

**Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, May 22, 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:

Daymond Steer, Conway Daily Sun, asked about the vacant Selectmen's position. Matt Sawyer Jr. advised that they will be having a public hearing on June 19th and mentioned that anyone with nominations or ideas should attend. Steer asked if that public hearing is a way to solicit candidates and Sawyer Jr. said the Board will digest the results from the hearing and vote on a candidate. The candidate will only be appointed until March 2024. Dallas Emery advised that he spoke with many people who want to see a special election happen. M. Eldridge advised that the Board will discuss that. Discussion ensued. Edwina Boose asked that if people want to be considered, should they send a letter. M. Eldridge advised yes and that will give the Board input. Boose asked by what date should those letters be in. She also mentioned that if the Town held a special election, it would cost the Town money. Steer asked about the Rooms and Meals Taxation and a proposed new bill that would charge a small fee. M. Eldridge advised that the Board would discuss it, but she does not see that happening.

Corey Lane of Porter Maine, Green Mountain Conservation Group member, and professional environmental consultant, asked the Board to reconsider their stance on the former Boyle Market gas station aquifer concerns in Effingham. M. Eldridge advised that they are not ready to change the previous decision. Lane advised that all the surrounding Towns have presented memos of concern except Ossipee. She also mentioned that the former Selectmen Templeton was in favor of aquifer protection. She also mentioned that some of Ossipee's taxpayers are at risk and wonders why the Board won't express concern. M. Eldridge advised that they would consider reviewing it. Discussion ensued.

Chris Elliot mentioned that the Ossipee Selectmen are the only municipality that is not concerned about the gas station in Effingham, and he feels that it does not look good. He said it makes it seem like we are not concerned about the lake, which is a great economic resource. Discussion ensued.

Rich Faye mentioned that it is about being part of the conversation and accepting the DRI and not if they are against the gas station or not. He mentioned Mr. Bartowitz, who lost his wife and feels that he is not being looked after by the Town. Discussion ensued.

Joseph Deighan asked if the people who are expressing concerns over the gas station are a part of a group. Corey Laine is a Porter Maine resident and Chris Elliot advised that he was speaking for himself, but he supports organizations that express concerns. Deighan mentioned that older tanks could be an issue but the tanks now are monitored with newer technology. Discussion ensued.

Dallas Emery mentioned that this issue has been discussed already. He discussed the regional impact and mentioned that it is all up to date. Discussion ensued.

Edwina Boose asked if they knew what DRI is and discussed that Jon Smith voted that he was in favor of the gas station without further discussion. She asked if Matt could look up the RSA's and explain it to the board so they can understand it better. It was advised that it is the Development Regional Impact review. Lane discussed new service stations versus old service stations. Emery discussed advanced fuel distribution system engineering and proposed DRI regarding the 350 houses right behind the gas station. Rick Faye said that every other town accepted the DRI status, and he feels that there is no concern for the Ossipee residents. He mentioned Mr. Bartowitz again and said that Ossipee is basically telling him he is on his own. Deighan said that the whole Town of Ossipee sits on the aquifer and we can't just shut down businesses as we have to live here too. The Town voted in the Groundwater Protection Ordinance and mentioned that it could be anything except for a laundry mat, gas station, golf course. The ordinance only permits a handful of businesses. She also mentioned that science has changed. Emery said that science has also changed technology. Sawyer Jr. mentioned that RSA 36:56 specifies the land use board has jurisdiction and he doesn't believe the Select Board has the authority to change anything and it warrants further research. Faye mentioned that there are 112 towns that have created groundwater protection ordinances. Discussion ensued.

Meeting Minutes:

M. Eldridge made a motion to approve the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for 5/08/2023. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

M. Eldridge made a motion to approve the Work Session Minutes for 5/08/2023. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Accounts Payable & Payroll Manifest:

The Payroll Check Voucher total was submitted for the week ending 5/20/2023 with a pay date of 5/23/23 in the amount of \$45,454.47. The General Fund is \$10,174.76. The total was \$55,629.23. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Review of Red Folder:

The Board received a raffle permit application from White Horse Addiction Center for June 19, 2023. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Yield Tax Levy of \$261.36 for Map 063, Lot 011. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Notice of Decision from the Planning Board for Case #23-03-SPRA. Michelle Libby c/o Junkyard Dogs and Owner, Igor Kondrakhin of 2300 Rote 16 is granted a Site Plan Review for a change in use from an office building to a take-out hot dog business. This is on file in the Selectmen's Office.

The Board received a Notice of Decision from the Planning Board for Case #23-04-SPRA. All Things Diesel owners, Kenneth and Alyssa Noyes of 7 Newman Drew Road, are granted a Site Plan Review to operate a repair shop and a change of use by renting part of the building to R&R Auto and another bay to Critters Towing. This is on file in the Selectmen's Office.

The Board received a Notice of Decision from the Zoning Board for Case #23-02-VA. Brandon Green & Jessica Badger of 50 Deer Cove Road is granted a Variance from the front setback of 40ft. This is on file in the Selectmen's Office.

The Board received an Application for Voluntary Change of Address from 819 Route 16 to 821 Browns Ridge Road. Simpson made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a letter from the Library Trustees stating that they were in need of an alternate member to fill in for members when they are absent. The Library Trustees recommend that the Board of Selectmen appoint Theresa Sousoures of Channel Road as she has expressed willingness to serve on the Library Board of Trustees. Simpson made a motion to appoint Theresa Sousoures for a 1-year term. M. Eldridge seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Clerical Abatement for Map 065, Lot 012, 25 Captain Lovewell Lane, for \$456.00 as this property was sold prior to Tax Bills being sent out. Simpson made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Clerical Abatement for Map 029, Lot 001, Sub lot 110 for \$122.43 as this property was sold prior to Tax Bills being sent out. Simpson made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Supplemental Warrant Map 065, Lot 012, 25 Captain Lovewell Lane, for \$456.00 as this property was sold prior to Tax Bills being sent out. Simpson made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Old Business:

None Presented

New Business:

T.J. Eldridge said that the Annual Fishing Derby at Mill Pond was a great success. Neil Eldridge did a lot of the work. He and Neil Eldridge received a lot of donations. The Police Chief and some of the Officers were there. The kids really enjoyed seeing the canine officer, "Atlas". Fish & Game was also there. The raffle was a big hit with \$1300 going back into the event for next year. T-shirts are still available for sale. He thanked Napa Auto for sponsoring the fishing boards and paying for the fish. He also thanked Pine River Sand and Gravel, who paid for the T-Shirts and all the prizes for the kids, as well as donations from Melvin Village Marina and Wards Boat Shop. He also thanked Edwina and Bob Boose, who made the very first donation for this year's derby. He mentioned that they closed both roads, which was the best thing they did because it made it much safer. He advised that Selectmen M. Eldridge was at the derby and she thanked T.J. and Neil for all their hard work. Dallas Emery advised that he spoke with many people, and they were very happy that the roads were closed, and he mentioned that it was a good time.

Matt Sawyer Jr. mentioned that there is still no approval from the Department of Revenue Administration regarding the abatements for the Churches in town. They are still waiting to get the 2023 abatements approved. He advised that it looks like the process will take time.

Second Public Input:

Chris Elliot asked about the Pequawket development and who is doing the work over there. He mentioned that the trees are coming down close to the road and there are no markers out to let people know that they are doing work there. T.J. asked who was doing the work. Elliot said that he doesn't know. T.J. said they should have a sign package out. Elliot said they aren't working in the road but close to the road. T.J. advised that he would look into it. Sawyer Jr. advised that they could do work on Sundays.

Dallas Emery asked when the next BTLA meeting would be. Sawyer Jr. advised that there is nothing scheduled yet but they have been in contact with the Assessor in writing so they may be satisfied right now. Discussion ensued.

Lynne Parker mentioned that on June 1, 2023, there will be an Open House at the Library for Maria Moulton who is retiring. She welcomed people to come and give her well wishes. Sawyer Jr. advised that there is a flyer posted on the town website as well.

There will be no meeting next week.

The next meeting will be held on June 5, 2023.

Adjournment:

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

Adjourned at 4:56 PM.

Martha B. Eldridge, Chairman

Susan J. Simpson

R. Christopher Templeton (Resigned)

To be approved 06/05/2023