

**Selectmen's Meeting  
Monday, May 8, 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.

**Announcement:**

Chairman M. Eldridge read a statement regarding Selectmen Templeton. She advised that she has 7 signed affidavits regarding inappropriate conduct between April 14 to May 1. She advised that they are serious claims that cannot be ignored. Including with Ossipee Police Department regarding confidential ongoing investigation files regarding his nephew, Mike merrows girlfriend and threatening to terminate Police Personnel, Town operations interruptions, told and employee to go to Crystal Water Bottling Company and tell them that Ossipee was thinking of drilling wells in the Ossipee Mountains and when the company objected, they would try to pay the town to try to stop progress on the project and he proposed that he and the employee would personally take a cut from that payment. There were also alleged quid pro quo, employee termination threats, requests of acquiring law enforcement firearm and lights, confidential financial records requests. These are many possible violations of his Oath of Office. M. Eldridge made a motion to vote that C. Templeton violated his Oath. Simpson seconded the motion. M. Eldridge asked Templeton if he would resign. C. Templeton advised that he would not as this is hearsay and inuendo. M. Eldridge made a motion to petition the Superior Court to remove Templeton as an Ossipee Selectmen. Simpson seconded.

**Public Input:**

Mr. Babson discussed multiple complaints regarding his neighbors' dogs and chickens. He has made the same complaints before, and nothing is being done about it because he is told that it is a civil matter. The law states that free range chickens need to be enclosed. He also mentioned that a travel trailer is being used as a residence because of the new ordinance revision that allows it from May 1-Nov 1. He had concerns regarding no water or electricity as well as sewage disposal. He proposes to fire the Zoning Officer. He mentioned the new Police Chief, Donald Babbin and mentioned that he hopes they will be focusing on the speeding on Browns Ridge Road. Babson also discussed the Lord Scholarship. He received the report from UNH. Sawyer Jr. advised that UNH handles that scholarship. Babson believes that Ossipee residents should be getting more of that scholarship money. Discussion ensued.

Greg Howard asked T.J. Eldridge if there is access from the other side of the Covered Bridge. T.J. advised that they have received a quote for \$100,000 and there is a plan to get that completed but it may take a while as culverts around town need to be fixed first. Discussion ensued.

Pat Pustell, West Ossipee Fire Department/Library Trustee, mentioned that she respects the 2 Selectmen members and trusts them in the decision to remove Selectmen Templeton. She mentioned that there was a documented case where Templeton was asked to leave the library. She trusts the

leadership of the Board. Templeton thanked her for her comments but advised that the situation she is referring to at the library was over 5 years ago and he was not asked to leave. Pustell said that Templeton makes people feel uncomfortable. Discussion ensued.

Brian Keyes, Deputy Treasurer, mentioned that he is happy that he did not vote for Templeton. He said it is embarrassing and commented on how embarrassing it is that Templeton is acting this way. He called for Templeton to resign.

Chris Elliot discussed Clean-Up Day that happened Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup>. He said it was a positive day for the Town of Ossipee. There were 25-30 people involved. T.J. Eldridge thanked everyone who came out. Discussion ensued.

Brian Ames discussed that he has been watching the demeanor of Templeton and thinks it's very unprofessional. He hopes that Templeton reconsiders resigning. Templeton mentioned again that he was blindsided by this, and Ames responded that it seems that the town was blindsided by Templeton. Templeton said he did not want to serve with the people of this Board and said that if the people wanted him gone, then he would be gone. He also said this was typical Ossipee ambush politics. Ames wants to see a resignation and asked if he will resign. Templeton said that he didn't have anything to say about it.

Daymond Steer of the Conway Daily Sun asked if the other Board members told Templeton that this would be happening or did he receive a copy of the statement before the meeting. Sawyer Jr. advised that the letter would be available after the meeting concluded. Steer asked if Templeton would be given an opportunity to go point by point to rebut the allegations. Sawyer Jr. advised yes and mentioned that the summary was drafted by the Town Attorney. Templeton asked Steer if he was satisfied with that answer. Steer mentioned that it sounds like Templeton is just getting this information now. Sawyer Jr. advised that was correct. Discussion ensued.

Edwina Boose was wondering if Templeton was going to resign or if this would be going through the court. She also asked what happens if Templeton does not resign. She mentioned that she would like to see him resign. Boose asked about the removal process. Sawyer Jr. advised that if this goes to court, we will still have 3 Selectmen until a decision is decided. Discussion ensued.

Greg Howard expressed his disappointment and mentioned that Templeton was condescending and demeaning the process. Templeton advised that he speaks that way, and he is trying to be sensible in a difficult and surprising situation. Templeton mentioned that he is upset.

There was an accusation that Templeton was trying to bribe Crystal Geyser, the water bottling company. He denied this accusation. He said he was trying to get the town to consider a possible new water source. Templeton discussed Crystal Geyser selling the town equipment so water can be pumped to the mountains and how he feels that there is something wrong with that. Discussion ensued.

Brian Ames asked what Templeton's goals were. Templeton advised that he wanted to find out if there was water in the mountains, that he would like a new police building and a beach. Discussion ensued.

Dallas Emery asked Templeton if he was resigning or not because he can't make heads or tails of what he is saying. Emery asked Templeton to make it clear. Templeton advised that he cannot work with these people. Sawyer Jr. advised that this would go to court if he doesn't resign. Discussion ensued.

Edwina Boose asked what the procedure would be if he decided to resign. Templeton advised that the Board would appoint someone. M. Eldridge also mentioned that the Board would appoint someone.

Bob Freeman, former Selectman, mentioned that he can't believe it. He told Templeton to just resign. Templeton told Freeman that he doesn't know what happened. Discussion ensued.

Andrea Picard, Finance Director, asked Templeton if he forgets what he says to people. She told him that he makes her feel very uncomfortable and that he makes woman in general feel uncomfortable. She mentioned that no one told her to write anything and the way he treats people is wrong and he has created a hostile work environment.

Greg Howard mentioned that there is a process and if he decided to go to the supreme court he would have a chance to defend himself. Discussion ensued.

Bob Pustell mentioned that he is a neutral party but said a sworn affidavit is serious. He also mentioned that he is taken aback by Templeton's cavalier attitude. Discussion ensued.

#### **Meeting Minutes:**

M. Eldridge made a motion to approve the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for 4/24/2023. Templeton seconded. Simpson abstained.

M. Eldridge made a motion to approve the Work Session Minutes for 4/24/2023. Templeton seconded. Simpson abstained.

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

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

The Payroll Check Voucher total was submitted for the week ending 5/06/2023 with a pay date of 5/09/23 in the amount of \$43,843.06. The General Fund is \$148,258.68. Water accounts payable was \$1,539.63. Sewer accounts payable is \$1,521.20. The Recreation Revolving Fund is \$744.00. The total was \$206,206.57. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Templeton departed the meeting after the minutes were approved from the previous meeting.

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

The Board received a Tax Levy Warrant for \$8,218,677.00. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded.

The Board received a Water & Sewer Warrant for \$10,996.36. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded.

The Board received a Sewer Warrant for \$8,352.00. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded.

The Board received a Water & Sewer Warrant for \$3,080.00. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded.

The Board received the Recycling Center Daily Cash Log for March. The total collected was \$6,571.00. This is on file in the Selectmen's Office.

The Board received the Recycling Center Daily Cash Log for April. The total collected was \$13,088.00. This is on file in the Selectmen's Office.

The Board received a Water & Sewer Warrant for \$20,926.31. Simpson made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded.

The Board received a Clerical Abatement for Map 023, Lot 007, Sub N09 for \$153.40 for 2021 and \$154.09 for 2022. Simpson made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded.

The Board received an Administrative Abatement for Map 122, Lot 007 for \$154.42. Simpson made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded.

The Board received an Administrative Abatement for Map 038, Lot 010 for \$76.65. Simpson made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded.

The Board received an Abatement for Map 133, Lot 022 for \$652.85. Simpson made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded.

**Old Business:**

None Presented

**New Business:**

None Presented

**Second Public Input:**

Steer mentioned that he was hoping to meet the new Chief of Police. M. Eldridge said he was busy, but he was available a few moments later. Sawyer Jr. introduced Chief Babbins. The Chief mentioned that he is glad the people spoke up today. He said that cops don't like change, but Ossipee will be getting some changes. He likes community involvement and support. He told the public that if they see something, say something. Steer asked what changes will be made. Chief said more community involvement and more police officers. Discussion ensued. Dallas Emery welcomed the new Chief.

Emery asked if the Board will have meetings every week. M. Eldridge said they will take it under advisement.

The next meeting will be held on May 27, 2023.

**Adjournment:**

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

Adjourned at 5:26 PM.

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Martha B. Eldridge, Chairman

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Susan J. Simpson

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R. Christopher Templeton

To be approved 05/22/2023