

## Selectmen's Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes Monday, July 25, 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

### **Discussion:**

TJ discussed a recent request he fielded from the Economic Council to put-up nice-looking signs for the village of Center Ossipee and its local amenities, which would be placed on Route 16 and Route 16B. He and Sawyer had recently met with NH DOT to discuss the signs, and they were told the ones on 16B would be unlikely to be approved as they would reduce visibility, but Route 16 was a possibility and would require more contact with NH DOT. The EDC also wants a bike lane painted on to the road, but DOT was not receptive to that.

There was a discussion regarding the frequent theft of street signs, and also the issue of whose responsibility it is to purchase street signs for private roads. Smith said the Town doesn't maintain private roads, even though the roads would need to be passable for emergency support, it is up to the HOA or owner(s) of the private roads, and that street signs should be no different. TJ recommended that the Board at least consider continuing to purchase the street signs for private roads that intersect Town roads, but not for ones that don't. The Selectmen agreed to that.

Sawyer discussed a request from the Chairman of the Trustee of Trust Funds that the Town send all revenue from the sale of cemetery lots to him to be put in a Cemeteries Capital Reserve Fund. Sawyer had researched it and the Town Clerks office had confirmed that they had no record of the Town ever voting on or adopting the provisions of 289:2-a or 31:1-a that would require that action to be taken. Sawyer said as far as his research, any funding of that CRF would be voluntary by the Board, and he asked if the Board wanted to do that. The Selectmen said that unless someone proves that it is required, then they would prefer to keep the revenue in the general fund revenues to offset at least a small portion of the maintenance expense of the cemeteries. For now, they said do not send these revenues to the Trustees of Trust Funds.

There was a review of the documents in the red folder. Smith motioned to approve two Applications for Website Links for Dawson's Washing Well, and Dawson's Excavation. Eldridge seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

There was a conversation regarding the Chickville Church, and it was acknowledged that it would likely need several hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of repairs to do it right. In the meantime, the consensus was to not let it be used going further due to the health risks associated with the bat and mice infestation.

Smith motioned to recess until 4:15 PM. Simpson seconded and a 3-0 vote passed, calling the meeting to recess.

At 4:15 PM, the meeting reconvened in the gym, and Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Smith turned the meeting over to TJ, who was joined by Neil Eldridge and presented a plaque of appreciation to the MacIver family for donating over \$2,000 in prizes at the youth fishing derby. The MacIvers spoke about their son Malcolm, whose memory these donations were made in the name of.

Smith called on the Friends of the Rail Trail to speak, and Chris Elliot and Phil Vilari gave a presentation of the study which was finally completed by UNH, evaluating the Town and the viability/pros/cons of using the existing railbed as a multipurpose trail. Smith reminded them that he has spoken to NH DOT who said that this project was not on their radar, and Smith believes it will be an extreme challenge for the group to gain approval by DOT.

Smith called for any public input, and Dallas Emery discussed the recently adopted public input policy, saying he believes under the first amendment that the Town nor state can take away someone's right to speak at a government meeting. Smith reminded him that Towns are municipal corporations, and that the RSAs are set at the state level. Smith said that public meetings aren't required to allow for public input, while a public hearing is distinctly different in that public input is required to be permitted at hearings.

Moving on to the red folder items, Eldridge announced these totals:

36,622.07 payroll

36,900.99 general fund accounts payable

454.45 water and sewer accounts payable

207,101.74 Whittier Covered Bridge

Eldridge made a motion to approve these totals. Smith seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Eldridge made a motion to approve the July 11 Work Session Minutes. Simpson seconded and the vote passed 3-0. Eldridge motioned to also approve the Regular Selectmen's Meeting Minutes from July 11. Simpson seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Simpson motioned to approve a Selectmen's Deed for map 11 lot 47, 16 Navajo Trail conveying the property back to its former owner, Benjamin S. King. Smith seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Simpson motioned to approve a Cemetery Deed for the Grant Hill Cemetery, lot 40, plots A and B. Smith seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Simpson motioned to approve abatement request of \$2,664.07, which was recommended by the Assessing Clerk. Smith seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Smith motioned to approve a Land Use Change Tax Warrant for Map 130 lot 6 in the amount of \$3,800. Simpson seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Smith read a notice of decision from the Planning Board for case 22-02BLA, map 251 lot 2, which was granted a boundary line adjustment.

Smith read a notice of decision from the Planning Board for case 22-03SUDB, map 63 lot 11, which was granted final approval for a 7 lot subdivision at 300 Ossipee Mountain Rd.

Smith read a notice of decision from the Planning Board for case 22-07SPRA map 127 lot 4, which was granted a final site plan review for the use of a flea market in a commercial space.

Sawyer and TJ Eldridge gave an update on the Whittier Covered Bridge based off a recent meeting they had with the Project Manager/Engineer and CPM Constructors, that they were now using sheet pilings for water diversion which is currently in place, and the project still seems to be on track for an October completion.

Smith asked if there was any more public input and Dallas Emery asked more questions about the Public Input Policy regarding what constitutes language that won't be tolerated, and reiterated that he doesn't think a policy or state law can override a constitutional right. Edwina Boose said that elected officials are elected to make laws, and that's what they can and should do. Boose thanked the Board for allowing public input, and especially that it's on the agenda twice, once before and once after the bulk of the other agenda items.

Smith motioned to adjourn. Eldridge seconded and the vote passed 3-0. The meeting concluded around 5:00 PM, and Smith said the next meeting would be on August 8<sup>th</sup>.

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Jonathan H. Smith, Chairman

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Susan J. Simpson, Selectman

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Martha B. Eldridge, Selectman