

Selectmen's Work Session and Meeting Monday, May 23, 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 3:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Discussion:

Smith made a motion to enter two nonpublic sessions; the first under RSA 91-A:3, II(a) for personnel matters, and the second under RSA 91-A:3, II(c). Eldridge seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Smith – YES

Eldridge – YES

Simpson – YES

At 3:27 PM Smith made a motion to reenter the public meeting. Simpson 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.

There was a discussion regarding the tire fees at the Transfer Station. Sawyer will revise it as follows, pending a public hearing to be held on June 6:

\$3 Up to 18" Outer Diameter

\$10 Over 18" to 35" Outer Diameter

\$50 over 35" Outer Diameter

Smith discussed enacting a random drug testing policy for Police Officers, to ensure the public has the highest confidence in them and because of the great power they hold. Smith also referenced the requirement for CDL holders to be subjected to the same, and that common sense would dictate that Police Officers should also be required. Smith motioned to enact random drug testing for Police Officers, which Sawyer would need to draft and present a policy document for. Eldridge seconded and the vote passed 3-0. The effective date would be determined once the policy document was adopted formally.

There was a quick conversation about the reading of the Recycling Center Cash Log Totals during the weekly Selectmen's meeting. There was consensus that it wasn't necessary weekly, but TJ could present that data during the monthly department head reports.

Joe Haas from Gilmanton identified himself and spoke regarding the property at 46 Stoneview Road and the previous tax auction on December 4th, 2021. Haas indicated that he believes the only "real" currency is US minted silver coins, and that as a bidder of the property offering a \$1 silver coin, he should be the winner of the auction. The Board said they would take it under advisement.

Smith motioned to recess the meeting at 3:58 PM. Simpson seconded, and the vote passed 3-0.

At 4:15 PM, the meeting was reconvened in the upstairs conference room (due to the blood drive in the gym), and many additional members of the public were now present.

Smith asked everyone to join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Smith then opened the meeting for public input. Dallas Emery referenced the updated Hazard Mitigation Plan recently adopted to the Town and voiced several concerns with it. There were several questions/comments regarding if the meetings had been properly/publicly noticed. Sawyer printed the document for the group and offered the information that Hubbard Consulting was the business that coordinated this project and that Sawyer would reach out to them as well as Dana Cullen Jr., Emergency Management Director to get some answers regarding posting etc.

Joe Haas spoke again reiterating his opinion that the auctioneer had not followed a proper process in December and that he is still offering silver to purchase the property.

A man identified himself as Paul Eldridge, the owner of 119 Moultonville Rd. He referenced an abutter at 8 Mill Hill Rd which had been in a constant fire-ruined/uninhabitable state for many years, and that he would like the Town to enforce the zoning ordinance which says it must be removed, as the two-year window had long since expired. Chairman Smith said he would look into it and give him a call.

Selectman Eldridge read the financial totals:

Payroll : \$31,003.75

General Fund payables: \$96,870.49;

Water/Sewer payables: \$2,276.76

Recreation Revolving Fund payables: \$199.98

Eldridge reported that after the previous week's school payment had been cut, the Town received an updated schedule of payments so the \$1,055,429 check was voided and a new check for \$903,996 has been issued.

Eldridge motioned to approve the 5/16/22 Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes. Simpson seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Simpson motioned to approve a Water/Sewar Warrant for \$1,500. Smith seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Simpson motioned to approve a Water/Sewar Warrant for \$116.16. Smith seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Simpson motioned to approve a Water/Sewar warrant for \$40. Smith seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Smith motioned to approve an abatement application for duplicate fees for map 092 lot 061 for the amount of \$92.39. Simpson seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Smith read a notice of decision for Planning Board cases 22-03SPR 22-01SUP for map 53 lot 12. They were granted a phased site plan review.

Smith read a notice of decision for Planning Board case 22-05SPRA for map 53 lot 9. They were granted a conditional site plan review amendment to add two storage containers.

Smith read a notice of decision for Planning Board cases 22-04SPR and 22-02SUP for map 74 lot 10. They were granted conditional site plan approval and a special use permit because of impervious surface greater than 20% in the water resource district.

Smith read a notice of decision for Planning Board case 22-06SPR for map 53 lot 1. They were granted a conditional site plan review for a storage facility.

Smith read a notice of decision for Planning Board case 22-01BLA for map 76 lots 24 and 25. They were granted a boundary line adjustment and waivers on subdivision regulations.

Smith made a motion to approve a letter to the Trustee of Trust funds requesting a \$58,238 withdrawal from the Sewer capital reserve fund to reimburse the general fund for the purchase of a truck for the Sewer Department. Eldridge seconded the motion and the vote passed 3-0.

Smith moved on to the opening of sealed bids for the sale of 46 Stoneview Road. Bids were opened and read as follows:

- David Arnold bid \$3,650
- Scott Tentangill \$4,000
- Christopher Bowe \$3,000
- David Arnold \$2,150
- David Scripture \$10,000
- Wayne Jenness \$5,000
- Arthur Battles \$3,810
- Southern Real Estate Investors LLC \$3,684
- Michael Hull \$4,000

Smith motioned to sell the property at 46 Stoneview Rd. to David Scripture for \$10,000. Eldridge seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

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

Smith moved on to the new business portion of the agenda and said that he and Sawyer had visited the Whittier Covered Bridge and met with the Engineer from Dubois and King. Smith Sawyer and TJ Eldridge briefly described what they had been told, which that everything seemed to be on track to be finished by late fall.

Smith asked if there was any more public input. Joe Haas asked for a copy of the official check included in the fifth bid opened. The check was an official bank check for \$10,000 from Northway Bank. Haas asked if the Board was firm in continuing to sell the property to this bidder who offered a check and not hard currency or coin. Haas expressed concern with the “absolute auction” meaning that he had been a backup bidder and should be awarded the sale. Smith said the sale to this bidder will stand unless we get other legal direction. The crowd became very unruly and there was a significant amount of shouting about treason. George Dore yelled that the Town officials will be taken away in the night.

The unruly crowd demanded that the Town show them the original deed to the property. Smith explained that deeds are kept at the County Registry of Deeds, but that properties are conveyed through new deeds created when the property changes hands. The group shouted that there can only be one true deed for each property.

Ed Comeau who was filming for www.governmentoversite.com offered a suggestion that the crowd should check the posting requirements and compare that against the grant requirements. Jen Dore asked where the county meetings were held and asked for the address. Ed replied it is at the county complex at 95 Water Village Road in Ossipee.

There was more arguing about the deed with the crowd yelling that without the original deed in hand the Town doesn't own the property and cannot sell it. Sawyer explained that the Town's ownership of the property was acquired through a Tax Collector's deed for non-payment of taxes pursuant to RSA Chapter 80. That Tax Collector's deed is required to be executed and conveys ownership to the Town per laws established in Chapter 80. Dore said these are statutes, but not laws. Sawyer said these are the laws established by the State that NH Municipalities follow.

Comeau reminded the crowd that municipalities are corporations. Dore told the officials that they don't know what is coming because it is treason to tax and take properties. Dore asked where the video could be seen by others and was told www.governmentoversite.com Smith reminded everyone that the Selectmen did take an oath and that includes following laws rules and regulations of the State.

Smith asked if there was any more public input. There was none and Smith motioned to adjourn. Eldridge seconded and the vote passed 3-0, concluding the meeting at 5:04 PM.

Jonathan H. Smith, Chairman

Susan J. Simpson, Selectman

Martha B. Eldridge, Selectman