

**Lancaster Selectboard  
Minutes of Meeting**

**Meeting held in Town Hall-Second Floor**

**Monday – March 20, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Shane Beattie at 6:30 PM.

**Initial Business:**

**Roll Call:**

Selectboard:

**Present:** Chairman Shane Beattie and Troy Merner.

Others attending: Town Manager Benjamin S. Gaetjens-Oleson, Fire Chief Randy Flynn, Police Chief Tim Charbonneau, Library Director Barbara Robarts, Recreation Director Eli Vincent, Solid Waste Manager Rusty Scott, Finance Director Michael Nadeau, Reporter Paul Hayes, Rob Christie, Kathy-Jean Lavoie, Alan Savage, and Phlume Media.

**Absent:** Leon Rideout.

Traditionally, the Selectboard member in the last year of their term is named Chairman of the Selectboard. Following this standard practice, Troy Merner was named Chairman.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATE:**

- Police Department-Chief Charbonneau: Chief Charbonneau informed the Selectboard he reached out the dealerships concerning the purchase of a new cruiser which was approved at Town Meeting. He contacted the two that provided estimates during budget preparation-North Country Ford and Colonial. Colonial had the lowest price at \$40,032.00 and had a vehicle available. NCF had a 6 to 8 month wait before one would be delivered.

**A motion was made by Shane Beattie and seconded by Troy Merner to approve the purchase of the Police Department cruiser from Colonial for the price of \$40,032.00. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.**

Chief Charbonneau continued by stating the Department has been very busy. Officer David Walker will be graduating from the Police Academy on 4/28. Both him and the Department are anxious and excited to have be back.

- Fire/EMS Department-Chief Flynn: Chief Flynn stated EMS responded to 145 calls in February. 97 were transfers and 48 were 911 responses. We conducted 40 Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) visits and also had 10 calls for service from the Fire Department. He explained the Town Mechanic is searching for vendors to repair small oil leaks on 2 FD pumps. The repairs would require specialized equipment that we do not have.
- Recreation Department-Eli Vincent: Mr. Vincent explained that basketball is over and so far, the sign-ups for baseball and softball have been low. He is not sure of the reason but knows other communities are realizing lower sign-ups as well. The Father/Daughter Dance was a success with over 120 attendees. They have created a dance class but have to limit numbers due to only having one instructor. Response has been great with future classes expected. They may begin an adult Pickleball class/league and will include

pickleball lines on one of the tennis courts when they are resurfaced this spring. There are also afternoon exercise classes and they will begin to get the pool ready for opening. Rob Christie asked about the playground project. Mr. Vincent explained the grandstand will be removed by the Town and the project is making progress after having to be reworked. Ben Gaetjens-Oleson explained the funding sources were through CDFR and the Land Water Conservation Fund.

- Library-Barbara Robarts: Barbara stated the programs are going extremely well. They provide programming from infant to adult. The AARP tax preparers program assisted 150 individuals and the summer program is in development.
- Transfer Station-Rusty Scott: Mr. Scott told the Board he had been reviewing the history of the Pay as You Throw (PAYT) program for municipal solid waste (MSW). He explained the program was supposed to cover all the costs of collecting and disposing of MSW. Due to increasing prices of transportation and disposal along with no increase in the cost of the bags, Mr. Scott estimates the program loses over \$40,000.00 which is then subsidized by the tax payer. When the program was implemented it called for a 5% annual increase in bag costs to keep up with the expected increase in paying for the program. This plan was never implemented and we are still charging the same amount for bags as we did in 1999 when it began. The program also states that “Town” bags are the only ones that will be accepted at the Transfer Station and at curbside. Although this is strongly enforced at curbside the Transfer Station has been accepting non-“Town” bags for years. These carry a cost, as with the PAYT bags, but not at a level that covers expenses or encourage use of “Town” bags. Mr. Scott is proposing a gradual increase in the cost of “Town” bags to bring us to the 2005 price if the 5% plan was followed. “Town” bags will increase \$0.50 a bag and non-“Town” bags will increase \$1.00 a bag for disposal with a new price for Contractor bags being \$7.00 a bag. The new costs would still be less than neighboring communities. Costs will be evaluated after several months at this rate to see if improvements have been made. Mr. Scott will also be looking at adjusting prices for C & D as this is another area we are losing money Rob Christie asked if the number of PAYT bag sales have changed. Mr. Scott felt not substantially either way. However, when the program began there were 10 vendors across Town that sold them and now there are only 4 plus at the Transfer Station. Kathy-Jean Lavoie asked what the percentage of “Town” to non-“Town” bags was. Mr. Scott wasn’t completely sure but felt it was probably 60% “Town” and 40% non-“Town”. Selectman Shane Beattie asked if anyone knew why the planned increases per the program were not implemented. Nobody was able to answer. Mr. Beattie asked when the next change may happen. Mr. Scott answered by mid to late summer and he thinks the Town would need to be close to \$4.00 a bag in order to break even.

**A motion was made by Shane Beattie and seconded by Troy Merner to approve an increase of \$0.50 per bag of Town PAYT bags, approve an increase of \$1.00 per bag for non-Town bags and begin charging a fee of \$7.00 a bag for large contractor bags all outlined in the increase proposal submitted by Solid Waste Manager Rusty Scott. Increases will be effective Monday, 03/27/2023. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Review and Approval of March 6, 2023 meeting minutes.

**A motion was made by Shane Beattie and seconded by Troy Merner to approve the meeting**

**minutes of March 6, 2023 as written. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.**

Sign various paperwork.

Selectmen were presented with and signed the MS-232 (Town Meeting Appropriations).

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Town Meeting Recap: Mr. Gaetjens-Oleson asked the Selectboard if they had any feedback on Town Meeting. Both felt it went well and were happy with the results.

Acceptance of Donation from Littleton Hospital.

Littleton Hospital has offered the Town a mobile cellular hotspot that can be placed in an ambulance and networked with all the vehicle's wireless units. It is valued at approximately \$3,000.00. This will be on the FirstNet platform which provides priority service to the Public Safety sector. It will allow better communication between the providers in the field to the ones at the hospitals.

**A motion was made by Shane Beattie and seconded by Troy Merner to accept the donation of the mobile hotspot from Littleton Hospital. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.**

Airport Commissioner.

Mr. Gaetjens-Oleson brought forward, to the Selectboard, Rob Christie's name for consideration to be appointed to the Mount Washington Airport Commission as Lancaster's representative. Mr. Christie explained he would work at the Selectboard's direction and stated he had done some previous research on the airport and is excited at the opportunity.

**A motion was made by Shane Beattie and seconded by Troy Merner to appoint Rob Christie to the Mount Washington Regional Airport Commission as Lancaster's representative. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.**

Ted Joubert resignation letter.

Mr. Gaetjens-Oleson informed the Board that Assistant Fire Chief Ted Joubert will be resigning from Town service in June. The Selectboard expressed their appreciation for all he has done to elevate our EMS Department and wishes him well.

Racheal Stuart resignation from the Conservation Commission.

Mr. Gaetjens-Oleson told the Selectboard that Racheal Stuart is resigning her appointment to the Conservation Commission at the end of March. The Board appreciates all her efforts in reorganizing the Commission.

NHDOT Bridge Funding Opportunity – McGary Hill Road over Bone Brook.

Mr. Gaetjens-Oleson explained that the McGary Hill Road Bridge is due for State Bridge Aid money. This would provide matching funds to replace it. The Board needs to decide if they want to keep the bridge in the program for funding for when it becomes available. We are not obligated to accept it if we don't want to at the time.

**A motion was made by Troy Merner and seconded by Shane Beattie to approve the McGary Hill Bridge's placement in the State Bridge Aid fund. A vote was taken and the**

**motion carried unanimously.**

**INFORMATION:**

Eversource appeal application for tax year 2022.

Mr. Gaetjens-Oleson informed the Board he received a tax appeal for EverSource for their 2022 property taxes. The appeal was sent to our consultant's office, George Sansoucy, for evaluation and opinion.

Land Use Permits.

- Richard N Gould Revocable Trust of 2011, 309 Main Street.
- Matthew & Kathryn Tremer, 96 Bunker Hill Street.

With nothing further from the Board or public a motion was called to adjourn.

**A motion was made by Shane Beattie and seconded by Troy Merner to adjourn the meeting. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:19 PM.**

**Respectfully,**

**Benjamin S. Gaetjens-Oleson – Clerk Pro Tem**

**Approved:**

**Troy Merner  
Chairman**

**Shane Beattie**

**Leon Rideout**