

MINUTES

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN HALL**

**November 7, 2022
6:30 PM**

ATTENDEES:

Selectman Shane Beattie Selectman Troy Merner Selectman Leon Rideout
Town Manager Benjamin Gaetjens-Oleson Charity Baker Michael Nadeau
Department Heads Members of the Public Phlume Media

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Selectman Shane Beattie.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES:

Land Use Coordinator Robin Irving reported that she has submitted 2 grants. One for the planning board to go over all housing regulations. The other is a local source water protection grant for a fence around the water plant.

She mentioned Invest NH announced those that were awarded their grants. The Lancaster projects did not get funded. It does not affect the town's application for per unit funding and those awards have not been announced.

Water/Sewer – Supervisor Timmy Bilodeau was not able to attend. Ben reported the sewer line relining project is finished. There are a few more details to complete with the SCADA system and they are hoping it will be finished by the end of the year. They installed a new hydrant down at the ice rink.

Highway – Foreman Tim Brown was unable to attend. Ben reported the paving projects are complete. The new 1½ ton truck came in which means they are ready to put the old 1-ton and 6-wheeler out to bid and both Tim and Mechanic Zach Grootenboer feel there should be a minimum bid requirement of \$5,000 for each vehicle. Ben will put an ad out for those vehicles.

Transfer Station – Ben reported that Brian Patnoe finished working Saturday's while a new manager was hired. Replacements were hired for the manager's and assistant manager's positions.

The person that was hired for the manager's job, worked one Saturday and realized it is not for him. Ben offered the recently hired assistant manager replacement the manager position however he was not comfortable taking that position so he will start at the beginning of December as the new assistant manager. Ben is going to put out a posting for the manager's position again.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Review and approval of October 17, 2022 meeting minutes.

Motion made by Leon and seconded by Troy to accept the October 17, 2022 meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Mechanic Street Bridge update – Ben reported the repair work and replacement of the decking on the Mechanic Street covered bridge is going to begin sometime this winter. Ben believes it will be closed for at least a month. He also mentioned there were 2 signs placed (one on either side of the bridge) that say NO Trucks in hopes to help with trucks crossing the bridge in the future.

- Kent Fountain update – Ben received an estimate from a place out of Ryegate, Vermont to rebuild a new fountain in the amount of \$85,000. Ben’s thought is to possibly push the fountain to the back side of the sidewalk to lessen the chances of being hit. Tim Brown and Timmy Bilodeau think the plumbing can be done. Leon asked if the insurance was going to cover it or were we going to need to raise funds. Ben stated the insurance company has told him they will cover it other than the deductible. It was confirmed the deductible is \$1,000. Donations will help toward the deductible and offset some of insurance amount. Ben also mentioned it will be nice to find a use for the damaged stones, possibly another war memorial, etc.

- Sign paperwork – The board signed an intent to cut for Charles & Patricia McLure by Rivard Tree. Tax Map R27, Lot 6. 5.3-acre lot with 5.3 acres to be cut.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ben mentioned Jason from Northtown Associates, the Town’s assessor would like to include a letter in the 2nd issue 2022 tax bills that will explain the revaluation process. The board needs to vote to allow any additional information be included with the tax bill.

There was discussion on whether there was a way to reword the letter to make it less confusing for the taxpayer. It is believed the letter is composed as clear as possible at this time. It is a complicated process to put into a letter.

Motion made by Leon and seconded by Troy to allow the letter be included with the 2nd issue 2022 tax bill. All in favor. Motion carried.

INFORMATION:

- Conservation Commission easement monitoring report. No issues and no violations. Ben stated he made the Commission aware of the fence around the water plant as part of the Water Source Protection Grant project.
- Land Use permit –
 - Bonnie L. Reynolds, 288 Main Street – Demo existing 4’x41’ deck and replace w/5’x43’ stick-built with composite decking, open vinyl-railed deck, on existing concrete pad, with stairs.

CASA letter thanking for appropriation at Town Meeting.

Ben received a letter from the Caleb Group letting the board know they are ceasing operations at the end of November. There are many factors that contributed to the decision.

Reminder – Budget review meeting with the department heads that was cancelled on November 1st is rescheduled for November 15, 2022. Times are the same.

Ben reminded the board the State General Election is tomorrow November 8th and they need to work out schedule to have 2 of them at the polls for the day.

Alan Savage mentioned he had concerns about the empty space that was going to be left when the Root Seller shop moved to the Parker J. Noyes building. Troy mentioned there are plans in the works for the old space that the Root Seller was in.

Motion made by Troy and seconded by Leon to adjourn. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Charity M. Baker

Board of Selectmen Date: _____

Shane Beattie

Troy Merner

Leon Rideout