

Selectmen's Work Session and Meeting Monday, May 17, 2022

The following meeting was held in the upstairs conference room at Town Hall. Present were Selectmen Martha Eldridge, Susan Simpson, and Jonathan Smith. Matt Sawyer Jr., Town Administrator was also present, and recorded the minutes. Public Works Director TJ Eldridge was present.

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM

Discussion:

Smith made a motion to enter two nonpublic sessions; the first under RSA 91-A:3, II(a) for personnel matters, and the second under RSA 91-A:3, II(c). Eldridge seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Smith – YES

Eldridge – YES

Simpson – YES

At 3:30 PM Smith made a motion to reenter the public meeting. Simpson seconded and the vote passed 3-0. Smith made a motion to seal nonpublic sessions 1 and 2. Simpson seconded, and the vote passed 3-0.

There was a review of a Water fee abatement for \$4,000 for 12 Pine River Rd. where a leak had caused an enormous amount of water usage to be recorded. The group agreed that there is nothing in the Water system's bylaws to abate that cost. Additionally, Chairman Smith offered the comparison that if a homeowner on a private well had a water leak and their pump burned out or other damage was caused, the cost doesn't get spread to the other taxpayers. Smith motioned to deny the abatement. Eldridge seconded and the vote passed 3-0 to deny. TJ Eldridge was instructed to inform the requester, but also recommend they contact their homeowner's insurance who may cover it.

There was a brief discussion regarding water/sewer billing. Sawyer said he would look into it to ensure Kellie has the information she needs and will find software solutions if necessary, regarding ownership changes and billing.

A handful of envelopes and letters were removed from the folder and Sawyer advised that they are "Notices of Impending Tax Deeding" from the TC office. The Town received copies because these properties have welfare liens on them. Sawyer said he would hold the notices and make sure we add those liens to the amount owed to Town if any of these properties do end up being tax deeded.

TJ Eldridge updated the Selectmen on the condition of the Chickville Church/Meeting House stating the \$26,000 in the capital reserve fund likely wouldn't even cover the new roof needed and paint/exterior issues causing it to not be weathertight. There was general consensus that the roof and weatherproofing of the exterior needs to be remedied before even considering upgrades. TJ Eldridge said he would gather quotes for all of the remedies and upgrades, however, so that the group can decide on a long-term plan including potential warrant article amounts. Sawyer said he would look into LCHIP and comparable grant sources.

Sawyer updated the Board on his intention to purchase an 8-camera security system for Town Hall. The Selectmen gave him the “go-ahead” and TJ Eldridge confirmed he will have public works employees install it with ethernet cable already on-hand.

At 3:51 PM Smith motioned to recess until 4:15 in the gym. Eldridge seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

At 4:15 PM in the Gym, Chairman Smith called the meeting back to order. All three Selectmen, Sawyer and TJ Eldridge were still present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Eldridge read the payroll totals as \$35,482.20. She reported the total general fund payments of \$1,231,948.18 including the school and precinct payments. Water/Sewer total is \$2,524.86.

Eldridge made a motion to approve the Work Session Minutes from 5/9/22. Simpson seconded and the vote passed 3-0. Eldridge made a motion to approve the regular Selectmen’s Meeting minutes from 5/9/22. Simpson seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Eldridge motioned to approve the 2022 Tax Warrant of \$8,001,648. Simpson seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Eldridge read the Recycling Center daily log for March as \$10,765 and April as \$16,344.

Simpson motioned to approve a Yield Tax Levy Warrant of \$914.62 for map 266 lot 7. Smith seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Simpson motioned to approve a \$537.57 Yield Tax Levy Warrant for Map 130 Lot 011. Smith seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Simpson motioned to approve a \$28.24 for Map 064 Lot 005. Smith seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Simpson read a Memo from the Town Administrator to the Trustee of Trust Funds to accept a \$60,000 transfer from the Sewer Fund Balance to the Sewer Capital Reserve account. Simpson motioned to approve the memo. Smith seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Simpson motioned to approve a \$180.76 Water and Sewer Warrant. Smith seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Smith clarified the school payment amount was \$1,055,429.

Smith motioned to approve to letters Sawyer had drafted as Request for Information to the internet companies that serve the area. Sawyer explained that there is grant money available to expand coverage, but that you need to know which areas are unserved and that due to a recent RSA change, he understands that if the providers don’t provide the required information that the whole town may be considered unserved/underserved for grant purposes.

Smith made a correction from the prior week map 75 lot 6. The application was note late, but rather the applicant did not own the property as of April 1st, so it had to be declined for that reason.

Smith read a Notice of Decision from the Planning Board for case 21-06STR, 22 Moultonville Road, Map 93 Lot 77. They were granted a final site plan review with all conditions being met.

Smith read a Notice of Decision from the Zoning Board for Map 053 Lot 12 for case 22-035V. They were granted a Variance for an access driveway which were within the setbacks.

Smith read a letter to the Trustee of Trust Funds to withdraw \$58,538 from the Sewer Capital Reserve fund to reimburse the general fund for the purchase of a Truck for the Sewer Department for that amount. Smith made a motion to approve it. Simpson seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Smith read a letter from Angela Eldridge of the Trustees of Trust Funds regarding the Lyford Merrow Scholarship, asking if the Board would like to present the award. Eldridge offered to. The date and location is June 2, 6:00 PM at Kingswood.

Smith asked if there was any old business. There was none.

Smith asked if there was any new business. There was none.

Smith announced the upcoming Youth Fishing Derby which will be on May 29th at 8:00 AM at the Mill Pond but people are encouraged to arrive early. TJ Eldridge said he may close the road depending on the turnout.

Smith opened the meeting to public input. Dallas Emery asked about the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Sawyer said it is available in the Selectmen's Office, but that he could email it to Dallas. Emery said "yes, please email it." Emery expressed concerns with FEMA going back to Hurricane Katrina. Some discussion ensued.

Smith motioned to adjourn the meeting. Eldridge seconded and the vote passed 3-0, concluding the meeting at 4:41 PM.

Jonathan H. Smith, Chairman

Susan J. Simpson, Selectman

Martha B. Eldridge, Selectman