25-Add \$15,000.00 to the Revaluation Fund.

Warrant Article 26-Add \$15,000.00 to the Benefit Pay Fund.

The Board sent a letter to the Trustees of the Trust Funds regarding the withdrawal from the Benefits Pay Expendable Trust Fund in the amount of \$10,151.57.

The Board received a Clerical Abatement for Map 090, Lot 036 for \$1,397.00. Due to a late filing of the deed by the Title company, the wrong owner received the tax bill. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Clerical Abatement for Map 029, Lot 001, Sublot E35 for \$47.00. Property sold prior to tax bills going out. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Clerical Abatement for Map 022, Lot 033 for \$5,287.00. Property sold prior to tax bills going out. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Clerical Abatement for Map 272, Lot 049 for \$41.00. Property sold prior to tax bills going out. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Clerical Abatement for Map 029, Lot 001, Sublot 407 for \$4.00. Ms. Wooten was never on this site. The campground didn't give us the updated information before tax bills went out. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Clerical Abatement for Map 029, Lot 001, Sublot 302 for \$4.00. The Perrins left this site last year and we didn't receive updated information from the campground. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Clerical Abatement for Map 029, Lot 001, Sublot 278 for \$199.00. Property sold prior to tax bills going out. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a supplemental warrant for Map 029, Lot 001, Sublot 278 for \$199.00. Property sold prior to tax bills going out. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a supplemental warrant for Map 029, Lot 001, Sublot 302 for \$4.00. Property sold prior to tax bills going out. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a supplemental warrant for Map 029, Lot 001, Sublot 407 for \$4.00. Property was in the wrong name for tax bills. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a supplemental warrant for Map 272, Lot 049 for \$41.00. Property was in the wrong name for tax bills. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Boat Agent Agreement between the Town of Ossipee and Melvin Village Marina. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Boat Agent Agreement between the Town of Ossipee and Wards Boat Shop. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a supplemental warrant for Map 022, Lot 033 for \$5,287.00. Property was in the wrong name for tax bills. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a supplemental warrant for Map 029, Lot 001, Sublot E35 for \$47.00. Property sold before taxes went out. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a supplemental warrant for Map 123, Lot 019 for \$1,386.00. Property sold before taxes went out. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Clerical Abatement for Map 123, Lot 019 for \$1,386.00. Property sold prior to tax bills going out. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a supplemental warrant for Map 090, Lot 036 for \$1,397.00. Property sold before taxes went out. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Clerical Abatement for Map 130, Lot 002 for \$327.00. Property was accidentally taken out of current use by the assessor. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a settlement agreement with Fairpoint Communications. It was a contractual agreement. Sawyer Jr. advised that this was part of a lawsuit and there is a reduction in the original amount calculated for \$26,738.00. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a letter from the Town Administrator regarding the return of premiums for the health insurance risk pool. Smith made a motion to accept. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received an agreement from Town Attorney, Rick Sager, giving him Power of Attorney to act on the properties sold at the auction. Smith made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Water & Sewer warrant for \$33,405.46. Smith made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a lease agreement for the OCC building. This will go to Town Meeting for vote. The Board will sign this for a 5-year lease. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Old Business:

None presented

New Business:

Recycling center has new hours effective on January 1, 2022. Those hours will be Friday to Sunday from 8AM-4:30PM.

Second Public Input:

Ash Fischbein addressed an article regarding the fire precincts voting on the lights that was put around the Town. He advised that the way it was written made it seem that the fire precincts designed it and that it was all their doing. He clarified that T.J. Eldridge found the lights and the EDC found the money for the project. He thanked everyone who assisted with that project. He also asked how much of the auction properties were tax arrears. Sawyer Jr. advised that he doesn't have those numbers, but he should have them soon. He advised that the Town keeps taxes plus penalties and fees.

Fischbein wants to make sure the proper covenants are there for insurance, the playground, and the DRA and that they aren't getting taxpayer money. Smith advised that they are not, and the Town pays for warrant articles per Town Meeting. OCC is responsible for the interior of the building and the Town is responsible for the exterior. Discussion ensued.

Dallas Emery asked if the playground is still open to the public once that lease is signed. Smith advised that the Town owns that playground. Discussion ensued.

There will be no meeting on 12-13-2021.

The next Selectmen's meeting will take place on Monday, December 20, 2021.

Adjournment:

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

Adjourned at 5:08 PM.

Jonathan H. Smith, Chairman

Susan J. Simpson

Martha B. Eldridge

To be approved 12/20/2021