

## Selectmen's Work Session, Meeting and Public Hearing Minutes Monday, June 6, 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 2:30 PM

### **Discussion:**

Recreation Director Justin Chaffee joined the meeting. There was a discussion regarding an inquiry from a person who would like to hold a craft/vendor fair at Constitution Park. She would be charging for the vendor space, and the Town doesn't typically allow for-profit entities to profit off of the use of Town facilities/properties, so there was some general concern. Sawyer asked about the possibility of adopting/creating it as a Recreation Department event, so that the Town would collect the fees but hire the interested party as a consultant. Chaffee said he would go back to the person interested and have more discussion, and then he departed the meeting.

At 2:37 PM Smith made a motion to enter two nonpublic sessions, both under RSA 91-A:3, II(c). Eldridge seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Smith – YES

Eldridge – YES

Simpson – YES

At 3:18 PM Smith made a motion to reenter the public meeting. Eldridge 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.

The Board reviewed documents in the red folder. Smith motioned to approve and sign the Selectmen's Deed for map 272, lot 015 known as 46 Stoneview Rd. Eldridge seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Smith motioned to approve and sign the Health Officer Nomination form which had been prepared with Mike Beaulieu as nominee for the Deputy Health Officer position, to be confirmed by the state. Eldridge seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Smith motioned to approve the Town of Ossipee Drug and Alcohol policy that Sawyer had drafted. Eldridge seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Sawyer discussed an upcoming LRPC Annual Meeting at which the Town would be receiving an award for its longstanding service as the location for Household Hazardous Waste Day. The Board asked TJ Eldridge and Sawyer to represent the Town at the event.

Sawyer informed the Board he had been approached about becoming a Board Member on the Board of Directors for the New Hampshire Interlocal Trust, a risk pool for NH municipalities' health insurance. Sawyer said there is one meeting per quarter, so it would mean four days per year out of office while attending meetings in Concord. Sawyer said he was told he would learn a lot about municipal risk management and insurance pricing which would be of value to the Town. All three Selectmen agreed it was a good investment of time and said to do it.

At 3:28 PM Smith motioned to recess the meeting until 4:15 PM. Eldridge seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

At 4:15 PM, Smith called the meeting back to order in the Town Hall Gym. All were still present, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Smith opened the meeting for public input, and State Representative Glenn Cordelli introduced himself, and explained that due to the redistricting his candidacy for reelection now includes Ossipee as one of his towns. Cordelli spoke briefly about his interests and accomplishments.

David Babson asked if the Town has an Animal Control Officer. Sawyer explained that the Town has a part time ACO who comes in as needed. Mr. Babson said he has left a message requesting assistance from the ACO last week. Chief Castaldo invited Mr. Babson to speak privately so he could help, and the two left the gym into the hallway.

Dallas Emery asked if the Town officials found Chapter 6 in the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Sawyer said "yes, it's right in there" pointing to the hard copy in front of him. Emery asked if FEMA is going to be able to force people to leave their homes etc. Sawyer said he was not aware of anything related to that.

Robert Bowie expressed concern about the direction of the country in regard to the World Health Organization gaining global control. He said the Town should also return the FEMA money, which was further clarified to mean the ARPA money.

A man identifying himself as Cohen spoke and asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of D-Day, which was observed. Cohen then spoke at length regarding his concern for our country, his experience in the Air Force and expressed grave concern regarding FEMA and also the Bar Association.

Joseph Culligan of Jewel Hill asked if there is federal gun control measures put into place, will the OPD be coming to his door to get his guns. Smith responded that the NH House of Reps and NH State Senate recently passed a bill to prevent that from happening.

Moving onto department head reports, the first to speak was Town Clerk/Tax Collector Kellie Skehan. Skehan reported receiving \$478,507.34 in taxes and water/sewer payments. First half 2022 tax bills recently went out and total tax balance due to the Town is \$8,272,870.06 including past years. 2019 taxes outstanding need to be paid by 4:30 PM on June 20<sup>th</sup> to avoid tax deeding. On the Town Clerk side, we received \$151,354.31 for registrations and vital records in May. Candidates for State Rep can sign up for the election in the Town Clerk's office by 5:00 PM Friday. For County offices, you can register with the County.

Public Works Director TJ Eldridge gave the Recreation Department monthly report on behalf of Justin:

Oil Painting, Adult Open Gym, and Teen Gym finished up until the Fall.

- Softball has been going well. We had the concession stand open for Saturday home games.

Softball has their end of season tournament Wednesday-Sunday this week!

- Summer camp schedule and staff are all set. Every week has filled up for summer already with a waiting list. We hope to be able to add participants from the waiting list as we get closer to the start.
- Youth Spring Soccer is going well. We have over 50 participants in the program which is great considering Fall is the normal soccer season.
- Granite State Track & Field is going well. This is the first time this program has been run in Ossipee in 4 years. Numbers are low, but I anticipate numbers growing next year.
- We had a Paint Night Class on May 6<sup>th</sup> that was full.
- May's Parents Night Out Program was full. This program will resume in September.
- The Fishing Derby was a HUGE success. TJ & Neil did a great job putting it together!
- This past Sunday, I was able to help at the Choose Love Program run by the After School Program. There was a good turnout and many other community organizations in attendance!
- Paint night Friday May 6th had 20 participants.
- Disc Golf Course is up and running. I see people using the course almost anytime I am over at the park in the afternoons.

TJ thanked all the businesses that donated to the fishing derby including the MacIver family which donated \$2,000 in prizes in memory of Malcolm MacIver. TJ also recognized the Keyes, MacDonald and Eldridge families for all their help at the event, as well as the PD and Highway Department.

TJ said the Transfer Station has been extremely busy and handling a lot more material than we used to. The pavement has been well received. The signage is a work-in-progress.

For Government Buildings, Chris has been very busy mowing, trimming and general spring cleanups.

For Highway Department, TJ said that they have been busy grading and treating the roads, and their goal is to maintain every single Town road ASAP. He has contacted the new management at Terrace in the Pines Campground, and we still have a right of way to maintain the dam. Neil Eldridge was recognized for his work on the dams and also helping with the fishing derby. There is a large increase in driveway permits. 70% of the pavement has been completed and the line striping will be starting soon.

Bob Bowie asked about the fire hydrant that is out of service. TJ said it needs to be moved because it freezes and breaks every winter, and assumes there must be a spring or water source under it. Dallas Emery said in his opinion that we don't need to move it near Skehan's Lumber since there is already one there. TJ explained that he thinks it may be warranted given the businesses and amount of lumber.

Chief Castaldo of OPD said in May there were 1504 calls for service and about 15 arrests. The new PD cruiser is in service and there is a candidate in the hiring process for the Police Department, which would bring the staffing up to full until Kessler retires. Chief said that he talked to Mr. Babson and will take care of the ACO situation.

Sawyer then gave the Selectmen's Office Report:

- Sold the 46 Stoneview Rd. property
- Condemned Property on Dorrs Corner Rd.
- Met with Engineers and Project Manager at WCB – going well
- Have not used the TAN due to fiscal conservancy and cash management skills of the Finance Director
- Sent out Requests for Information from high-speed internet companies, as the next step toward grant monies to bring high speed internet to all over town
- Working with the new Building Inspector to get up to speed. He is doing a great job
- Working with zoning officer and doing legal research regarding zoning ordinance revision committee
- Other legal research and drafting policy for the Towns Drug and Alcohol policy

Selectman Eldridge read the financials:

Payroll: \$31,284.23

General Fund Accounts Payable: \$147,683.96

Water and Sewer Combined Accounts Payable: \$4,582.32

Recreation Revolving Fund Accounts Payable: \$2,650.0

Eldridge made a motion to approve the May 30, 2022 Selectmen's Meeting and Work Session Minutes. Simpson seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Selectman Simpson motioned to approve a timber yield tax warrant for \$0 for Map 240 Lot 005. Smith seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Simpson motioned to approve several requests for clerical abatements recommended by the Assessing Clerk:

Map 93 Lot 26 for \$933

Map 92 Lot 52 for \$4,954

Map 104 Lot 14002 Sub T1 for \$14

Map 104 Lot 014001 Sub 26 for \$41.70

Map 29 Lot 1 Sub 193 for \$124

Map 104 Lot 014003 Sub 01A for \$66

Map 029 Lot 1 Sub 624 for \$207

Map 029 Lot 1 Sub 308 for \$104

Map 130 Lot 12 Sub 104 for \$108

Map 255 Lot 6 for \$522.04

Smith seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Chairman Smith motion to approve a Water/Sewer Warrant \$36,074.43. Simpson seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Smith presented the BTLA's most recent order from the Masonic Lodge exemption case, and quickly outlined the four actions being required:

- an audit of all properties receiving a tax exemption for charitable, religious or education reason
- the Town must adopt formal process and procedures regarding the handling and approval process for tax exemption applications
- the Town must collect 2019, 2020 and 2021 taxes for the property in question
- beginning 7/1/2022 the Town must submit monthly reports to the BTLA the progress of regarding the first three action items

Smith motioned to approve the related warrants for Map 47 Lot 1, address of 535 Route 25 East for the back taxes ordered by the BTLA. Smith motioned to approve the first in the amount of \$4,842.49. Simpson seconded and the vote passed 3-0. Smith motioned to approve the second in the amount of \$4,251.74. Simpson seconded and the vote passed 3-0. Smith motioned to approve the third warrant in the amount of \$4,307.16. Simpson seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Also regarding the BTLA order, Smith presented an Institutionally Exempt Property Policy and Procedures for the Assessing Department relative to RSA 72:23, 72:23-1, and 72:23-c.

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

Smith noticed Paul Eldridge in the audience and assured him he has been working on Paul's zoning complaint and has sent a certified letter to the owners of 8 Mill Hill Rd, and that he had left Paul a voicemail. Once Smith receives the return receipt, the property owner will have limited time to remedy the situation with the fire ruined building or face fines.

Smith opened the meeting to the second public input. Dallas Emery asked for clarification if the BTLA is a court, and also what happened to the complaint about Agape Ministries. Smith replied that the BTLA is a court. Sawyer explained that the complaint addressing Agape was incorrect; they haven't been receiving a tax exemption in recent history.

Smith addressed Chris Elliot in the audience and announced that he has been in touch with Shelly Winters of NH DOT. DOT has not sent out the RFP and doesn't have the Rail Trail Project on their radar. Smith recommended that the FORT group reach out to NH DOT directly.

The man who identified as Cohen spoke again and asked for the Judge's name on the court order. Smith replied that it was signed by Anne M. Stelmach, Clerk of Court, per order of the Board. Cohen asked if there was any association between the Board (of Tax and Land Appeals.) Smith said he did not know. Cohen recommended that the Town "stay the order" pending further investigation. Smith replied that he would take it under advisement.

Smith asked if there was more public input. There was none. Smith made a motion to adjourn. Eldridge seconded and the vote passed 3-0, concluding the public meeting at 5:00 PM.

Smith called the Public Hearing to order at 5:01 PM. Smith announced that the purpose of the public hearing is to streamline the fees for tires at the Transfer Station. He said the Town is proposing to change the fees to \$5 for tires with an outer diameter of up to 40" and \$20 for tires with an outer diameter over 40".

A brief discussion ensued. Chris Elliot asked if other fees are being discussed at the Public Hearing or if they have been evaluated. Sawyer and Smith responded that the overall fee schedule was revamped in 2020 after a significant amount of research done by TJ Eldridge. Elliot asked if the fees covered the cost of running the Transfer Station, and Smith responded that they don't and that would be basically impossible. TJ reminded everyone that is a balancing act because if you charge too much, people dump on the side of roads and in the woods. Elliot praised the change of hours at the Transfer Station that was implemented over the winter.

Cohen praised the proper disposal of waste and offered to rally a group of volunteers if there are areas of Town that need to be cleaned up. There was a short discussion about incinerators and landfills.

Smith closed public input and motioned to approve the fees for tires as presented:  
\$5 for tires with outer diameter up to 40"  
\$20 for tires with outer diameter over 40"

Simpson seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Smith motioned to adjourn. Simpson seconded and the vote passed 3-0. The hearing concluded around 5:15 PM.

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Jonathan H. Smith, Chairman

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Susan J. Simpson, Selectman

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Martha B. Eldridge, Selectman