

Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, February 26, 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, Robert Freeman, and Sandra Martin.

Public Input:

Alison Hayford expressed disappointment that Ossipee Listens was not able to meet with the Selectmen as planned on 2/5/2018. She stated that Molly Messenger was not able to meet until 5 PM due to work commitments and the opportunity to communicate was missed due to the short meeting held that day. Martin responded that the meeting could not be held open; all business was completed and there was very little public input. Morgan stated that if Ossipee Listens was on the agenda for a specific time, the Board should have accommodated their meeting. White clarified that the topic was listed under new business on the agenda and not for a specific time. Freeman added that they verified no one was present from Ossipee Listens before they moved on with the meeting. Morgan discussed the Candidate's Night held last year and noted that it was difficult to hear and there was no ability to hear what the other candidate responses were as a few reasons why the Selectmen chose to move forward with the traditional forum. He further stated that it should not be a mutually exclusive event and Ossipee Listens was offered the option of holding an event following the forum.

Jonathan Smith stated that he watched the Governor Wentworth Regional School District's Deliberative Session and followed up with the Superintendent regarding some questions he had on the increase of \$1.33/thousand for Ossipee's portion of the local education tax. He stated that the calculation is very complex and it is apparent that the Town cannot reduce its own budget enough to offset for such an increase in the local education tax. Ed Comeau, State Representative, reported that he received Brookfield's agreement that was last reviewed in 1963, and Effingham's which was reviewed in 1983. The only way to correct the issue is to submit a petitioned Warrant Article ordering the School Board to review their agreements. Morgan stated that the continuing issue is that the smaller towns are out voted by the larger towns. If a change is made to the way the tax is calculated, it must be redistributed across the district.

Dan Fischbein commented that he attended the School Board meetings for six months while he was working for a company bidding on the high school reconstruction, and he was the only attendee during that period where there was discussion on a \$67 million expenditure.

Ash Fischbein questioned the status of the court hearing last week regarding the legality of the Special Town Meeting. Morgan commented that the suit is still pending and the Town Attorney is working to settle the matter since a re-vote on the Town Beach is no longer possible. Morgan discussed the issues that became apparent with such a large attendance at the Special Town Meeting and stated several ways things could have been handled differently and been better communicated. Morgan then stated that they still need to come up with a solution for future meetings. He then made a motion to establish a committee to be comprised of the following: One member of the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator, Town Clerk/Tax Collector,

Moderator, Josh Arnold or member of Ossipee Listens, and Joy Gagnon. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Smith discussed the two Warrant Articles that were proposed to establish capital reserve funds for the Water & Sewer Department for major improvements. It was noted that these were removed from the Town Warrant because RSA 35:7 restricts the use of taxation for this purpose, only surplus funds from the Water & Sewer collections could be used. Smith stated that with some foresight 15-years ago, a fund established at that time could have generated almost \$1 million today. Morgan discussed the steps that are being made to correct the billing of the actual usage, and other plans for the sustainability of the system. If a major infrastructure repair is needed, the Water & Sewer Department has no authority to borrow and authorizing would have to come from the Town. With parts of the system being anywhere from 25-40 years old, it is only a matter of time before the regular repairs are not enough.

Josh Arnold questioned the time of the Selectmen's Meetings. Martin responded that when she was Selectman in the past they tried holding them as late as 7:00 PM but there was still no change in attendance because at that time, families were already settled in for the night. Having the meeting at the end of the day allows Department Heads to be present to respond to anything specific to their areas of concern.

Arnold questioned a comment made by Freeman at the last meeting. Freeman apologized for the misunderstanding of his comment and clarified that his meaning was only that no one from Ossipee Listens was present at the time that topic came up.

Further discussion took place on the Candidate's Night including a review of how the event was proposed by Ossipee Listens. Arnold, Hayford and A. Fischbein discussed the importance of incorporating change into old traditions. Fischbein discussed the forward progress of the Economic Development Council with the assistance of involving outside groups such as Ossipee Listens. Martin commented that she really enjoyed the Envision Night that was hosted by the EDC and reiterated there is no problem with Ossipee Listens, just in the structure of last year's Candidate's Night.

Dan Fischbein questioned the status of several street lights that are out on Main Street. Morgan responded that they are the responsibility of the Fire Precinct. Freeman stated that he has personally made several calls to Eversource which has been backlogged from storm duty. He stated he will continue to follow up on this.

Morgan made a motion to recess the Selectmen's Meeting at 4:59 PM for the scheduled Public Hearing on Keno. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Morgan made a motion to reconvene Selectmen's Meeting at 5:14 PM. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Meeting Minutes:

Morgan made a motion to approve the minutes from the Selectmen's Meeting held on 2/5/2018. Martin seconded. Freeman abstained (absent). Majority vote carried.

Morgan made a motion to approve the minutes from the Selectmen's Work Session & Joint Meeting held on 2/5/2018. Martin seconded. Freeman abstained (absent). Majority vote carried.

Freeman made a motion to approve the minutes from the Selectmen's Meeting held on 2/12/2018. Martin seconded. Morgan abstained (absent). Majority vote carried.

Freeman made a motion to approve the minutes from the Selectmen's Work Session & Finance Meeting held on 2/12/2018. Martin seconded. Morgan abstained (absent). Majority vote carried.

Accounts Payable & Payroll Manifests:

The Payroll Voucher was submitted for the week ending 2/17/2018 in the amount of \$42,108.17. The Accounts Payable Voucher was submitted for the week ending 2/10/2018 in the amount of \$191,384.69, including payments made to the Fire Precincts totaling \$109,856.92. The Water & Sewer Accounts Payable Voucher submitted for the week ending 2/10/2018 was in the amount of \$8,900.26. The Payroll Voucher was submitted for the week ending 2/24/2018 in the amount of \$48,008.04. The Accounts Payable Voucher was submitted for the week ending 2/17/2018 in the amount of \$1,116,630.16, including payment made to the School District totaling \$980,726.00. The Water & Sewer Accounts Payable Voucher submitted for the week ending 2/17/2018 was in the amount of \$6,356.06. 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:

The Board received a memo from Kellie Skehan, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, informing them that a test of the Accu Vote Machine will take place on 3/1/2018 at 11:00 AM in the Town Clerk's Office.

A Request for an Abatement was received from Leo J. Picone for the property located on Map 28, Lot 1. The Assessor recommends a reduction in assessment of \$12,500 resulting in a refund/abatement of \$268.75 due to the inability to develop the property. Morgan made a motion to grant the abatement. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

An Intent to Cut Timber was received from the Geraldine D. Smith Conservation Trust for the properties located on Map 117, Lot 31 and Map 115, Lot 15. The intent is to cut 40 acres from the combined total of 186 acres and the logger listed is Peter Farrell. The taxes are paid and there is a cemetery noted. Morgan made a motion to approve the intent. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Yield Tax Levy in the amount of \$767.51 was presented for signatures. Freeman made a motion to approve and sign the warrant. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Request for an Abatement was received from John F. Lynch, IV and Lisa A. Lynch for the property located on Map 247, Lot 22. The Assessor recommends a reduction in assessment of \$39,600 resulting in a refund/abatement of \$822.50 due to condition adjustments made. Freeman made a motion to grant the abatement. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Request for a Clerical Abatement was received for the property located on Map 126, Lot 6. The abatement in the amount of \$1,819.00 is due because the property transferred and taxes were billed to the incorrect owner. Morgan made a motion to approve the abatement. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Supplemental Tax Warrant was received in the amount of \$1,819.00 for the property located on Map 126, Lot 6. The warrant is to bill the correct owner for taxes due. Morgan made a motion to approve and sign the warrant. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Request for a Clerical Abatement was received for the property located on Map 23, Lot 7, Sub Lot G07. The abatement in the amount of \$187.00 is due because the camper was removed in October and a jeopardy

tax was paid at that time. Morgan made a motion to approve the abatement. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

An Intent to Cut Timber was received from Christopher Pryor, Director of Forest Stewardship, New England Forestry Foundation, for the property located on Map 115, Lot 16. The intent is to cut 45 acres from the 87 acre parcel and the logger listed is Peter Farrell. The taxes are paid and there is no cemetery noted. Morgan made a motion to approve the intent. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received the results of the equalized assessed valuation from the Department of Revenue for the Tax Year 2017. The median ratio is noted to be 95.1%, meaning the assessed values are approximately 5% below current market value.

An Intent to Cut Timber was received from Marlo Herrick, Hopkinton Forestry and Land Clearing, for the property located on Map 245, Lot 13. The intent is to cut 87 acres from the 995 acre parcel and the logger listed is Marlo Herrick, Hopkinton Forestry and Land Clearing. The property is the State Forest, is exempt from property tax, and there is no cemetery noted. Morgan made a motion to approve the intent. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

An Intent to Cut Timber was received from Evan R. Ames, E.R. Ames Forestry, for the property located on Map 266, Lot 9. The intent is to cut 40 acres from the 68 acre parcel and the logger listed is Evan R. Ames, E.R. Ames Forestry. The property is the State Forest, is exempt from property tax, and there is no cemetery noted. Morgan made a motion to approve the intent. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Contract for Use of Facilities was received from the Town Clerk/Tax Collector requesting use of the Town Hall for a rabies clinic on 4/19/2018. The schedule has been verified by Craig Brady, Recreation Director. Morgan made a motion to approve the contract. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken. Morgan commented that this is a great opportunity to have pets vaccinated at a much lower rate. Kellie Skehan, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, confirmed that the clinic is for cats and dogs.

The Board received a letter from the Planning Board acknowledging their unanimous endorsement of House Bill 316 and the adoption of the provisions of RSA 72:81 on Commercial and Industrial Construction Exemptions.

The Application for Restoration of Involuntarily Merged Lots received from Jeff Coombs of Chocorua Forestlands was presented for further review. Morgan stated that this was referred to the Town Attorney for further research and the result is that in the early 1980's several timber lots were merged. Property that was conveyed by Chocorua Forestlands to Michael Glick included a portion of these lots that were involuntarily merged. Morgan made a motion to apply the plan provided to unmerge Map 215, Lot 7. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Contract for Use of Facilities was received from the UNH Cooperative Extension requesting use of the Freight House for a cooking class with Head Start 3/20/2018, 4/17/2018, and 5/15/2018 from 8:30-11:00 AM. The schedule has been verified by Craig Brady, Recreation Director. Morgan made a motion to approve the contract. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a letter from the NH DOT reviewing upcoming paving projects this year including 3.9 miles of 34" paver shim from Upper Beacham Hill Road to the intersection of NH 16 and 1.2 miles of rumble

strip installation from the Ossipee/Wolfeboro town line northerly to the intersection of NH 171. White stated that a request has not been forwarded to NH DOT on the Route 16 rumble strip replacement yet.

The Board received a letter from Harbor Homes, Inc. requesting funding from the Town to support the Nashua Safe Station's efforts in preventing deaths related to opioids. Eight individuals from Ossipee were assisted. Morgan stated that the agency would have to be present with their request at Town Meeting in order to raise funding on the floor. White was asked to contact them to inform them of this.

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

The Board received a Notice of Decision from the Planning Board acknowledging a Conditional Site Plan Review that was granted for the property located on Map 99, Lot 22 to build a self-storage facility.

The Board received a Notice of Decision from the Zoning Board of Adjustment acknowledging a Variance that was granted for the property located on Map 35, Lot 10 for side setbacks to construct a new 3-bedroom single family home.

The Highway Department Work Log was received for the weeks ending 2/17/2018 and 2/24/2018.

The Board received a copy of a check from Charter Communications in the amount of \$8,339.15 for cable franchise fees.

The Board received a report of the Interim Inspection of Municipally Owned Bridges from the NH DOT. Postings for the Valley Road Bridge over Dan Hole River will be set at E2 and the Archers Pond Bridge over Beech River will be set as "Weight Limit 10 Tons" and "One Lane Bridge". Brad Harriman, Public Works Director, acknowledged these postings will be installed at each bridge location.

The Consent Calendar Agenda was received from the meeting of the Governor and Executive Council held on 2/21/2018.

The Board received a copy of the Voting Locations and Times and Budget & Warrant Articles for the Governor Wentworth Regional School District.

The Board received a copy of the activity report from the University of NH on the Lord Scholarship Fund. White confirmed she has forwarded a copy to Trustee of Trust Funds Condit Billings.

Morgan announced that Candidate's Night is scheduled for Monday, 3/5/2018 at 6:30 PM. Martin stated that people will have the option of asking their questions in person or writing them on an index card and presenting them to the Moderator. It will be at the discretion of the Moderator as to whether a question is allowed.

Water & Sewer Red Folder:

A Payroll Reimbursement Request for the week ending 2/17/2018 in the amount of \$3,456.23, and for the week ending 2/24/2018 in the amount of \$3,447.62 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 \$137.18 for service charge fees was presented for signatures. Morgan made a motion to approve and sign the warrant. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A request for the reimbursement of cell phone charges in the amount of \$338.59 was presented for signatures. Freeman made a motion to sign the request. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Request for an Abatement was received from Edwin Nelson for the property located on Map 87, Lot 25. The request in the amount of \$90.20 is for a pressure reducing valve that was returned. Morgan made a motion to approve the abatement. Freeman seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Water & Sewer Warrant in the amount of \$137.80 for service charge fees was presented for signatures. Freeman made a motion to approve and sign the warrant. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Water & Sewer Warrant in the amount of \$334.99 for service charges was presented for signatures. Freeman made a motion to approve and sign the warrant. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Old Business:

Intersection of Routes 171 & 28 – Nothing new to report.

Sidewalks – Harriman reported that he met with Jim Rines at White Mountain Survey to review the discussion that took place during the meeting held with NH DOT. Morgan stated that the Town will be proceeding with the sidewalks in a timely fashion and their proposal to add \$25,000 to the existing Capital Reserve Fund is pending Town Meeting approval.

Whittier Covered Bridge – Harriman reported that Hoyle, Tanner & Associates met with NH DES regarding the Wetlands Permit Application and only a few small questions were asked. Harriman anticipates having the permit back by the end of March so the final phase of the project can then go out to bid. He stated that the final design is all set and ready for bids. Morgan requested that Harriman stay on top of any updates.

Harriman recommended that roads be posted on Monday, 3/5/2018. Morgan requested that Harriman continue to work with transportation companies to arrange deliveries in the early morning hours as necessary. Morgan made a motion to post the roads as of 3/5/2018. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken. Martin stated she will put an alert up on the Town's website.

New Business:

None presented.

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

Public Input #2:

Smith questioned the amount of funding requested by Nashua's Safe Station. Morgan responded that the letter does not request a specific amount but notes they are anticipating a \$400,000 deficit.

Joe Deighan acknowledged a request received to moderate the Candidate's Night and stated he will verify his schedule and report back to White to confirm.

Morgan reviewed the upcoming meetings/events including: Candidate's Night, Monday, 3/5/2018 at 6:30 PM in the Bub Avery Memorial Gymnasium at Town Hall, Town Elections, Tuesday, 3/13/2018 from 10:00 AM-7:00 PM, and Town Meeting, Wednesday, 3/14/2018 at 6:30 PM.

Non-Public Session:

Not applicable.

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

Adjournment:

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

Adjourned at 5:44 PM.

Richard H. Morgan, Chairman

Robert C. Freeman

Sandra P. Martin

To be approved 3/5/2018