

MINUTES

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN HALL**

**March 18, 2024
6:30 PM**

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, Zack D Video

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 in the same month in 2023 they responded to 48 911 calls and 96 transfers and this year the past month they responded to 65 911 calls and 119 transfers. To date they have responded to 142 911 calls and 224 transfers for a total of 366 calls. Total year to date last year was 289 and fire calls 12.

He also reported that revenue collected for January-February 2023 was \$219,687 and this year for January-February \$288,041.

The new ambulance that came in a couple weeks ago is now licensed by the State and can be put in service. The 2nd van should be arriving in April, he hopes. The box truck ordered this year should arrive in February 2025.

Randy received a call from the American Red Cross and they would like to stage a trailer at the DRED building for the eclipse. He told them that is up to DRED.

The ambulance they took out of service will be put out to bid and mentioned the salesman offered \$1,000. He thought it was a good price however he will put it out to bid. There was some discussion on other ways to sell it.

Leon asked Randy has attributed to the uptick in revenue and Randy stated it is due to increased calls.

Ben read a thank you card to the ambulance for their service on a call that saved a family members life.

Police Chief Jon Woodworth reported they have responded to 450 calls for service, 8 of which were motor vehicle crashes, 154 traffic stops and 5 arrests.

March 21st will be the next Coffee with a Cop at the Granite Grind at 8:30 a.m.

Jon stated when he went through hiring process, he mentioned he wanted to start the K9 program back up at the department. Lieutenant Matthews would be the K9 officer if a dog is found. The next narcotics class that will take place is in April of 2025. Matthews is looking for grants to help with costs. Jon went over some of the know expenses of the program.

Shane asked Randy and Jon if they would be able to meet on Wednesday to go over some eclipse preparedness. They set a time for 10 a.m. that day.

Kathy-Jean asked if Stebbins Hill addressing has been completed with dispatch and it was reported that it has.

Recreation Director Eli Vincent reported that basketball season is over. They have 123 signed ups for the father-daughter dance. The baseball/softball sign-ups are now open. March 30th is the Easter Egg hunt/scramble. He is also coordinating with the Coos Cute Hopper 4H Rabbit Club to come so kids have the opportunity get a picture with real bunnies.

Eli is coordinating with Highway Foreman Tim Brown to tear down the grandstand on Monday.

Librarian Barbara Roberts reported the LED lights in the basement area of the library have been replaced. They are waiting on bulbs for the upstairs and once those are in the LED lighting replacement project will be complete.

She also reported the power outage the morning of March 18th, did damage to the heating system and one of the HVAC units. She is hoping to get a quote of the damage by the end of the week and a claim has already been filed with the insurance company.

REVIEW OF MINUTES: March 11, 2024

Motion made by Kathy-Jean and seconded by Shane to approve the March 11, 2024, meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.

SIGN VARIOUS PAPERWORK:

- Intent to Cut – Bright Hospitality/Cabot Inn, 200 Portland Street, Tax Map R17, Lots 35 & 38. Both sides of the road. Acres to be cut – 45.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Resignations –
 - Kim Votta from the Conservation Commission. Ben read Kim’s letter to the board.
 - Melissa Potter from Zoning Board. Ben read Melissa’s letter to the board.

Motion made by Shane and seconded by Kathy-Jean to accept Kim Votta’s resignation from the Conservation Commission and Melissa Potter’s resignation from the Zoning Board with regret. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ben will send a card to each of them thanking them for their service to the town.

- Appointment recommendations
 - Planning board – Vickie Gibbs as a regular member for a 3-year term. Ben read the letter from Land Use Coordinator Robin Irving on behalf of the Planning Board.

Motion made by Kathy-Jean and seconded by Shane to appoint Vickie Gibbs as a regular member to the Planning Board for a 3-year term. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Zoning board – Lester Hilton and Steven Young as regular members for 3-year terms. Ben read the letter from Land Use Coordinator Robin Irving on behalf of the Zoning Board.

Motion made by Shane and seconded by Kathy-Jean to appoint Lester Hilton as a regular member to the Zoning Board for a 3-year term. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Shane and seconded by Kathy-Jean to appoint Steven Young as a regular member to the Zoning Board for a 3-year term. All in favor. Motion carried.

Leon asked how many vacancies there are on each of those boards. Ben mentioned they are down 3-4 alternates on the Planning board and the Zoning board is down 3 members. Either 1 regular member and 2 alternates or 3 alternates if Don Fredette moves to a regular member.

- Auditors Engagement agreement for services for years ending 2023, 2024 and 2025.

Motion made by Shane and seconded by Kathy-Jean to reaffirm the Auditor Engagement agreement for years ending 2023, 2024 and 2025. 2nd KJ. All in favor. Motion carried.

Kathy-Jean mentioned, she spoke with auditor Tim Greene from Roberts and Greene and he will be available to attend the April 15th meeting if the board would like. All board members would like him to attend. Kathy-Jean will reach back out and confirm the appointment for that meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Purchase and Sales agreement for Depot Street properties. Ben reviewed that the board had already agreed on a purchase price and they have already reviewed the purchase and sales agreement it just needs their signatures. Once it is signed, Ben will forward it to Attorney Frizzell and he will prepare the deed.

SELECT BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

Leon mentioned, the board is continuing the search for Ben's replacement and hopes it will come to completion sooner rather than later. He asked the other board members if they would like to extend the deadline for resume submissions. They agreed to extend the deadline.

Motion by Shane and seconded by Kathy-Jean to extend the deadline for accepting applications for the Town Managers position to April 19, 2024. All in favor. Motion carried.

The board discussed where they would like advertising for the position. Kathy-Jean is going to have NHMA and Northern Forest extend their advertising and they would like the ad run in the Concord Monitor and the paper in the Keene area.

The board reaffirmed their committee assignments.

- Shane will serve on the Budget Committee and as an alternate for Planning Board.
- Kathy-Jean will serve on the Planning Board and as an alternate for the Conservation Commission.
- Leon will serve on the Conservation Commission and as an alternate for the Budget Committee.

Motion made by Kathy-Jean and seconded by Shane to continue their committee assignments as they were in 2023. All in favor. Motion carried.

INFORMATION:

- Zoning Board meeting notice for March 27, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m.
- Tactical Pipeline Response training pamphlet from Paradigm. Ben reported some members of the fire department will be attending.

- Land Use Permits:
 - Leo & Michelle Rideout Jr, 36 Causeway
 - Greg Mitchell dba Thompson Mill Properties LLC, 65 Main Street
 - Christopher & Ellen St. Cyr, 46 Railroad Street
 - Dakota Lurvey, 4 Wesson Road

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Alan Savage asked when the minutes and recording for Town Meeting will be available. It was mentioned they will be ready soon.

Motion made by Shane and seconded by Kathy-Jean to go into Non-Public Session pursuant to NH RSA 91-A:3 II. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Select board entered Non-Public Session at 7:05 p.m.

The Select board exited Non-Public Session at 7:25 p.m.

Leon announced the session was to discuss the Town Manager search screening committee.

Motion made by Shane and seconded by Kathy-Jean to seal the minutes for the Non-Public session regarding the Town Manager search screening committee indefinitely. All in favor. Motion carried.

Leon announced those selected to serve as members of the Town Manager Search Screening committee. Members are Rick Bernier, Maggie Jones, Alan Savage, Racheal Stuart and Rusty Scott. Racheal Stuart has been selected as the chair for that committee.

The dates for the committee to meet will now change since the deadline for applications as been changed. Leon thanked everyone that submitted letters of interest.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Board of Selectmen Date: _____

Charity M. Baker

Leon Rideout

Shane Beattie

Kathy-Jean Lavoie