

MINUTES

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN HALL**

**September 18, 2023
6:30 PM**

ATTENDEES:

Selectman Troy Merner Selectman Leon Rideout Selectman Shane Beattie
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 Troy Merner.

DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES:

Interim Police Chief John Woodworth reported they have started working with Project Homebound committee and it will be held on November 11th. There will be a “Stuff a Cruiser” event for Toys for Tots on November 26th. Homecoming parade will take place September 28th.

He also reported since August 18th to today they have had 435 calls for services, 13 accidents, 6 arrests and 111 traffic stops.

Fire Chief Randy Flynn reported they had 212 EMS calls 127 transfers and 85 911 calls along with 8 fire calls making it 51 fire calls so far for the year. The Fire Prevention parade will be held in October. The two ambulance that were ordered 2 years ago should be in next month and they still have one on order for next year. He reported their revenues and expenditures look decent.

Recreation Director Eli Vincent mentioned they are wrapping up in-house soccer this week and will just be doing travel soccer. October 13th & 14th they will be hosting their annual soccer tournament. He also reported attendance for the afterschool program has been in the mid to low 20s. Also, the new playground equipment has been installed and now they will be working on getting the mulch down.

Land Use Coordinator Robin Irving reported she has been working on the grant applications for the Summer Street and water tank projects. She will be participating in a mandatory webinar for the Ground Water Trust for the water tank project.

Robin as chair for the Safety committee reported Sgt. Ladd from NH State Police provided CRASE (Civilian Response to Active Shooter Event) training for the town employees.

She has also been working on the housing recommendations and audit from Resilience Planning. She has submitted recommendations to both the zoning and planning boards. They are going to focus on 4 topics – mobile homes & recreation vehicles, accessory dwelling units (ADU), short term rentals and cluster housing. The plan is to have a large scale public forum in November before the series of mandatory zoning ordinance hearings need to take place.

Library – Barbara was unable to attend.

APPOINTMENT: Scott Belcastro, owner of Trebel Energy spoke regarding Energy Aggregation (Community Power). He began by introducing himself and giving background on his company and how it began. He went over what Treble can do for the Town as an energy consultant and how they can help guide the Town through the Community Power process if it is approved by the Town. Informational materials attached.

Mr. Belcastro asked if the board has discussed bringing Community Power option to the voters. Troy mentioned the first meeting for the energy committee will be held on Thursday.

Troy asked how long has the company been in New Hampshire. Mr. Belcastro stated they are large in Ohio and moved into New York and are now moving into New Hampshire. He also mentioned that they are already approved through the NH Secretary of State’s office and the Energy Commission.

Mr. Belcastro asked what the board’s next steps are and it was explained they are going to wait for the energy committee to meet and discuss a plan for moving forward. Mr. Belcastro also mentioned when the board starts having meetings with the community, they are willing to come up and talk with the residents along with sending mailers to get them to come to the meetings.

REVIEW OF MINUTES: September 5, 2023

Motion made by Leon and seconded by Shane to accept the September 5, 2023, meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ben mentioned at the last meeting the board wanted to wait until the in-house posting for the open Police Chief position had expired before moving forward with posting it outside. Ben informed the board that the posting has expired and has received one application from the Interim Chief John Woodworth. Shane stated he would like to interview John before moving forward with opening the position up for outside applicants.

Ben mentioned Chris St.Cyr, Erik Becker and Kathy Jean Lavoie have all expressed interest in being a part of the interview panel. The board stated along with the 3 interested individuals it should also include the Select board members.

The board scheduled the interview for Wednesday, September 27th at 4 p.m. in the Selectmen’s meeting hall.

OLD BUSINESS:

Davidge Corner update – Ben shared the Memorandum of Understanding created by Town Attorney John Frizzell regarding the Davidge corner project. It is the timeline and responsibilities for the tree/hedges issue. Ben mentioned he read through it and feels it hits all the parts that were discussed. The board members also stated they read through it.

Motion made by Leon and seconded by Shane to accept the Memorandum of Understanding with Mr. Davidge. All in favor. Motion carried.

Benoit 600 Main Street property update – Ben stated a letter was sent to Mr. Benoit to set a meeting to discuss his non-compliance with a previously approved site plan for his 600 Main Street property. Ben feels where he has not stepped forward to meet, he would like send another letter to inform Mr. Benoit that the board is moving forward with submitting a request to the planning board to rescind/revoke his site plan review approval. The board agreed with sending the letter to Mr. Benoit.

Ben reported he spoke with NHDOT and the crosswalk closed signs will be removed next week.

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS’ REPORTS:

Shane mentioned he needs to get together with Ben to discuss Depot Street.

Leon mentioned he is still trying to set up a meeting to discuss a PILOT for Norwich Solar. Troy and Shane have both heard Norwich Solar is backing out of the project. Ben had not heard that so he will wait and see what their response is to his most recent email.

Troy confirmed the energy committee will meet Thursday at 5:00 p.m. in the Selectmen’s meeting hall. Ben is going to work on putting together a posting to get more members for the committee.

INFORMATION:

CRASE Training – Ben mentioned the 2-hour CRASE training that was held for the town employees and mentioned at some point he would like to set up something for all the volunteer boards.

Broadband update – The County is continuing with their broadband project and have asked Lancaster to participate once more with that project. See attached Lancaster Broadband update

Liquor Commission Notice to Municipalities – Bad Ass Penny, Penny & Jay Robertson have made application to the Division of Enforcement for a Retail Tobacco liquor license at 112 Main Street.

Land Use Permits –

- Peter Bouchard, 26 Bunker Hill Street – Demo existing shed and repurpose materials and construct stick-built 2-bay garage on concrete slab w/no utilities.
- Adam & Jennifer Adair, 20 Brook Road – Install rooftop solar array
- Travis McNally & Caroline Krouse – Construct detached stick-built garage and carport. Intended use for vehicle/camper storage & workshop
- Ronald Crane, 23 Garland Road – Demo existing open deck and replace with stick-built open deck with railings on SonaTubes

Leon asked if the sewer cleaning and linings are complete. Ben believes there are some sections left to finish up. Ben mentioned the float gauge at the waste water treatment facility broke down which they rebuilt and will be looking for another one to replace it.

Public comment – Nothing

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

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Selectmen

Date: _____

Charity M. Baker

Troy Merner

Leon Rideout

Shane Beattie