

**Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, April 24, 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:

Cynthia Miller of the First Free Will Baptist Church asked where they stand in regard to the abatement as it has been a while since she has heard anything. Matt Sawyer Jr. advised that nothing has changed since they last spoke, and he is working on it with the DRA. He advised that the town attorney is drafting a formal letter to request formal permission to grant the abatement. He mentioned that legal and government are the 2 slowest processes and advised that she will need to be patient. Miller said she understands and has been patient. She reiterated that all her paperwork was in on time. Sawyer Jr. advised that there was one thing that was required that was not in on time, but he is not going to debate that. He mentioned that the A9 was not in, but Miller showed that it was timestamped on April 5th which was on time. The Town approved everything, but the court overturned it. Miller feels they are being impacted incorrectly. Discussion ensued.

Justin Chaffee, Recreation Director, advised that at the NH Recreation and Park Association annual awards ceremony, they presented the High Five Award for Outstanding Dedication to the Friends of Constitution Park. He is very grateful for this group and is glad they received this honor. Edwina Boose of the FCCP was asked at a recent Conservation Meeting, who was on the Board of the FCCP. She introduced Allison Hayford who is their secretary. She mentioned Bob is not officially on the Board but is a de facto business liaison. Chris Elliot is the Vice-Chairman. Robert Levy is their I.T. person and controls the website and social media pages. Alicia Cushing is on the Board and is also a teacher in the school system. Dwayne Cook is a parent on the Board. Carolina Zorzowski works for OCC and is on the Board as well. Pat Pustell is also on the Board. Boose advised that last year they resurrected 2 miles of hiking trails with new signs, maps, and kiosks. They designed and installed a 9 hole disc golf course, they built a 12x16 foot pavilion with an all person ADA compliant path. They will be putting picnic tables there soon. They developed their social media accounts and their website. They restored 4 benches that OCC donated to them. The Rotary Club donated a free lending library, and they received a grant to provide 2 additional benches. They will have a story walk this spring and summer which is done by the School's Out program. They have collaborated with Green Mountain Conservation Group and will be doing nature interpretive trails within the trail system. The pavilion will be stained and there will be picnic tables along the trails. There will also be some landscaping done between the pavilion and the playground. There is a new Constitution Park sign that was done by Tim Otterbach and will be installed in the coming weeks. They will be planting a tree in honor of Rick Cogswell, the original designer of the park, who passed away this winter. They are looking for donations to plant additional trees for shade. They are hosting a Party in the Park on June 24, 2023 from 10am-1pm, along with touch-a-truck, pickle ball and disc golf demonstrations, guided nature walks, food trucks, and a craft fair. She mentioned that none of this could be done without the time,

talent and money donated to the park. There have been 3,870 volunteer hours given to the work done at Constitution Park. There have been Monetary and in-kind donations of \$150,213 from 19 businesses and 70 people at no cost to the taxpayers. She is grateful for all the volunteers and thanked Justin Chafee for acknowledging them. She also mentioned that the work could not be done without Allison Hayford. She advised that everyone has been working very hard. M. Eldridge said that she was at Constitution Park last week and was amazed at all the improvements that have been made. She said it was nice to see the kids have a playground to play on and the ball teams were there. She thanked FCCP.

Meeting Minutes:

M. Eldridge made a motion to approve the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for 4/10/2023. Templeton seconded.

M. Eldridge made a motion to approve the Work Session Minutes for 4/10/2023. Templeton seconded.

Accounts Payable & Payroll Manifest:

The Payroll Check Voucher total was submitted for the week ending 4/23/2023 with a pay date of 4/25/23 in the amount of \$42,390.68. Accounts payable are \$107,027.04. Water accounts payable was \$2,432.51. Sewer accounts payable is \$454.81. The total was \$157,441.66. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Templeton seconded.

Review of Red Folder:

The Board received a Water & Sewer Warrant for \$180.38. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Templeton seconded.

The Board received a Water & Sewer Warrant for \$180.38. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Templeton seconded.

The Board received a Water & Sewer Warrant for \$109.88. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Templeton seconded.

The Board received an application for sewer service for 111 Route 16B. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Templeton seconded.

The Board received an application for water service for 111 Route 16B. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Templeton seconded.

The Board received an Excavation Tax Warrant for \$904.82. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Templeton seconded.

The Board received an Excavation Tax Warrant for \$10,021.12. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Templeton seconded.

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

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

The Board received a Current Use Application for 1155 Route 16. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Templeton seconded.

The Board received a Notice of Intent to Excavate for Map 124, Lot 025. The total acreage of the lot is 6.5 +181. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Templeton seconded.

The Board received a letter from Matt Sawyer Jr. asking them to appoint him as the voting representative for high-speed internet and to appoint Matt Trahan as the alternate for the new communication district. M. Eldridge made a motion to appoint Trehan. Sawyer Jr. said as a point of clarity that the letter is to appoint Sawyer Jr. and Trehan as the alternate. M. Eldridge said she thought we already did this. Sawyer Jr. advised that was for the planning committee. The warrant passed at the Town Meeting to create the Communication District. M. Eldridge made a motion to appoint Matt Sawyer Jr. Templeton seconded.

The Board received 2 Property Tax Veterans Exemption applications. They have been reviewed. Templeton made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded.

The Board received 3 Property Tax Elderly Exemption applications. They have been reviewed. Templeton made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded.

The Board received a Selectmen's Deed for Map 054, Lot 002, Sublot 023 for 25 Joshua Road. M. Eldridge explained that the Town took possession of an old camper from Scandia Estates. The Town deeded it back to Scandia, so the Town isn't liable for the lot rent. It has been reviewed; Templeton made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded.

The Board received the MS-232 for Appropriations made by the Town at the Town Meeting. It is in the town report and available for review for anyone that may like to see it. Templeton made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded.

The Board received a Notice of Decision from the Planning Board for case #23-01-LM. Lots 285 Newman Drew Road, Tax Map 016, Lot 008 and 295 Newman Drew Road, Tax Map 016, Lot 007 was granted a lot merger to merge these two lots into one lot of record under Tax Map 016, Lot 008. This has been reviewed and is on file in the Selectmen's Office.

The Board received a Notice of Decision from the Zoning Board for case #23-01-V. Kurt Whiting of 819 Route 16, Tax Map 279, Lot 002 was granted a Variance from Articles 34.2 (c) proposed use in the rural zone district to operate an auto repair shop and towing service with conditions. This has been reviewed and is on file in the Selectmen's Office.

The Board received a request for a Clerical Abatement for Map 122, Lot 010, Sub 010 for \$111.00 because the Robinsons were not on this site for the 2022 tax season. This was reviewed and approved.

The Board received a request for a Clerical Abatement for Map 029, Lot 001, Sub 106 for \$17.00 because the Costellos were not on this site for the 2022 tax season. This was reviewed and approved.

The Board received a Notice of Decision from the Planning Board for case #23-02-SPR. Michael Stevens of 1800 Route 16, Tax Map 038, Lot 020 was conditionally approved for a site plan review of a phased project to have food trucks and camper storage in phase 1 and phase 2 to construct a 60x40 foot garage for repair and sales. This is pending a driveway permit approval from the State of NH. This has been reviewed and is on file in the Selectmen's Office.

The Board received a Property Tax Veterans Exemption application. This has been reviewed. Templeton made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded.

Old Business:

T.J. Eldridge gave an update on Annie Nichols Road. He advised that the day after the last meeting, he and Neil Eldridge met with the engineering company, and they advised that the bank needs stabilization but that will need permitting and engineering to complete. They pulled guardrails back and supported behind them. They can leave cones there until the engineering company puts together a barricade or containment to keep the road open. It has been approved to remain open but it will be closed to through truck traffic because when the trucks drive through they rock into that trouble spot in the road. Neil cut out the spot in question and will put gravel in it to compact it well and pave it to keep everything level. They have one engineering company giving them a proposal for engineering and they will also get a few more. The good news is we can keep it open. T.J. and Neil visited the local truckers to advise there is no through truck traffic on that road. Discussion ensued.

Matt Sawyer Jr., Town Administrator, advised that true high-speed internet is hopefully coming to everyone in town. Consolidated has a new business line called Fidium, which is fiber optic and extremely high speed. They received grant money so they will be servicing our area. He advised that if people are interested, they can go to www.ossipee.org and there is a link to sign up and pre-order service. Discussion ensued.

New Business:

None Presented

Second Public Input:

Dallas Emery mentioned that he thought the Board already had a signed agreement with Fidium before the Broadband District was started. Sawyer Jr. advised that the Board has not signed anything yet but they penned a letter of support so they could receive grant money. Emery said that he thought there would be no monetary expense but questioned why the Carroll County Communication District started their own treasury with \$15,000 that was leftover from ARPA funds that was issued to the Carroll County Communication Committee. Sawyer Jr. had similar questions regarding if the entity can create debt or a tax burden and the bylaws approved by the Attorney General just before Town Meeting removed clauses and it is clear they can't do either. Emery said the ARPA funds are a tax burden and Sawyer Jr. advised that it was grant money they received. Discussion ensued.

Edwina Boose mentioned that she thinks this is great with the lack of broadband coverage in the town as some people have no way of communicating without it. She also said the ARPA funds were already our tax burden. Discussion ensued.

Adjournment:

Being no further input, M. Eldridge made a motion to adjourn. Templeton seconded.

Adjourned at 4:47 PM.

Martha B. Eldridge, Chairman

Susan J. Simpson (Absent)

R. Christopher Templeton

To be approved 05/08/2023