

**Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, April 10, 2023**

These minutes were transcribed by Angela Eldridge, Secretary. Matthew Sawyer Jr., Town Administrator, and T.J. Eldridge, Public Works Director, were 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.

M. Eldridge reconvened the meeting at 4:15 PM.

M. Eldridge opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Input:

Dallas Emery asked about the woman from the last meeting that had a large water bill due to a leak. T.J. Eldridge advised that they took \$8000 off her bill. Disc ensued.

Emery also mentioned that it should be noted that Templeton did not make it to the last 2 Planning Board meetings and M. Eldridge did not attend the Budget Committee meeting as they are the Selectmen representatives for those Boards.

Department Head Reports:

Highway Department, Neil Eldridge, Highway Foreman, advised that the crew has cleaned the equipment, took the sanders off the trucks, picked up roadside debris and brush, clean ditches, cleaned up the dirt roads and started preparing for summer. He also advised that the road bans are lifted.

Transfer Station, T.J. Eldridge, Public Works Director, advised that the annual facility report is complete and the Post Closure permit is complete. He advised that they are holding strong as far as CMD (Construction Demolition) recyclables and MSW (Municipal Solid Waste) that have gone through the Transfer Station. Dennis Coates has been cleaning up the facility and it is looking good. He advised that there are 2 loads of cardboard, but they are not going to sell until prices go up a little bit.

Police Department, Robert Ripley, Interim Police Chief, advised that he presented the Board a detailed report. He asked if there were any questions regarding the report. Chris Elliot mentioned that we seem to have lost officers to competing Towns and asked if that was because they weren't getting paid enough or what the rationale was behind that. Ripley advised that he is not sure how much he is allowed to say regarding this. Elliot said that if it's a salary issue, he hopes the Town will do an analysis of this. Ripley advised that they have done an analysis. Matt Sawyer Jr., Town Administrator, advised that he doesn't think it's a money issue as surrounding Towns are in the same boat as Ossipee. Getting qualified officers is very difficult right now. Elliot still believes it should be reviewed. Ripley advised that some officers went to smaller Towns that are less busy than Ossipee. Sawyer Jr. advised that it has been a continuing conversation. He also advised that the new Chief begins on May 1, 2023. Discussion ensued.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Kellie Skehan, advised that the Tax Collector for the first quarter received \$1,110,546.23 with \$400,000 of that coming from the kiosk. Liens will be placed on 2022 Tax properties on April 24, 2023 at 4:30PM. There are 59 properties up for deeding. The deeding will take

place on June 19, 2023. You can make arrangements to pay by calling the Tax Collectors Office. Outstanding taxes and Water & Sewer fees are currently \$889,888.58. The new bill will go out in May and be due in July of 2023. The Town Clerk collected \$358,248.74 in the first quarter for autos, boats, vital records, dog registrations, etc. \$27,000 of that is from the kiosk. She advised that the Town elections went well. She thanked the Highway Department for setting up the gym and making the roads safe for people to come vote. Dog registrations are due April 30, 2023. She said you will need to contact your Vet to make sure your dog is up to date on shots for their rabies tags. Templeton asked for clarification and asked if Kellie said rabies tax. Skehan advised that she said rabies tags.

Water & Sewer, Jim Champagne, advised that they have been doing pump station maintenance, back flow preventative devices have been tested at all applicable facilities, installed new pressure valve at Pine River Road. All banks have been pushed back from the pump stations and Camp David. They were called out to 98 Main Street for frozen water. They pumped liquid from one tank to another at Beech River pump station, which saved the town about \$4000. They conducted water testing. They went over some Grants. They are working at Beech River to change out the distribution pump. Both analyzers at Pine River Pump Station have been calibrated. All fire extinguishers have been recertified from the Water & Sewer building, pump stations, and vehicles. They read meters. Jim encourages people to look at their bills closely and if it seems that they are using significantly more than usual, bring it to the Water & Sewer Departments attention. Discussion ensued. T.J. Eldridge advised that they bought brand new pumps and installed them, but they did not perform the way the company that sold them said they would, so they switched them back and the old pumps outperformed the new ones. The new pumps were sent back and T.J. received an email that the company would fix the issue. Discussion ensued.

Recreation Department, Justin Chaffee, Recreation Director, advised that Spring season is beginning. They have softball and T-Ball starting. Dodgeball and court sports continue 2 nights a week with 80 participants. Spring soccer, track & field, softball, and t-ball are starting in the coming weeks. The gym is busy with afterschool programs M-F. Toddler and pickleball take up some daytime spots along with walking group in the mornings. Day camp registration opened April 3rd and filled up in one day. The Easter Egg Hunt was very well attended. They are busy getting ready for Spring programs and preparing for summer camp. Sawyer Jr. advised that he attended the Easter egg hunt and couldn't believe how many people attended the event. Discussion ensued.

Selectmen's Office, Matt Sawyer Jr., Town Administrator, advised that the local elections and Town Meeting was held in March with only a minor increase in the budget of \$1000. All financial warrant articles passed. He extended his appreciation to the taxpayers and the voters. All Zoning articles passed, which was a culmination of the Zoning Revision Committees year long work to make it more business friendly and more achievable. The new zoning book is out and can be purchased for \$5 or downloaded for free online at www.ossipee.org. They revamped some of the permit forms according to the zoning amendments. The revaluation has begun. Cross Country Appraisal Group will be in the field collecting data. The contract is still not approved by the DRA so they are limited to just being in the field for now. He mentioned that Concord continues to make life difficult. Preventing the town from getting things done that should have been started 4 months ago. The Town put out an RFP for the revaluation before the courts ordered it and because the BTLA ordered it, we need to comply with their absurd rules. They dealt with a variety of legal issues including health and zoning enforcement. He is still awaiting legal guidance on the 2022 abatements regarding the Churches, Humane Society, and Courthouse. He is waiting for the attorney and the DRA to figure out how to legally abate those. He helped support the Friends of Constitution Park in their efforts for grant request for future

projects. The Town Hall and the Recreation Department building had tech upgrades done, which were overdue computers, back up hardware and cyber security.

Public Works, T.J. Eldridge, Public Works Director, advised that he received a few quotes for lead and asbestos removal for Chickville Church. A local builder is going to look at the church to see what it will potentially cost to fix it. They got a waiver from SOC and VOC testing. T.J. has to work with Jimmy and Tracy to do some educational pamphlets that will get mailed out to local businesses because of our well area. He completed the annual report and the post closure report for the landfill. He has been working with Chief Cullen on getting reimbursement for the storm damage we had this year. This will be substantial as it is in regard to the pipe on Granite Road plus \$70,000 that we did through the IWork program. The Board voted to hire a part time Government Buildings employee. They will work with Chris Vittum doing stuff with the different fields in town and running the chipper safely. Chris put a new floor in at the Police Department. They have been getting quotes for this year's paving. They will be paving the Police Department parking lot as well. He has been working with Neil Eldridge to figure out a solution to the road conditions on Annie Nichols Road. The road is giving away and the containment beam is not up to par. It is 40 plus inches out of the ground so they have to figure out if they can just redo the guardrail and shim the road. They are going through the process to see what is legal and what is best for the Town of Ossipee. M. Eldridge made a motion to close Annie Nichols Rd. while they make the necessary repairs. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken. Dallas Emery asked what was wrong with the road. T.J. said the road is giving away and going into the river. Emery asked where. T.J. advised that one of the guardrails is 40 inches in the air and the ground is giving away underneath and the road is sliding. Emery said he assumed the guardrail issues were due to the snowplows. T.J. advised no and that this issue is a liability to the Town of Ossipee. Frank Burke asked if the people that live on that road will be able to use it to get to their homes. T.J. said yes and he also mentioned that they are checking to see if there is a temporary fix as well. Discussion ensued. Kellie Skehan asked if the Ossipee Color Fun Run would still be happening since they are planning on running and walking down Annie Nichols Rd. as part of the route. T.J. confirmed that they will be able to walk on the road this weekend as he and Neil will need time to get the proper barriers. Sawyer Jr. advised that walking the road should be ok. Discussion ensued.

Meeting Minutes:

M. Eldridge made a motion to approve the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for 3/27/2023. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Accounts Payable & Payroll Manifest:

The Payroll Check Voucher total was submitted for the week ending 4/08/2023 with a pay date of 4/11/23 in the amount of \$40,761.97. Accounts payable are \$165,218.67. Water accounts payable was \$1,611.38. Sewer accounts payable is \$1,096.54. The Recreation Revolving Fund is \$2,878.06. The total was \$211,566.62. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Review of Red Folder:

The Board received a Sewer Warrant for \$2,124.00. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Water & Sewer Warrant for \$11,272.32. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received an agreement between Kellie Skehan and T.J. Eldridge regarding the property at 172 Moultonville Road and abatement requests that were previously denied. The water did not go into the sewer. The 5 abatement requests are as follows. \$1,769.82 for water that did not go through the sewer system for February 2022 billing. \$1,850.66 for water that did not go through the sewer system for May 2022 billing. \$1,795.99 for water that did not go through the sewer system for April 2022 billing. \$2,217.85 for water that did not go through the sewer system for March 2022 billing. \$1,769.82 for water that did not go through the sewer system for June 2022 billing. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Yield Tax Levy Warrant for \$1500. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Yield Tax Levy Warrant for \$1500. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Templeton seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Land Use Change Tax of \$9,580. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Land Use Change Tax of \$33,753. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a copy of the Ossipee Police Department selectmen's report.

The Board received a Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber for Map 130, Lot 9-1. Access road is Route 16. The Bond has been paid. There are no cemeteries. Simpson made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Notice of Intent to Excavate for Map 244, Lot 002. Access road is Polly Crossing Road. Taxes are paid. Simpson made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Notice of Intent to Excavate for Map 243, Lot 002. Access road is Polly Crossing Road. Taxes are paid. Simpson made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Notice of Intent to Excavate for Map 266, Lot 007. Access road is Route 16. Taxes are paid. Simpson made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Notice of Intent to Excavate for Map 231, Lot 022. Taxes are paid. Simpson made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Notice of Intent to Excavate for Map 124, Lot 023. Access road is Route 16. Taxes are paid. Simpson made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received 7 Clerical Abatements. They are as follows.

Map 016, Lot 015, Sub 011 for \$36.00. Recommended by the assessing clerk to approve. Simpson made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Map 029, Lot 001, Sub 662 for \$622.00. Recommended by the assessing clerk to approve. Simpson made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Map 062, Lot 039 for \$564.00. Recommended by the assessing clerk to approve. Simpson made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Map 029, Lot 001, Sub 638 for \$682.00. Recommended by the assessing clerk to approve. Simpson made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Map 038, Lot 016, Sub 004 for \$125.00. Recommended by the assessing clerk to approve. Simpson made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Map 073, Lot 109, Sub 020 for \$75.00. Recommended by the assessing clerk to approve. Simpson made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Map 122, Lot 010, Sub 022 for \$97.00. Recommended by the assessing clerk to approve. Simpson made a motion to approve. Templeton seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Notice of Intent to Excavate for Map 130, Lot 010. Access road is Route 16. Taxes are paid. Templeton made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received 5 Excavation Tax Warrants. Map 243, Lot 002 for \$457.00. Map 244, Lot 002 for \$819.20. Map 235, Lot 004 for \$1,196.82. Map 231, Lot 022 for \$1,403.00. Map 124, Lot 023 for \$0. Templeton made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received 2 property tax veterans exemption applications. Templeton made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Water & Sewer Warrant for \$21,227.21. Templeton made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Old Business:

None Presented

New Business:

None Presented

Second Public Input:

Chris Elliot mentioned that on April 22, 2023, at 10AM there will be clean-up and trail maintenance at Constitution Park. Everyone is welcome. This is a good community builder. He also took a moment to thank the Town Officials for their efforts and time and to let them know it is appreciated by the residents.

Edwina Boose of Friends of Constitution Park mentioned Valley Pride Day. She advised that FCCP is not running the event. She advised that it is a clean-up the streets of Ossipee day. The hosing station will be Constitution Park where people can get trash bags. FCCP will post it to their site and the Town of Ossipee will also post it to their website. It will be on May 6, 2023, from 830AM-12PM. Discussion ensued.

Adjournment:

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

Adjourned at 4:58 PM.

Martha B. Eldridge, Chairman

Susan J. Simpson

R. Christopher Templeton

To be approved 04/24/2023