

**Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, September 25, 2023**

These minutes were transcribed by Angela Eldridge, Secretary. Selectman Martha B. Eldridge was in attendance, Selectman Jonathan H. Smith was in attendance and Susan J. Simpson was in attendance. Matthew Sawyer Jr., Town Administrator, and T.J. Eldridge, Public Works Director, were also in attendance. The meeting was held in the Bub Avery Gymnasium at Town Hall.

Call to Order/Roll Call: Completed in the Work Session.

M. Eldridge reconvened the meeting at 4:17 PM.

M. Eldridge opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Input:

Daymond Steer, Conway Daily Sun, asked how the storm repairs are going. Matt Sawyer Jr. advised that we should be receiving the FEMA funding soon. They needed a lot of data and T.J. Eldridge did an amazing job getting them all the information they needed.

Darlene Eldridge asked the Board if they are planning to do anything about homelessness around the town. Smith advised that we have a welfare department and people can contact them if they are in need of assistance. D. Eldridge is concerned about the area and asked if there are any shelters. Smith advised that there are none close by, but he knows of one in Dover and also in Littleton. D. Eldridge mentioned how that is not realistic and mentioned homeless camps in the woods. Smith advised that Ossipee does not have the resources to have a shelter. M. Eldridge advised that people could apply for assistance through our Welfare Department, and it may be possible to keep them local but they need to qualify as it is income based. D. Eldridge advised that a lot of it is drug related. M. Eldridge mentioned White Horse Recovery as a resource as well. Frank Burke mentioned that he has seen some younger people going to the Ossipee Concerned Citizens building and a meal is provided to them. They are open Mondays and Thursdays. Discussion ensued. Steer mentioned an article about how the need for welfare is exploding and the cost of living is breaking people. D. Eldridge said we should make information more public. Smith said that if people are homeless, how do we reach them. He also said the resources are there. Burke mentioned that OCC does not advertise they offer meals to those in need. Smith said that OCC is a separate entity from the town. D. Eldridge asked if there are any drug programs around. M. Eldridge mentioned White Horse Recovery and Green Mountain Treatment Facility. She also mentioned Tri-County Cap as a resource. Emery said if we stop sending money to Ukraine then this wouldn't be a problem. Discussion ensued.

There will be a tree dedication at Constitution Park on October 8th at 12pm for Rick Cogswell presented by The Friends of Constitution Park.

Meeting Minutes:

M. Eldridge made a motion to approve the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for 8/28/2023. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

M. Eldridge made a motion to approve the Work-Session Minutes for 9/11/2023. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

M. Eldridge made a motion to approve the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for 9/11/2023. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Accounts Payable & Payroll Manifest:

The Payroll Check Voucher total was submitted for the week ending 9/26/2023 in the amount of \$42,777.36. The General Fund is \$76,041.87. The water accounts payable are in the amount of \$1,779.62. The sewer accounts payable is \$502.34. The total was \$123,570.37.

Review of Red Folder:

The Board received a Water & Sewer Warrant for \$80.00. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Supplemental Tax Warrant for \$513.00. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Supplemental Tax Warrant for \$4.00. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received 6 Clerical Abatements. They are as follows.

Map 029, Lot 001, Sub lot 382 for \$208.00. This camper was registered for the 2023 season.

Map 073, Lot 109, Sub lot 021 for \$72.39. This camper was registered for the 2023 season.

Map 104, Lot 01400H, Sub lot 016 for \$128.00. He left this site at the end of 2022.

Map 122, Lot 010, Sub lot 058 for \$159.00. This camper was registered for the 2022 season.

Map 073, Lot 109, Sub lot 020 for \$38.00. Mr. Taylor left this site prior to April 1, 2023.

Map 104, Lot 014001, Sub lot 020 for \$83.06. This camper was registered for the 2023 season. The docks were removed last fall. Simpson made a motion to approve all of the above abatements. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Petition and Pole License for 2 poles on Ossipee Lake Drive. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received 5 Clerical Abatements. They are as follows.

Map 029, Lot 001, Sub lot 418 for \$674.95. This camper wasn't on site as of April 1, 2022.

Map 122, Lot 010, Sub lot 058 for \$80.00. This camper was registered for the 2023 season.

Map 029, Lot 001, Sub lot 634 for \$45.36. Adam was never on this site.

Map 029, Lot 001, Sub lot 634 for \$4.00. Adam was never on this site.

Map 096, Lot 018 for \$513.00. This property was sold before the Tax Bill went out.

Smith made a motion to approve all of the above abatements. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a Supplemental Tax Warrant for \$98.00 for Map 104, Lot 014, Sub lot 013. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a license to sell pistols and revolvers from Christopher Sirois of Sirotac located at 925 Route 16 in Ossipee. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Smith advised that the Board made a motion to form an Energy Aggregation Committee which will be comprised of 3 Selectmen, the Town Administrator, and the Public Works Director and to form a plan for aggregation per RSA 53E.

Old Business:

None Presented.

New Business:

None Presented.

Second Public Input:

Daymond Steer, Conway Daily Sun, asked if the homeless shelter in Wolfeboro was called Starting Point. Smith advised that there is one in Wolfeboro but he is not sure what it is called. Steer asked how the Welfare Department is doing with funds. Smith advised they are doing pretty solid right now. Discussion ensued.

Announcement:

Smith mentioned that the budget process is beginning. He discussed the operating budget and the fire precincts budgets. He reminded people that the governing body has no jurisdiction over the fire precincts budgets. The Budget Committee is a 10 member Board consisting of the 3 precinct representatives, a chairman, vice-chairman, 4 members, Selectmen's Representative, Town Administrator, Finance Director and Public Works Director. He advised that the Board of Selectmen review the budgets and then the Budget Committee will review them. Then there is a public hearing, which he encouraged everyone to attend. The final vote will be at the Town Meeting in March. Discussion ensued.

Smith also mentioned that the Audit is complete and it is the best it has ever been. He said that this was mainly due to the Finance Directors' hard work. There is 2.6 million in the unassigned fund balance. Money has been spent wisely due to a policy to set aside 11% and it was amended upstairs to 13% which will improve cash flow even more. It will also prevent TAN usage. Steer mentioned that the Conway budget committee oversees the school district budget. Smith advised that we are in a co-operative school district, so we have no jurisdiction. He also mentioned that no one shows up to the deliberative sessions to dispute the school district budget. Steer asked if Ossipee could be like Conway and have the budget committee have control over the school district budget. Smith advised that the only way to do that is to make Ossipee our own school district. Discussion ensued.

Matt Sawyer Jr, Town Administrator, mentioned that the Board of Selectmen will meet on October 2nd, October 10th, and October 16th to review budgets before they go to the Budget Committee.

The next meeting will take place on October 2, 2023.

Adjournment:

Being no further input, M. Eldridge made a motion to adjourn. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Adjourned at 4:36 PM.

Martha B. Eldridge, Chairman

Susan J. Simpson

Jonathan H. Smith

To be approved 10/02/2023