

Selectmen's Meeting and Finance Meeting Monday, May 4, 2020

These minutes were recorded by Angela Rizzitano, Secretary. Also present were Matt Sawyer Jr., Town Administrator, T.J. Eldridge, Public Works Director, Brewster Vittum, Transfer Station Supervisor and Kellie Skehan, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Karen Anthony, Finance and Benefits Administrator and Harry Merrow, Treasurer. The meeting was held in the conference room upstairs at Town Hall.

Call to Order:

Chairman Martha Eldridge called the meeting to order at 12:28 PM.

Attendance by Roll Call:

Present were Selectmen Martha Eldridge, Susan Simpson and Jonathan Smith.

Public Input:

None

Discussion:

The Finance meeting began with Harry Merrow, Treasurer, reporting that all bills have been paid. Merrow advised that the Town may not have to borrow from the TAN if the school payment doesn't get paid. Discussion ensued. Kellie Skehan, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, advised that she placed a lien for approximately \$439,000. Selectman Smith asked what the balance was for unpaid taxes. Kellie advised she will get those numbers but believes it is about 1 million dollars.

Brewster Vittum, Transfer Station Supervisor, asked the Board when the increases for the Transfer Station would take effect. Chairman M. Eldridge advised that we can't incorporate an increase until the Town has a public hearing. Selectmen Smith advised that probably wouldn't be able to take place until June but could possibly have a virtual hearing. Discussion ensued.

T.J. Eldridge, Public Works Director, asked about Household Hazardous Waste Day. Vittum advised it is usually held the first weekend in August and Ossipee will be the host town this year. Discussion ensued.

Smith advised that the Town will pay half of the school payment for the month of May and a full payment will be due in June.

Maria Moulton, Library Director, advised that there will be a Library Trustee meeting next week to discuss slowly reopening the Library.

Matt Sawyer Jr., Town Administrator, discussed possibly adding a credit card processing station in the Town Clerk/Tax Collectors office and Transfer Station. Cost is \$399.00 for the terminal with processing fees being 2.95%. Kellie Skehan asked if this will impact avitar in any way and also advised they would need to do a separate report for Karen and Harry. Chairman Eldridge advised that the Board would make a decision in the coming weeks after all questions have been answered.

Sawyer Jr. also discussed possible timber revenue at Town owned property sites. He is hoping the Conservation Commission will give the Town permission to harvest and authorize the logged lots revenue be put in the General Fund. Discussion ensued.

Sawyer Jr. advised that he and T.J. have received their certificates for the Whittier Covered Bridge Federal Funding. They still need to get signatures for a letter regarding non-coercion from the abutters. Sawyer Jr. is waiting for a reply email from NHDOT in hopes of getting some guidance as to what the next step would be. Discussion ensued.

The Board discussed COVID-19 updates advising that existing practices and procedures should continue. Discussion ensued.

Chairman M. Eldridge read a letter from the Ossipee Area Community Center regarding graduations and moving up ceremonies. The letter asks the Town to use the sign at Town Hall to recognize students. The letter also asks residents to put signs on their lawns and local businesses to put signs in their windows congratulating students and celebrating their accomplishments. The Board agreed this is a great idea to celebrate the children of our community. Discussion ensued.

The Board received a funding request from Freedom Food Pantry for \$5000.00. M. Eldridge made a motion to grant the request. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

At 1:03 PM, Chairman M. Eldridge made a motion to go into a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II (a) and RSA 91-A:3, II (c). Simpson seconded. Roll call was taken. Simpson advised yes. Smith advised yes and M. Eldridge advised yes.

M. Eldridge made a motion to open the meeting. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

At 1:35 PM, the Selectmen's meeting reconvened.

Meeting Minutes:

M. Eldridge made a motion to seal the minutes from the Non-Public Session 1 held pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) for a personnel matter. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

M. Eldridge made a motion to seal the minutes from the Non-Public Session 2 held pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c) for a tax matter. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Sawyer Jr. advised there was an inquiry from Joe Haas regarding a letter sent to the DRA last fall from the Selectmen regarding the Tax rate. The letter was rescinded through the Town Attorney per meeting minutes.

Old Business:

None Presented

New Business:

None

Second Public Input:

None presented

Non-Public Session:

None presented

The next meeting will take place on Monday, May 11, 2020.

Adjournment:

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

Adjourned at 1:50 PM.

Martha B. Eldridge, Chairman

Susan J. Simpson

Jonathan H. Smith

To be approved 5/11/2020