

## MINUTES

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
TOWN HALL**

**January 16, 2024  
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 182 EMS calls, 119 transfers and 63 911. In 2023 they responded to 774 911 calls and 1442 transfers and in 2022 836 911 calls and 1282 transfers. Revenues received in 2023 were just shy of 1.8 million and in 2022 1.49 million.

The department also responded to 125 fire calls in 2023 compared to 141 in 2022.

**Police Chief Jon Woodworth** reported in 2023 the department had 5,034 calls for service. 126 were motor vehicle accidents and 91 arrests. Year-to-date they have had 199 calls for service, 10 were motor vehicle accidents and 7 arrests.

Officer Trivero and Henry are in week two of the Academy and doing well. The Molly vests are in and in service. Thursday at 10 a.m. is the next Coffee with a Cop at Tap Root.

**Librarian Barbara Robarts** was unable to attend.

**Recreation Director Eli Vincent** was unable to attend due to a basketball commitment, however, Ben was able to give an update. They are running full force with basketball and are planning the father/daughter and mother/son dances for some time in the next few months.

**APPOINTMENT:** Racheal Stuart was present to discuss the Electric Aggregation Plan that was approved at a previous meeting. She is appreciative of the committees work on the plan however, she believes that the plan that has been submitted to the PUC does not meet the requirements for a plan. Racheal shared her research with concern of using committee versus commission and vice versa. Everything that she found is the governing board appoints the committee as specified in RSA 53-E and the PUC is the commission. She feels using commission in the plan is incorrect as RSA 38-D does not give commissions power to do anything with aggregation plans. She is also concerned the deadlines and review/comment period may be missed if they resubmit with the correct terminology. She would like to make sure the i's are dotted and t's are crossed before it goes to town meeting.

Energy Committee Vice Chair Teri Anderson mentioned there has not been a meeting since the last public hearing. She would like to get it fixed and asks the Select Board to table making any decisions until the Energy Committee has a chance to meet as a whole and make a recommendation to them.

The next energy committee is Thursday at 5pm and the goal is to bring back a recommendation to Select Board's first meeting in February.

Kathy-Jean wanted to confirm with Teri that the plan has already been submitted to the PUC and Teri confirmed it had. Ben mentioned Attorney Frizzell has given it a cursory review and Frizzell

doesn’t foresee there being any big issues as it has been kind of a universal template being used around the State, however he has not given a formal opinion.

There was much discussion as to the language of the plan and whether it is appropriate to use committee or commission. Ben mentioned it could just be a matter of ratifying the vote taken back in July creating the committee and when ratifying the vote create the commission as appropriate.

The board was in agreement to take no action and allow the Energy Committee to meet and discuss what changes are needed in order to move forward.

Racheal again expressed her concern with the deadline of the comment period at the PUC and the timing of the next meeting of the energy committee along with when the board will be able to take a vote to correct the terminology and if it will meet deadlines for town meeting.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES: January 2, 2024**

**Motion made by Shane and seconded by Kathy-Jean to accept the January 2, 2024 meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.**

**SIGN VARIOUS PAPERWORK:** The board signed an abatement for a camper owned by Shawn Bretchel at 46A Mountain Lake Campground. The camper was registered and should not have received a tax bill.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Encumbrances** – Ben reviewed the list of 2023 encumbrances for projects not yet complete and equipment on order but not yet paid for.

**Motion made by Kathy-Jean and seconded by Shane to encumber the 2023 funds for the incomplete projects and purchases reviewed (see attached). All in favor. Motion carried.**

**Town Hall Fountain** – Ben reported a vehicle struck the fountain in front of the town hall and it tumbled over. He believes it will be able to be restacked. Barry Normandeau is going to come take a look. The accident will be reported to the Town’s insurance company and luckily the driver had insurance.

**Kent Fountain** – It looks like mid-summer for that to be put back. The company had some technical issues that they have worked through. The plan is to put it back in the same location. It is believed by the stone company that the location is settled and if it is relocated the new location may settle and cause the base to crack.

**Health Office Association** – Ben received a Health Officer Association membership application and asked the board if they would like dues paid to join the Association. The board is good with joining.

Ben reminded the board that the Presidential Primary and Special State Rep elections are next Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> and attendance is required.

**SELECT BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:**

Kathy-Jean asked Ben if he had a chance to talk with the Lunenburg selectboard regarding the Mt. Orne bridge and he has not as of yet. He also mentioned he has to get Tim Brown the list of signs too. Kathy-Jean also asked the board if they would like to add a sign that says passenger vehicles

only. Leon believes that was part of the discussions. The board agreed to add the passenger vehicles only sign to the other signage being ordered for the bridge.

Kathy-Jean asked Ben if he updated the boards Rules of Procedure and he stated he had and there is a copy on his desk for their signature.

Leon – nothing

Shane – nothing.

**INFORMATION:**

Letter from Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust regarding a conservation project on the Clark property, Tax Map R24, Lot 005. The letter is requesting any information the Town has for any issues that may exist or have existed on that property. Ben is going to get with the Fire Chief to review and get any information back to them.

Land Use Permit –

- LRH-2 LLC, 55 Main Street

**Public Input** – Rob Christie, Lancaster representative to the Airport Commission, mentioned he submitted an expense request for mileage reimbursement to attend the Airport Commission meeting. Shane stated, he does not believe the board is in favor of reimbursing as they do not have a policy in place for that type of reimbursement. Rob said he received mileage reimbursement for Conservation Commission-related travel. Kathy-Jean asked if it was for a special annual meeting/workshop and Rob stated it was. Kathy-Jean asked if a motion was needed and Leon stated if it was going to be reimbursed then they would need a motion because it would be setting a new policy. The board was in agreement that they are not willing to create a policy for mileage to be reimbursed for all meetings for the volunteers.

Rob also mentioned he has looked into the Elderly exemption and has done some homework. He feels increasing the qualification requirements and exemption limits should be looked into and considered. He also recommended the board look at increasing the Optional Veterans’ and Disabled Veterans’ credits. Kathy-Jean mentioned she and Rob have worked on both for about a month and she doesn’t agree with Rob’s calculations however they do agree that something needs to be done. The board agreed to take a look at making adjustments.

**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