

## **Selectmen's Meeting Monday, February 7, 2022**

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 started the meeting at 4:15 PM.**

### **Public Input:**

Dallas Emery asked the Board about the Warrant Article for School's Out. He asked if the Board looked at it from the Budget Committee's point of view and asked why they voted to recommend this when the program still has \$35,000 left from last year. Matt Sawyer Jr. advised that the carry over funds was explained, and it is due to the program operating under a fiscal year and not a calendar year. They get their first payment in June and their second payment in December. Smith advised that every agency has a buffer. He also advised that the School's Out operating budget is a few hundred thousand dollars. Smith also advised that they believe this program is an asset to the community. He said that without it, the kids will have no place to go. Emery mentioned that the program was online, and the kids weren't doing anything within that program. Smith mentioned that the Board believes \$45,000 is a good use of taxpayer funds. Discussion ensued.

Smith advised that a Budget Committee public hearing will be held February 10, 2022, at 6:30PM in the Town Hall gym.

Frank Burke mentioned that at a previous meeting that he asked the Board to reconsider and have weekly meetings. He asked if they have decided. Smith advised that this would be addressed later in the meeting.

### **Department Head Reporting:**

Town Clerk/Tax Collector- Kellie Skehan, advised that the Tax Collector received \$621,882.54 for taxes and Water & Sewer. Delinquency notices will be going out February 16, 2022. Due date is March 18, 2022, and liens with fees will follow on April 26, 2022, if not paid. June 20, 2022 will begin the deeding process for 2019. Town Clerk received \$120,329.59 in revenue for autos, boat registrations, vital records, and dog registrations. Dog registrations are due April 30, 2022. Town Elections are March 8, 2022, from 10AM-7PM. Absentee Ballots will be available February 14, 2022. They are due back March 7, 2022, at 5PM. The Town meeting is March 9, 2022, at Town Hall at 6:30PM. Candidate's night will be February 28, 2022 at 6:30PM in the Town Hall Gym. Katie Meserve volunteered to moderate. Kellie Skehan read the list of candidates. They are as follows.

Selectman-Susan J. Simpson

Town Clerk/Tax Collector-Kellie Skehan

Moderator-Katie Meserve

Trustee of the Trust Funds 3 years-Angela Eldridge

Trustee of the Trust Funds 1 year-Kathryn Paris

Cemetery Trustee 3 years-Krystal Eldridge

Library Trustee 3 years-Patricia Pustell  
Supervisor of the Checklist 6 years-Robert Pustell  
Budget Committee-2 open seats  
Planning Board-Sharie Cohen, Donna Sargent, Connie Billings-2 open seats

Recreation Department-Justin Chaffee, Recreation Director, advised that in December the Recreation Department partnered with NH Fish & Game for an ATV Safety Course. They had 20 participants for this event. Sporty shorties, dodgeball, and court sports have recently concluded. Youth basketball started after Christmas break. They have 80 participants. This program ends in a few weeks. They had mini camp over Christmas break with 30 participants. Parent night is once a month. They also have an adult cornhole league on Wednesday nights with 12 teams. The skating rink has been open since January and has been a great success. Due to warmer temperatures, it will be closed the rest of this week. He advised that he is working on finishing the spring brochure. He also has begun booking summer camp trips and activities. He announced that Saturday, February 12, 2022, there will be a bonfire at Constitution Park from 5:30PM-7:30PM.

Police Department-Anthony Castaldo, Police Chief, advised that for the month of January there were 1197 calls for service. They made 12 arrests. The Detective has been very busy. He advised that motor vehicle stops are down due to the winter season. Welfare checks have increased. It has been a quiet month with call outs averaging the same as the last report.

Building/Zoning Department-Matt Sawyer Jr., Town Administrator read the report. There was a total of 36 permits issued. 12 building permits, 9 plumbing permits, 11 electrical permits, 1 occupancy permit, and 3 demo permits. There was also 12 after the fact permits. There were multiple on-site visits, zoning inquiries and an average of 10 phone calls per day.

Selectmen's Office- Matt Sawyer Jr., Town Administrator, advised that the town reports will be 8.5x11 spiral books this year. He advised that they had a photo contest for the cover photo of the town report and received many great pictures. He narrowed it down and the Board will decide soon. The books will be in around March 1<sup>st</sup>. The budgeting warrant is complete. He is waiting for legal and the DRA to approve. A security system was installed at the transfer station. He also advised that we have a new attorney. Auditors came out and the report will be back in a few months. He advised that the tax deeded property at 97 Ossipee Mountain Road is being sold for \$28,000.00.

Water & Sewer Department-T.J. Eldridge, Public Works Director, advised that they calibrated analyzers and flow testers for both gravel wells. The water reports were submitted to DES. They worked on the engine cooling system. They worked on water leaks. The optimal control corrosion treatment report is complete. They serviced the generator and they also read meters.

Transfer Station- T.J. Eldridge, Public Works Director, congratulated Bonnie and Brewster on their retirement. Bonnie will be back part time in March. He advised that the glass recycling location has been moved and is now under cover. This will provide a cost savings, but they have to keep the glass dry. The scale is working great. He congratulated Bernie Dow who was a part time employee and is now the new full-time employee.

Government Buildings- T.J. Eldridge, Public Works Director, advised that they worked with a plumber to take care of freezing pipes at the Police Department. They cleaned the heaters and replaced the blowers in the Town Hall gym. They installed new LED lights in the town garage. They installed

lights at the transfer station. They fixed the hot water tank at the Main St. Building. They found bacteria in the diesel fuel tank, and it is being treated. Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance is being done on the fleet to keep them on the road and working properly. They purchased a new sidewalk machine from another town for cheap money.

Highway Department- T.J. Eldridge, Public Works Director, advised that they have used 50 percent of the salt in just one month. Sanding has been done more frequently as well. The crew has been keeping up with roads to keep them safe. They will be mixing salt and sand going forward to treat the roads. They helped with the skating rink, and they set up the grader to push back the roads. They are up to date with the dams. The H&H report was reviewed and revised slightly. It was sent back to DES. He also mentioned that the Whittier Covered Bridge work has begun. They have been working on clearing out trees.

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

The Payroll Check Voucher total was submitted for the week ending 2/06/2022 with a pay date of 2/07/2022 in the amount of \$37,647.25. The General Fund is \$106,263.65. Accounts payable for the week of 2/07/2022 is \$2,440.92.

#### **Meeting Minutes:**

Simpson made a motion to approve the minutes from the Selectmen's Meeting held on 1/10/2022. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

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

The Board received a Veteran's Exemption for 15 Brownell Road.

The Board received a Veteran's Exemption for 95 Ridge Road.

The Board received a Veteran's Exemption for 45 White Pond Road.

The Board received a Veteran's Exemption for 27 Oakwood Drive.

The Board received a Water & Sewer abatement application for 20 Moultonville Rd for \$23.66. Map 92, Lot 78. This property sold and the deed was not received so the owner could not be changed.

The Board received a Supplemental Warrant for \$61.00. The property was sold before tax bills went out. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Yield Tax Warrant for \$633.14 for Map 224, Lot 3. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Yield Tax Warrant for \$119.80 for Map 062, Lot 039. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Water & Sewer Warrant for \$23.66. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Water & Sewer Warrant for \$33,206.87. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Clerical Abatement for \$61.00.

The Board received a Clerical Abatement for \$207.00.

The Board received a Clerical Abatement for \$449.00.

The Board received a Clerical Abatement for \$395.00.

Smith made a motion to approve the above-mentioned clerical abatements. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a letter from Rep. William Marsh regarding concerns over the gas station in Effingham and the aquifer. Smith advised that he received an email from DES stating that they have zero red flags regarding the safety of this location. Discussion ensued.

The Board received a letter from former Chiefs of Police regarding not having 24-hour patrol. They request rehiring a 9<sup>th</sup> officer to protect the town. The letter asked the Board to restore the funding for the 9<sup>th</sup> officer. Smith advised that the on-call service is working but if a 9<sup>th</sup> officer is needed it can be revisited in the future.

The Board received a letter from the BTLA stating they made an error in giving the Masonic Lodge and Agape a charitable exemption. The Town is ordered to show cause as to why they should not be required to pay back to the Town the taxes owed in each of the tax years mentioned in the letter. Smith read the letter. Discussion ensued.

### **Old Business:**

M. Eldridge requested that the Christmas lights be removed from outside the Town Hall.

### **New Business:**

Smith advised that the Board had a discussion regarding scheduled meetings. Smith made a motion that meetings will be every week unless there is a holiday. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Smith advised that per RSA 673:2, the Town needs to have an alternate ex officio to the Planning Board. Smith made a motion to appoint Simpson as the alternate. M. Eldridge seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

### **Second Public Input:**

Ed Comeau mentioned that M. Eldridge did not vote on the Veteran's Exemptions mentioned previously in the meeting. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve the Veteran's Exemptions she mentioned previously in the meeting. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Frank Burke asked who the Code Enforcement Officer is? Smith advised that they have 2 part time employees for Building and Zoning.

**Adjournment:**

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

Adjourned at 4:58 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 2/14/2022