

## MINUTES

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
TOWN HALL**

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

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### **ATTENDEES:**

Select board members: Leon Rideout, Shane Beattie, Kathy-Jean Lavoie

Others in Attendance: 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

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES:**

**Fire Chief Randy Flynn** reported they responded to 174 EMS calls over the last month, 69 were 911 and 105 transfers. At the end of November 2022, they had 1,921 patient contacts and at the end of November 2023, they had 2,013. They have responded to 115 fire calls to date for 2023 and 135 at this time in 2022.

The tanker is back in service. The front main seal was replaced and McDevitt changed the springs. They are still waiting for the 2 van ambulances. He also reported they have been shorthanded by 4-5 people, 3 of which are full-time.

**Police Chief Jon Woodworth** reported they responded to 410 calls for service, 10 motor vehicle accidents and 7 arrests.

Officers Henry and Trivero passed the Police Academy PT test and will be starting the academy beginning January 8<sup>th</sup>. John Jefferson will be returning department as a full-time officer. Officer Sullivan is still deployed and believed to return in April or May.

The next Coffee with a Cop will be held at the Polish Princess on December 21<sup>st</sup> at 9 a.m. and the January one will be held at Tap Root.

Col. Town – Ben read the updated Recreation Director Eli Vincent emailed him. Attached.

### **APPOINTMENTS:** Rich Mattos/Tech Pros

Ben mentioned Rich was present to get permission from the Board to install a sign on the town's property where the Welcome Center sign is located. It would be attached under the Welcome Center sign. Ben mentioned he discussed this with Rich and told him he did not approve of the sign being added because that would set a precedence for other businesses to request their signs be erected on town property, however the decision is up to the board.

Ben stated Rich would still have to go before the zoning board however getting permission from the land owner is the first step in the process. If the board grants him permission they would sign have to sign as the landowner on the sign permit application. Once the sign permit application is submitted he would then be directed by the Land Use Coordinator Robin Irving to apply to the zoning board for a Special Exception.

Rich mentioned he is a tenant in the Welcome Center and thought that would be the difference between him and other businesses.

Leon thought if the town is going to rent to a tenant and not allow them to put up a sign why is the town renting to a private business. Ben reminded the board that the building is not a town building.

The board agreed that if the zoning board approves the special exception they would give him permission to add his sign to the Welcome Center sign.

**Motion made by Shane and seconded by Kathy-Jean to allow Mr. Mattos to move forward with submitting his request to zoning board and if they grant the Special Exception, the Select board will give him permission to erect his sign. All in favor. Motion carried.**

**REVIEW OF MINUTES:** December 4, 2023

**Motion made by Kathy-Jean and seconded by Shane to approve the December 4, 2023, meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.**

**SIGN PAPERWORK:**

- Intents to Cut –
  - Stephen Kenison & Allison Marro, Tax Map R11, Lot 033. Thinning 50 acres.
  - Mike & Sue Greene, Tax Map R23, Lot 003-A8. 76 of 160 acres to be cut.
- State Representative Coos District 1 Special General Election warrant.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Acceptance of Unanticipated Monies under \$10,000 from the Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant** – Deputy Chief Kevin Whiting wrote a grant to purchase wild fire fighting tools and they were awarded \$1,121.72. Leon asked Randy if the match was a reasonable amount to cover in the budget and Randy stated it was.

**Motion made by Kathy-Jean and seconded by Shane to accept the unanticipated monies from the Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant in the amount of \$1,121.72 and to authorize Town Manager Benjamin Gaetjens-Oleson to sign any and all paperwork pertaining to the grant. All in favor. Motion carried.**

**Issue based work sessions** – Ben would like to start holding one extra meeting a month for the board to focus on planning for the future. He went over a few topics as examples for discussion and how to utilize these sessions. The board members agreed with the idea. Kathy-Jean mentioned there should be goals set for each meeting so things get accomplished and it is not all discussion and no resolution. The sessions will begin with the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in January and will be held from 5-6:30 before the regular meetings.

**Abatement for Elsie Dobson** – Ben explained that Elsie passed away several years ago and the trailer which was located in the Indian Brook Trailer Park was been abandoned and has since been removed by the park owner.

**Motion made by Shane and seconded by Kathy-Jean to abate the taxes on Elsie Dobson's trailer located at 40 Forbes Street in the amount of \$365.80. All in favor. Motion carried.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Energy Commission Update** – Ben mentioned the committee held their two public hearings to get input on the Community Aggregation Plan. Lee Ann Potter did a great job taking the template

and turning it into a Lancaster specific plan. Lee Ann and Teri Anderson are going to be available at the town office and the library to answer any questions community members may have about the program.

Lee Ann is going to send a copy of the plan to the CPCNH and it also needs to be filed with the NHPUC.

Leon asked if it is going to be an opt-in or an opt-out program. Ben stated right now it is an opt-out option. CPCNH does not have an opt-in template as it makes it difficult to know how much power to buy if everyone starts at in opt-out state. The board is going to review the agreement for the meeting in January at which time they will discuss approval.

**Renaming section of Stebbins Hill Road** – Ben went over the recommendation for renaming the unmaintained section of Stebbins Hill Road and that it has come up several times since 2007. There was much discussion as to which section should be renamed and what ways are best to make it clear for public safety. Ben mentioned he spoke with dispatch and they can put whatever information needed into their dispatch (CAD) system to get responders to the correct location.

The board is good with taking no action. The residents have signed the liability waivers acknowledging their properties are located on a class VI road and are happy with it staying the same with the information added to the CAD system so dispatch can guide the responders.

**Motion made by Kathy-Jean and seconded by Shane to have the CAD dispatch system updated the Stebbins Hill properties and take no action to change the road name. All in favor. Motion carried.**

#### **SELECT BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:**

Shane is going to connect with Charity regarding the tax deeded property previously owned by Paul Richardson on Depot Street. Charity mentioned once the town and board approve the sale of the tax deeded property, she turns it over to the Town's attorney to write up a deed to the purchaser. Shane is going to get the deed information to Frizzell's office to transfer the property to the Brian Lee Estate.

Kathy-Jean reported she and Ben met with Phil Beaulieu from NHDOT and a member of the bridge maintenance team for solutions to help stop trucks from entering the Mount Orne Bridge. She shared some information with the other board members that Conway has used for a solution on their covered bridge. Additionally, the Bureau of Traffic is going to send some recommendations.

Leon likes the idea of the hanging barrier and had a few other recommendations.

Ben believes the company doing the repairs will be on site the week between Christmas and New Year's.

There were other recommendations from the public. Kathy-Jean mentioned right now they are really only looking at a hanging barrier from chains. She also mentioned Ben confirmed that snowmobile traffic is NOT allowed on the bridge.

The board is in agreement to install the hanging barrier beam when the repairs are being done.

Kathy-Jean mentioned she spoke with Investigator Richard Tracy about the stipend that Troy Merner received from the Town while he was serving as Selectman. Investigator Tracy stated the AG's office would not normally look into that however where there is an open investigation, if the Select board sends copies of the checks, he can look into whether it can be added to their investigation.

There was also a question on whether the two meetings in March of 2023 were legal meetings where it was just Shane and Troy in attendance. Investigator Tracy mentioned the board should talk with town counsel to confirm if those actions voted on should be reaffirmed.

**Motion made by Shane and seconded by Kathy-Jean to seek town counsel's advice on the votes that were taken at the March 6, 2023 and the March 20, 2023 meetings and confirm if need to be reaffirmed. All in favor. Motion carried.**

Leon asked Ben if he would send the minutes from the March meetings and confirm they were legal meetings and also ask what course they should take to recoup the stipend paid to him.

Ben asked if anyone has asked Troy to return the money. The board members stated they have not reached out. They would like to know their recourse and what method they should use to move forward.

Kathy-Jean feels the board's Rules of Procedure should be updated to include a domicile statement.

**Motion made by Kathy-Jean and seconded by Shane to amend the Rules of Procedure to include the domicile wording. All in favor. Motion carried.**

Leon mentioned he had nothing at this time.

**INFORMATION:**

- 2024 Coos County Budget
- NHDES letter re: Forestry Statutory Permits-by-Nomination – File #2023-03137 Project location: R23, Lot 18-3 & 18-4
- Land Use Permits –
  - Margaret Mattison, 7 Fletcher Street
  - Brian Patnoe, 442 North Road
  - Helrick Realty/Mountain View Donuts aka Dunkin', 198 Main Street
  - Melissa Hanson dba Scorpio's Pizzeria, 180 Main Street
- Sign Permit –
  - Richard Mattos dba TECHPROS Computer Sales & Gun Shop, Tax Map P07, Lot 005

**Motion made by Shane and seconded by Kathy-Jean to enter into non-public per RSA 91-A:3 II (a) to discuss personnel. Roll Call Vote.**

**Shane Beattie: Yes**

**Kathy-Jean Lavoie: Yes**

**Leon Rideout: Yes**

The public left the room for the board to enter into non-public session.

The board and public reentered public session at 9:01 p.m.

**Motion made by Kathy-Jean and seconded by Shane to seal the non-public minutes indefinitely. Roll call vote was taken. Shane – Yes, Kathy-Jean – Yes, Leon – Yes.**

Leon announced no official action was taken in the non-public session.

There was no public input.

**Motion made by Shane and seconded by Kathy-Jean to adjourn. All in favor. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Selectmen

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Charity M. Baker

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Leon Rideout

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Shane Beattie

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Kathy-Jean Lavoie