

Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, January 29, 2018

These minutes were recorded by Ellen White, Town Administrator. The meeting was held in the Bub Avery Memorial Gymnasium at Town Hall.

Call to Order:

Chairman Morgan called the meeting to order at 4:15 PM.

Morgan opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance by Roll Call:

Present were Selectmen Richard Morgan and Sandra Martin. Selectman Robert Freeman was absent due to a family emergency.

Public Input:

Ed Comeau, State Representative, reported on the status of HB1452. He will be pulling it off the consent calendar due to it inexpedient to legislate status. The road block being the local area agreements that are in place, some of which have not been reviewed since 1963 or prior. Discussion took place on a floor amendment being made to change the bill to read that it will go to a study committee. Morgan applauded Comeau's efforts which are very worthwhile to a small town.

Comeau stated that the other Bill he put in regarding the audit of Health and Human Services has been heard but has not been voted on by committee yet.

Meeting Minutes:

Morgan made a motion to accept the minutes from the Selectmen's Meeting held on 1/22/2018. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Morgan made a motion to accept the minutes from the Selectmen's Work Session held on 1/22/2018. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Accounts Payable & Payroll Manifests:

The Payroll Voucher was submitted for the week ending 1/27/2018 in the amount of \$45,934.88. The Accounts Payable Voucher was submitted for the week ending 1/20/2018 in the amount of \$338,766.62 including payments made to the School District totaling \$313,005.00. The Water & Sewer Accounts Payable Voucher submitted for the week ending 1/20/2018 was in the amount of \$7,602.19. Morgan made a motion to approve and sign the check vouchers. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken. Morgan stated that the Board reviews each invoice before it is approved in the weekly manifest totals.

Review of Red Folder:

Form 941: Employer's Quarterly Federal Tax Return for the quarter ending 12/31/2017 was presented for signatures. The deposits made for the quarter totaled \$134,299.70. Morgan made a motion to sign the form. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Contract for Use of Facilities was received from Angel Knight requesting use of the gym for a dance on 2/16/2018. The schedule has been verified by Craig Brady, Recreation Director, and applicable deposit has been received. Morgan made a motion to approve the contract. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Contract for Use of Facilities was received from the Ossipee Main Street Program requesting use of the gym for a Penny Sale on 3/3/2018 and 3/4/2018 with setup on 3/2/2018. The schedule has been verified by Craig Brady, Recreation Director, and applicable deposit has been received. Morgan made a motion to approve the contract. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a memo from Kellie Skehan, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, requesting two Warrant Articles be placed on the Town Warrant: the first, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of nine thousand nine hundred ninety-five dollars (\$9,995.00) for the purpose of restoring 3 books entitled Ossipee 1887-1929 Town Minutes. The sum to be paid for by a grant from the Conservation License Plate Grant Program and no amount to be raised by taxation., and the second, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) for the purpose of purchasing a Vault Shelving System with Carriages & Tracks for improvements to our current vault.

An Application for Veteran's Credit was presented for review. The Assessor has determined that the applicant has met all requirements for the Veteran's Credit and Disabled Veteran's Credit. Morgan made a motion to approve the application. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Selectmen's Deed conveying a property that was repurchased by its former owner was presented for signatures. Morgan made a motion to sign the deed. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Contract for Use of Facilities was received from Jackie Brown requesting use of the gym for a birthday party on 2/4/2018. The schedule has been verified by Craig Brady, Recreation Director, and applicable deposit has been received. Morgan made a motion to approve the contract. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Contract for Use of Facilities was received from the Ossipee Old Home Week Committee requesting use of the gym for a Penny Sale on 3/17/2018 with setup on 3/16/2018. The schedule has been verified by Craig Brady, Recreation Director, and applicable deposit has been received. Morgan made a motion to approve the contract. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Highway Department Work Log was received for the week ending 1/27/2018.

The Board received a letter from the NH DRED with the results from the timber sold from the Little Pine River State Forest. The timber tax is payable by the purchaser of the timber.

The Town Contract for Animal Shelter Service with the Lakes Region Humane Society was presented for signatures. Morgan made a motion to sign the contract. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Reports from the Dog Officer were received for the month of January.

The Board received an email from Victoria Chase, NH Bureau of Highway Design Project Manager, reviewing the status of three major projects along Route 16. The project to reconstruct the intersection of Route 16 and Route 41 has been delayed due to a potential redesign. The Bridge Replacement Project is well underway and the reconstruction of Route 16 to Green Mountain Furniture is in the queue for construction in 2019. Morgan suggested White reach out to Mark McConkey regarding the canoe & boat access on the Bearcamp River.

The Consent Calendar Agenda was received from the meeting of the Governor and Executive Council held on 1/24/2018.

The Board received two letters of thanks written to Officers Valley and Hatch for two separate incidents they assisted with. Morgan requested a letter of commendation to each officer be drafted for signatures.

A Petition Warrant Article was received requesting that Keno games be allowed in the Town. Morgan requested the petition be forwarded to the Town Clerk to verify there are the required amount of registered voter signatures.

Morgan discussed the property tax exemption that is available to commercial and industrial properties for those with new construction or renovations that will allow up to a 50% assessment reduction for up to 10 years. Morgan commented that this exemption is attractive to promote new business and it would be a disadvantage if Ossipee did not take advantage of it but surrounding communities do. He presented the suggestion of offering the 50% reduction for a period of 5 years. Ash Fischbein, Economic Development Council (EDC) Chairman, stated the EDC was going to ask if the Selectmen would be willing to add this to the Warrant this year. He stated that Coos County has benefited from his exemption for several years and it gives a competitive advantage. Morgan discussed how a similar process was enacted for Ames Department Store when it first came into the area. Morgan also discussed the three Economic Revitalization Zones that are available in Town to help businesses with the Business Enterprise Tax. Morgan stated that they will wait for a letter of recommendation from the EDC before they proceed.

Water & Sewer Red Folder:

A Payroll Reimbursement Request for the week ending 1/27/2018 in the amount of \$2,573.69 was presented for signatures. Morgan made a motion to approve the request. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Water & Sewer Warrant in the amount of \$1,174.33 for service charge fees was presented for signatures. Morgan made a motion to approve and sign the warrant. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Request for an Abatement was received from the Moultonville United Methodist Church, Map 91, Lot 39, in the amount of \$708.24 due to an incorrect meter reading (45,900 gallons reported, 45 gallons actual usage). Morgan made a motion to grant the abatement. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Old Business:

Intersection of Routes 171 & 28 – Nothing new to report. Morgan requested that Brad Harriman, Public Works Director, obtain an update for the next meeting.

Sidewalks – Morgan reported that a meeting has been scheduled for 2/5/2018 at 3:00 PM with Alan Hanscomb, NH DOT District 3 Engineer, to discuss available options. The meeting will be held in the Bub Avery Memorial Gymnasium.

Whittier Covered Bridge – Nothing new to report. Morgan requested Harriman obtain an update for the next meeting.

Town Beach – Nothing new to report. Morgan commented that they are still waiting on an update from the Court.

Dallas Emery questioned the status of the study that was supposed to be done on the Ossipee Concerned Citizens building in regard to the air conditioning. Morgan stated that the electrical was found to be insufficient to carry additional load and further questions have been raised on who is responsible for maintenance and improvements. The lease is currently under review.

New Business:

Martin reported that all forms available on the Town's website are now fillable; they still need to be signed before they are submitted.

Morgan stated that last year the Meet the Candidate's Night was facilitated by Ossipee Listens. He requested that White forward a memo to Kellie Skehan, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, stating that the Board wishes to proceed with the traditional format that has been used in the past.

2018 Budget: Warrant Articles & Revenues – Morgan stated that the Board reviewed the Warrant Articles in work session earlier but he does not want to put recommendations on them until the full Board is present. Morgan announced the Budget Committee will be meeting on Wednesday at 6:30 PM at the Freight House.

This concluded the business portion of the meeting and Morgan re-opened the meeting to Public Input.

Public Input #2:

Lois Sweeney questioned how the 50% reduction will be made up across the tax base. Morgan responded that the exemption will not result in lost tax revenue, it will only be a reduction in assessment on new construction or renovations. Full assessment value will not be gained until after the exemption period.

Sweeney discussed the flower garden in the triangle at the bottom of Grant Hill where a sign used to note its dedication to Nan Egan as "Nan's Place". She questioned if a new sign could be erected at that location. Harriman responded that NH DOT has said that there can be no signage placed there. This will be questioned during the meeting with Alan Hanscomb next week to see if there is any options available.

Fischbein discussed the Envision Night held by the EDC on 1/8/2018. He stated that a lot of people have questioned what the next step is. He stated the EDC is working on compiling the date to put into a report for a presentation at the next EDC meeting. They will then plan a 10-15 minute segment to present to all Boards. Morgan stated it was a very diverse group that attended with excellent ideas. The information collected will be useful in the update of the Master Plan.

Fischbein questioned the legality of creating a survey of 8-12 items that can be asked to voters during the Town Elections. Morgan referred Fischbein to check with Katy Meserve, Moderator.

Martin requested the report of the results when it is complete so it can be listed on the Town website.

Marie McConarty questioned if there have been any complaints received on Dorrs Corner Road or attempts to address the issues with it. She stated that the entire road has heaved and it is very noisy to travel. Harriman responded that they are observing it and questions remain whether there is residual salt in the cracks or whether it stayed sealed. McConarty stated that is also not as clear and icier than it has been in the past. Harriman responded that the pea stone in the road surface holds the salt and does not allow it to flow out as well. He stated that they may have to increase the load to get the same effect. Harriman further stated the road will smooth out overtime and become less noisy.

Comeau announced the School Deliberative Session is this Saturday, 2/3/2018 at 10:00 AM at the Kingswood Arts Center.

Morgan stated that the Board will be moving forward with a Warrant Article to add funds to the Sidewalk Expendable Trust Fund. Fischbein questioned if the fund was established only for the Safe Routes to School Project? White read the article from the 2009 Town Meeting when it was created and clarified that it is for the planning, layout, and installation of sidewalks in the Town of Ossipee.

Non-Public Session:

Not applicable.

The next meeting will take place on Monday, February 5, 2018 at 4:15 PM.

Adjournment:

Being no further input, Morgan made a motion to adjourn. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Adjourned at 5:08 PM.

Richard H. Morgan, Chairman

ABSENT
Robert C. Freeman

Sandra P. Martin

To be approved 2/5/2018