

MINUTES

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN HALL**

**October 2, 2023
6:30 PM**

ATTENDEES:

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 Leon Rideout.

DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES:

Highway Foreman Tim Brown reported they are wrapping up getting ready for paving. They have hauled 1100 tons of sand with their own truck and next year if the bidding process is started early enough, they will be able to haul it all on their own. The roads have all been regraded for winter and next they will be getting ready for winter.

Water/Wastewater Supervisor Timmy Bilodeau reported they will start reading meters tomorrow. The chlorine storage tank sprung a leak over the weekend which they have temporarily patched. They will probably need to replace that 1500-gallon tank at some point. They have also been working on water & sewer services on the streets that will be paved. They changed out the chemical feed pump at the lagoons as well. They received the flow meter for the main pump station back from being repaired and now they are changing out the ultrasonic transducer that measures the flow.

Eastern was able to get one liner in and the one on Middle Street the compressor died and it caused an issue with the install. They will be back to try again. Main Street from Grove to Grandview is the next section they would like to replace.

APPOINTMENTS:

Dan Benoit, owner of 600 Main Street was present to request the board not rescind his site plan for his property at 600 Main Street and renew his permit as a junk yard. Shane mentioned where he did not attend their last meeting which he was schedule to attend the ball has been put in motion and the request to rescind the site plan with the planning board has been submitted. It is now in the hands of the planning board and he is welcome to attend their next meeting to discuss the matter.

Sharon Nall from NHDES, Steve Bolles from Process Energy Services and Matt Koehler from Eversource were in attendance to discuss the Energy Evaluations of the water and wastewater systems.

Steve reviewed the Energy Evaluations for both the water and wastewater systems with the board (reports attached). He mentioned Lancaster is one of the most efficient plants out of a comparison of 30 facilities. He reviewed areas where the departments could make adjustments to help reduce energy costs and also some recommendations on other ways to save.

Steve also mentioned they will look at solar options for the wastewater facilities to include another 16Kw array to get them over the top and have all the energy produced by solar and another smaller solar array at the Grange facility.

Ben asked if they considered solar for the water system as well. Steve mentioned the energy use is so low it would not be cost effective.

Sharon Nall discussed several options for funding to assist with the recommended projects to include assistance through Eversource where they work closely with DES to offer funding for custom projects.

Matt from Eversource mentioned his main focus is on emergency preparedness and Eversource certainly wants to encourage energy efficiency and if the town is interested in any of the projects to improve their energy efficiency, he encourages Ben to reach out to him any time and he will get him in touch with the appropriate people.

REVIEW OF MINUTES: September 18, 2023

Motion made by Shane and seconded by Leon to accept the September 18, 2023, meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.

SIGN VARIOUS PAPERWORK:

Fireworks permit signed for David Stickney at 48 Holton Park.

NEW BUSINESS:

Process for filling Board of Selectmen vacancy – Ben reviewed the process he created to fill vacancies when a member of the board resigns or no longer qualifies for the position. See attached copy.

Ben will get an ad, seeking candidates to fill the vacant position, into the October 4th edition of the Caledonian-Record. He will also post the open position at the library, town office, town website and Facebook page.

Leon mentioned the process should also state they are required to be on the voter checklist.

Ben mentioned that he is not going to review the applications before they go to the board to make sure they are complete and all required documents have been included.

Leon and Shane are happy with the process created and would like Ben to move forward with placing the ad.

Special Election for NH House Representative – Ben believes the topic is moot because the Town of Dalton has already voted to request a Special Election to fill the vacant seat caused by the resignation of Troy Merner. Leon stated he thinks it is still a good idea that they vote to hold one as well.

Motion made by Shane and seconded by Leon to request a Special Election to fill the vacant NH House Representative seat. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ben is going to write a letter to the Executive Council to move forward with the process of scheduling the election.

Morgan Hill submitted a letter of resignation from the Planning Board. She explained she doesn’t have the time to fully invest in the position.

Ben also mentioned Robin has been working on a NH Drinking Water & Groundwater Trust Fund application for additional funding for the water tank and she needs the board to vote to authorize Robin as the authorized representative and Ben as a certifying official so those applications can be submitted.

Motion made by Shane and seconded by Leon to submit the NH Drinking Water & Groundwater Trust Fund application and approve Land Use Coordinator Robin Irving as the authorized representative and Town Manager Benjamin Gaetjens-Oleson as the certified official. All in favor. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Police Chief interview – Ben thanked those that assisted in interviewing the only internal candidate, Jon Woodworth. Leon felt it was a good interview and all interviewers seemed to be very favorable with Jon as Chief.

Motion made by Leon and seconded by Shane to appoint Jon Woodworth as Police Chief. All in favor. Motion carried.

Leon also wanted to thank Tim Charbonneau again for his years of service to the Town and is looking forward to working with Jon in the coming years.

SELECTBOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

Ben let the board know that the Energy Committee met and unfortunately with Troy’s resignation they did not have a quorum. They are going to continue working on the template for rules of procedure for the committee. He also mentioned that Rob Christie has stepped forward and expressed an interest in serving on the committee. Those members that were at the meeting felt it would be a good recommendation to appoint Rob to the committee. They also asked Ben to reach out to the businesses as well to find someone to fill the fifth spot and Dave Fuller from the Rialto Theater mentioned he is interested. Dave has not submitted a formal letter of interest so before they consider appointing him Ben would like to have something official from Dave.

Lee Ann Potter one of the energy committee members mentioned they discussed possibly having Ben appointed as an alternate for the Board of Selectmen member. Ben stated he plans on going to the meetings anyway and is fine with being an alternate. He didn’t know if they would like to hold off appointing him as an alternate until they appoint the other select board member.

Motion made by Shane and seconded by Leon to appoint Rob Christie to the Energy Committee. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Shane and seconded by Leon to appoint Town Manager Benjamin Gaetjens-Oleson as the board of selectmen alternate for the Energy Committee. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ben confirmed the meeting will be held the third Thursday of the month. Lee Ann mentioned it would be better if it could be more toward the beginning of the month and earlier in the day.

Shane reported he still needs to get together with Ben and Jim to discuss Depot Street.

Leon mentioned they are still waiting on a response from Norwich Solar regarding a PILOT agreement.

INFORMATION:

Planning Board meeting notice for October 11, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

The Lancaster Broadband updated listed on the agenda was from the previous meeting and was missed being removed from this agenda.

Liquor Commission Notice to Municipalities regarding an application submitted by Smokin T's Bar & Grill for a Caterer Off-site license at 22 Main Street.

Land Use Permits –

- Petros Hatzigeorgiou, 76 Third Street – Install 1988 14'x56'x13'6" Astro mobile home on concrete slab
- Mollie-Ann White & Michael Fahey, 15 Church Street – Conversion of existing garage and first floor off deck into a 1-bedroom ADU with kitchen and living room; convert SFD into 2BR rental units on 1st and 2nd floors. Plumbing & electrical upgrades
- C N Brown Energy, 215 Main Street – Removal of existing 500g UST, install 1-1000 gallon propane AST on 6'x20'x6" concrete slab w/barriers.
- Leo Enos Sr, 69 Mechanic Street – Construct 6-12'x12' concrete block storage bins on gravel pad, expanding existing garage footprint.
- Donald Freddette, 166 Portland Street – Repair house sills, demo existing 16'x16' deck and replace with stick-built 14'x16' deck on right side off rental unit
- Michael Johansson & Tracey Tibbetts, 78 Brook Road – Construct stick-built 24x40'x14'6" additional bay onto existing garage situated on monoslab with radiant heat, intended use for vehicle & storage & restoration.
- Lancaster Rotary Club Charities Inc., 56 Main Street – Construct a stick-built octagonal pavilion having bench seats, situated on floating piers, sidewalks & landscaping, intended use as public park "Greg Cloutier Memorial Park"

Public Input – Jan Wipperman wanted to thank the board for voting to hold a Special Election to fill Troy's seat in the House. She also wanted to know about the compensation as a Board of

Selectmen member for each year of his term. She feels Troy should not be able to keep those payments made to him for those months that he did not live in town and would like the board to request the compensation from the August date last year be returned to the town.

Rob Christie congratulated Jon Woodworth as the new police chief and also commended Timmy Bilodeau on the good report from DES. He also asked about the meeting minutes that the police chief was interviewed. Ben mentioned they were finished up after the agenda was set and will be approved at the next meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted, Board of Selectmen Date: _____

Charity M. Baker

Leon Rideout

Shane Beattie