

## **Selectmen's Meeting Monday, September 12, 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.

**Call to Order/Roll Call: Completed in the Work Session.**

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

Smith opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Public Input:**

Bob Bowie discussed the importance of voting. He handed each Board member a packet with an indictment to the U.S. District Court. Smith reminded Bowie that there is a 5-minute public input policy and Bowie advised that he would be brief. Bowie explained that the indictment includes 136 Town Clerks including Kellie Skehan because 3 USC Codes were violated at the last election. He advised that townspeople are looking for integrity, honesty, and federal law to be followed. He is looking for all election material be held for 22 months according to federal law. He mentioned that there are 9 towns in Carroll County that have violated that federal order. He mentioned that it is concerning and is looking for the Board to commit to follow federal guidelines. Gail Lauermann of Passaconway Road asked what the crime was committed. Bowie advised that it is for sending election information to Concord and LHS Associates formatting all the drives, preventing the State the ability to have an audit. He mentioned the absentee ballots in Windham that were folded on the oval and emphasized how important voting day is. Smith advised that the Board needs to read the 30-page document, but integrity and honesty have always been important to the Board. Discussion ensued.

Dennis Legendre advised that he has worked the elections for 7 years and he doesn't like being accused of being dishonest. He advised that the people volunteer so others can come and vote. He also mentioned that people complain about the system but only 30% of the townspeople come out and vote. He suggests that if people are dissatisfied with how the election process goes, then they can volunteer to come help and see how the elections work. He mentioned how there are people who volunteer from both parties, and they watch the proceedings. He also said that the Attorney General is also present and that no one has shown any proof of any wrongdoing. He discussed his displeasure with the accusations. Discussion ensued.

Dallas Emery thinks that Dennis Legendre is misunderstanding what Bob Bowie was saying. He reiterated that the election records were to be held for 22 months and they weren't. Now they are gone, and they are unable to go back and find them. Brief discussion ensued.

Maria Moulton asked what the sources were for the packet of information. Bowie advised that they are from Brenda Town and Marilyn Todd who are the founders of the election corruption in Windham and the founders of this suit. Discussion ensued.

Matt Bailey, representing Center Ossipee Fire Commission, discussed the new truck for watering the roads and the state of the water system. He is concerned with the usage since the town is down 2

hydrants. He would like to come up with a plan for a chain of command for each hydrant. T.J. advised that they haven't had a hydrant down for longer than 3 months. Bailey disagreed and mentioned the hydrant in front of the Mountainview Station restaurant and on Route 16. T.J. advised that the one near the restaurant was fixed once but is broken again due to a valve leak. They are on a waiting list to be fixed ASAP. He also advised that the one on Route 16 has been addressed and will be moved. Discussion ensued. Bailey thinks there should be a better plan in place. Smith advised that hydrants are a rugged piece of equipment and if it is going to have something go wrong with it, it won't matter if it is opened. He also said testing them is the best way to ensure long term stability. Dennis Legendre mentioned having the same procedures in place for town crew as the fire department has in place, which is to notify the water department when a hydrant is opened. Smith asked for clarification. Joe Deighan said that they are looking for all departments to follow the same procedure the fire department does. Smith advised that he doesn't see an issue with that. T.J. agreed and advised that his staff is well trained on hydrants. He also said that they fill from dry hydrants at Mill Pond 90% of the time. Discussion ensued.

Gail Lauermann of Knox Mountain Land Association asked about what the Town will do for residents if they are unable to care for their private roads. She discussed that there are 2 children with medical needs that live there. Smith advised that since it is a private road the Town is not responsible. Lauermann asked if they can't pay to maintain the road will the Town not go there in an emergency. Dana Cullen, Fire Chief, advised that they have had situations where it was difficult to get up that road, but they would never not go to an emergency. They would need to wait for a 4-wheel drive vehicle to assist, which could take some time. Lauermann asked if that is the same for rescue as well. Cullen advised that rescue would probably be a little easier. T.J. advised that the Town can't take that road over until it meets the State of NH specs. Lauermann asked how they can make that happen. Smith advised that every property owner in Knox Mountain would need to sign on and all monetary upgrades for that road would be their responsibility. Lauermann asked if that would be in the form of a bond. T.J. advised that the President of the association would be responsible for that. Smith mentioned that the Town could do it with a betterment assessment. Discussion ensued. Smith advised that she contact the Town Administrator to pursue this process.

### **Sealed Bids:**

Selectman Smith opened and read the sealed bids. They are as follows.

Colby Tanner of Elm Street bid \$5,000 on 67 Ossipee Mountain Road.

Andrew Brown of Hanson Road bid \$3,000 on 48 Stoneview Road.

Tammy White of Ossipee Mountain Road bid \$15,000 on 67 Ossipee Mountain Road.

Brian Adam Wiggin of Huckins Street bid \$25,000 on 67 Ossipee Mountain Road.

Jonathan Clark of Hodsdon Shore Road bid \$51,500 on 177 Route 16B.

Samantha Harris of Huckins Street bid \$2,000 on 48 Stoneview Road.

Kevin Higgins of Morse Pond Road bid \$1,150 on 177 Route 16B.

Kerrin J. Parker Revocable Trust 2012 of Portsmouth bid \$3,500 on 67 Ossipee Mountain Road.

Kerrin J. Parker Revocable Trust 2012 of Portsmouth bid \$4,000 on 48 Stoneview Road.

Kerrin J. Parker Revocable Trust 2012 of Portsmouth bid \$8,500 on 177 Route 16B.

Joshua Harding of Sandwich bid \$7,777.77 on 48 Stoneview Road.

Jennifer Benedict of Sanbornville bid \$5,557.00 on 177 Route 16B.

Robin Atwood of Route 16 bid \$10,500 on 67 Ossipee Mountain Road.

James Lowry of Wolfeboro bid \$18,800 on 67 Ossipee Mountain Road.  
James Lowry of Wolfeboro bid \$5,600 on 48 Stoneview Road.  
James Lowry of Wolfeboro bid \$11,800 on 177 Route 16B.

Matt Sawyer Jr., Town Administrator, advised that the highest bids were as follows.  
Jonathan Clark of Hodsdon Shore Road bid of \$51,500 for 177 Route 16B.  
Joshua Harding of Sandwich bid of \$7,777.77 for 48 Stoneview Road.  
Brian Adam Wiggin of Huckins Street bid of \$25,000 for 67 Ossipee Mountain Road.  
Smith confirmed the 3 highest bids and M. Eldridge made a motion to accept them. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken. Smith advised that the winning bids go to Jonathan Clark's bid of \$51,500 for 177 Route 16B. Joshua Harding's bid of \$7,777.77 for 48 Stoneview Road.  
Brian Adam Wiggin's bid of \$25,000 for 67 Ossipee Mountain Road.

### **Department Head Reporting:**

Police Department-Anthony Castaldo, Chief, advised that he changed the format of the Department Report. The 3 divisions of the Police Department, administration, patrols, and detectives have had a busy summer. Officer Lewellen was hired in June and is on her 2<sup>nd</sup> month in the academy. She trained with Chief Castaldo on policy and procedure. He also set her up with all her I.T. devices. Lt. Ripley took her to get her uniforms and Sgt. Kessler got her qualified in firearms. They created a Sergeants exam and if that position is open you need to express interest and take the exam. The Chiefs meeting was held June 9<sup>th</sup>. Chief Castaldo will be adding another day of prosecutions to his schedule, which will now be Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. He has done 47 hearings and some Grand Jury indictments. The Sgt. Exam was given to 2 officers on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Neither officer passed. Sgt. Kessler retired as of June 1<sup>st</sup>. He got everyone qualified for firearms for the year before he left. His duties have been divided between Castaldo, Ripley, and Mask. He had an interview for a Sergeant on June 6<sup>th</sup> that went very well. Cruiser 6 went to MHQ for decals. This cruiser will be primarily used for patrol use. He issued a tow agreement to the company that tows for the Town on July 11<sup>th</sup>. He was in Conway July 13<sup>th</sup> for a prosecution meeting. He completed the patrol Sgt. Background check on July 25<sup>th</sup>. He advised that the first 2 weeks of August he was busy preparing for 2 trials. One of those was the Harris case and she did not show up. They motioned to have the dogs surrendered so they could be adopted, which elevated the Town some expense. Sawyer Jr. asked if any of the dogs have been adopted yet. Castaldo didn't know. On August 22<sup>nd</sup>, a new Sgt. was hired. Sgt. training needs to be done by a ranking officer. The K9 tracked 2 suspects who were breaking into storage units and led to a high-speed chase. The suspect is from Virginia and is being expedited soon. Officer Blackwood was sent to FTO school. Volpe resigned as of September 6<sup>th</sup>, and they are now down 2 officers. Detective Mask continues to manage the grant speed and DUI driving details, which takes a lot of time. In July and August, he completed grants for speed signs and radar guns. One speed sign was stolen. The signs collect data including average speed, how many cars, etc. Mask completed Officer Lewellen's background check. He manages the social media accounts and investigates sexual assaults. They have had a surprising number of sexual assaults over the past few months. Patrol has handled 2555 calls with 52 arrests, 454 motor vehicle stops, 73 motor vehicle accidents, 146 citizen assists, 106 welfare/suicide checks, 24 building checks, 98 vehicles acting erratically, 54 business alarms, 66 domestic disturbances, 110 calls for officers, 11 juvenile issues, 15 noise complaints, 68 paperwork/restraining orders, 95 suspicious activity calls, 10 criminal trespass calls, 5 untimelies, 70 vin verifications, 11 violations of protection, and 65 domestic animal complaints. The July 4<sup>th</sup> parade went ok except for a child that crashed his dirt bike and got hurt. They will probably have to tone things down next year. There was an officer involved shooting and a fatal motorcycle crash during

bike week. There was also a barricaded suspect threatening to shoot police officers. Chief Castaldo advised that this report was for 3 months of summer in Ossipec.

Water & Sewer, T.J. Eldridge, Public Works Director, advised they completed and submitted the sewer groundwater permit, which is due every 7-10 years. They worked on maintenance of the pump stations. The last part of the lead and copper requirements have been submitted and accepted. They dug up and repaired a curb stop at 82 Moultonville Road to turn on water service. Bar rack is being completed. In the meeting upstairs, they voted and approved to accept haulers to haul from 3 towns that border Ossipec, which will bring in revenue for the sewer department. They are working with Pine River pump station and replacing pipes to eliminate future leaks. They were called to Valley Road for lower water and tank level alarms. New batteries were installed. They cleaned lagoons 1 & 2 along with the settling pond at Camp David. It used to cost \$25,000 per lagoon and this year it was \$26,000 for all 3. Dawson Excavation did a great job helping with that. They did a water service at 82 Route 16B, and the water is now shut off. General maintenance was done at the pump station. They fabricated an 8-inch piece of pipe to keep debris out and flushed piping. They did a valve replacement with a hydraulic company at the pump station. They also read meters.

Highway Department, T.J. Eldridge, Public Works Director, advised that after lots of heavy rain, they had a lot of washouts to address. They flushed culverts and 94 miles of road has been graded. 65,000 feet of roadside has been ditched and 150 culverts were cleaned. The water truck lost the engine, so they got a new 3000-gallon water truck. They also did some tree maintenance on Dorrs Corner Road, Chickville Road, by the dump, at the Y Field, Chapel Road and Ossipec Mountain Road. They helped OCC remove a wall, finished the salt shed roof, completed 23 driveway permits, and addressed 42 complaints that were resolved by the Foreman and Public Works Director. They had multiple beaver issues and potholes have been addressed. Town vehicles are being gone through by the Town mechanic. Half of the fleet has been inspected. Tires have been purchased for the winter months. Scott cleaned and organized the mechanic bay and did an inventory check on the supplies. The IWORK system has been updated as well.

Transfer Station, T.J. Eldridge, Public Works Director, advised that Hazardous Waste Day was a success. They raised \$650.00 with 200 vehicles. He thanked the Town of Effingham, Freedom, and Tamworth volunteers as well as the highway crew members Neil, Chris, and Shawn. They have filled 3 or more compactors over the weekend. The new credit card machine has been installed and is working great. He thanked the Transfer Station employees for keeping the area looking nice and organized. The annual report is complete and has been accepted by the State.

Government Building's, T.J. Eldridge, Public Works Director, advised that the brush at the Y Field has been cut and chipped. They have been dealing with vandalism at the Main St. gazebo. The police are involved. Cameras have been installed at the Town Hall thanks to Matt and the Highway crew. Improvements are on the schedule for the playground behind the OCC building. They received the final Dam reports. There is a hydrological model analysis and a dam emergency action plan. The Whittier Covered Bridge will be moved soon. The foreman and crew doing that job have been great to work with. They will have some things to go over with Hoyle & Tanner and CMP with Matt.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector-Matt Sawyer Jr. advised that he will be reporting as Kellie Skehan needs to be in the office to accept absentee ballots. The 2022 Primary is tomorrow, and the polls open from 8am-7pm. The Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office will be closed during the election. The Fall general election will be November 8, 2022. Polls will be open from 8am-7pm. The office will be closed that

day as well. The Town Clerk received \$135,383.82 including autos, boats, vital records, dog registrations, dump stickers and misc. items. The Tax Collector for August received \$185,360.12. \$70,795.87 from the tax kiosk online. There is \$993,912.64 still outstanding. They are getting ready to set the taxes. Once set, the second half bills will be sent and will be due 30 days from the mailing. They can be paid in person, via the drop box, or via the tax kiosk online at [www.ossipee.org](http://www.ossipee.org).

Recreation Department- Matt Sawyer Jr., read the report. Summer camp went great and was at full capacity every week. The staff did an amazing job. In June, they had an outdoor movie night with 75 people attending. Fall programs will begin soon. They have added programs, including nerf nights. They will have adult programs including refit and oil painting. The pickleball court at Constitution Park is completed and they are hoping to offer classes next year if they can find an instructor. Constitution Park received a lot of use this summer. The addition of the disc golf course was a factor. The Friends of Constitution Park are doing a great job taking care of the course. They will be installing a 10x12 pavilion in October, next to the playground. They received the funds for that through a grant.

Selectmen's Office, Matt Sawyer Jr., Town Administrator, advised that he spent a lot of time with the departments this summer, including Building/Zoning and the Recreation Department. He spent a day with recreation and got to see their controls and processes. He believes they are a tremendous value to the Town. He is proud to send his son and feels safe in doing so. The audit results came in and they don't have too many recommendations due to the hard work of the finance director, Andrea Picard. Due to policies in place, they have brought the unassigned fund balance up from \$800,000 to 2.3 million dollars. He anticipates that some may be able to come back to the taxpayers to reduce taxes this year. He spent a lot of time responding to the BTLA's order regarding the exemption audit for assessing. They advertised the sale of tax deeded properties. They received a decision regarding Moose Ridge Road, issuing an order to vacate per the health code. The attorney finished drafting the turn-around agreements for Deer Cove. They will need to acquire signatures from the property owners. They have a preliminary Budget Committee schedule, which will go to that committee in September for their approval. The Boards and Commissions secretary was on extended medical leave and Angela Eldridge, Selectmen's Office Secretary picked up that extra work. He thanked her for the long hours, including nights, that she put in to assist with those duties. He applied for a housing grant for up to \$120,000. T.J. has worked with all the people regarding the Whittier Covered Bridge. Smith has as well. It will go across the river soon but will not be open as more work will need to be done. Smith mentioned the tennis courts and asked if those are finished. T.J. advised yes.

#### **Accounts Payable & Payroll Manifest:**

The Payroll Check Voucher total was submitted for the week ending 9/10/2022 with a pay date of 9/12/22 in the amount of \$32,959.11. The General Fund is \$228,119.97. Nothing for Water & Sewer or Whittier Bridge.

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

The Board received a Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber for Map 070, Lot 002. Acreage of cut is 268. Taxes are paid and there are no cemeteries. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Request for Clerical Abatement for Map 029, Lot 001, Sub lot 418. The assessing clerk recommends this abatement. It is for \$311.00. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Yield Tax Levy Warrant for \$1,872.17 for Map 115, Lot 016. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Notice of Decision from the Planning Board for case #22-09-SPRA for Josh Kaake c/o 455 Route 16, LLC received a Conditional Site Plan Review Amendment approval to add 3 separate, 4 unit, multi-family structures for an additional 12 units to the existing 16 units, for a total of 28 units on the property pending conditions. This is in regard to the rehabbing of the old Brook Manor building.

The Board received a Notice of Decision from the Planning Board for case #22-03-BLA for The Simpson Family Trust. Tax Map 254, Lot 011 was granted a Boundary Line Adjustment of .21 acres from parcel 254/011 being transferred to lot 254/12 with requested waivers.

The Board received a Notice of Decision from the Planning Board for case #22-03-BLA for The Simpson Family Trust. Tax Map 254, Lot 012 was granted a Boundary Line Adjustment of .21 acres from parcel 254/011 being transferred to lot 254/12 with requested waivers.

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

None

**Second Public Input:**

Bowie discussed a court case in Rockingham County where attorney Maddison testified that there is State approval for this election and the ability moving forward for all voters to have their ballots hand counted. He also mentioned a training video regarding ballot procedures. He said that the machine is to be opened and the ballot is placed in the side pocket. He asked if they are aware and have taken this training and if they are aware of the possibility of hand counting. Smith advised that the Moderator and Town Clerk run the election. Bowie said that the Board of Selectmen are the moderators and Smith disagreed and said they are not according to the State of NH handbook. Discussion ensued. Bowie mentioned the ballots being folded on the wrong crease and asked if those ballots are being verified. Smith advised that they will be opened tomorrow night (election night). Bowie asked if the public could verify those. Smith said yes.

Dallas Emery mentioned that he was considering running for Congress. He said that he doesn't understand why Mowers was the republican candidate and wanted to put his name out there so if anyone wanted to write him in, they could. Discussion ensued.

Jen Dore mentioned that she was told that the voter percentage turnout was 100%. Smith advised that voter turnout in Ossipee is not 100%. Smith said he believes there was about 2600 voters at the last Presidential Election. He believes that information can be requested from the Supervisor of the Checklist. Emery advised that he requested that information before and the Secretary of State would not allow it. Discussion.

Bowie asked the Board what they have done to appease the voters regarding hand counting for this election. Smith advised that they have to wait and see what the moderator says as she is the one who

runs the election. Bowie asked who the moderator is. Smith replied that Katie Merserve is the moderator.

**Adjournment:**

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

Adjourned at 5:50 PM.

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Jonathan H. Smith, Chairman

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Martha B. Eldridge

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Susan J. Simpson

To be approved 9/26/2022