



Monday, October 24, 2022

Board of Selectmen Minutes

In attendance: Steve Smith (Chair), Derek Tremblay (Selectmen), Teresa Williams (Healthtrust), Judy Aron, Alicea Bursey, Bonnie Belden, Cindy Williams, Kirsten Hershey, ShaeDel Simino, Melissa Salinardi

CALL TO ORDER

Steve Smith called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

Steven Smith explained that Dianne Craig will not be present for the meeting tonight due to illness.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CONSENT AGENDA

Steve Smith motioned to accept the agenda and all documents that were signed by the Board. Derek Tremblay seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried (2-0).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Derek Tremblay made some grammatical change suggestion. Steve Smith will make the suggested change.

Derek Tremblay motioned to accept the meeting Minutes of October 10, 2022 'as amended'. Steve Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried (2-0).

APPOINTMENTS

Bonnie Belden (Olive G. Pettis Library)

Bonnie Belden read the Certification of Authority Agreement between the Town, and State of NH, acting by and through the Department of Natural and Cultural Resource. She asked the Chair to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board to finalize the grant.

Derek Tremblay motioned to designate Steve Smith, Chair, to sign the agreement between the Town of Goshen and the State of New Hampshire, acting by and through the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and to finalize the Discovery Park Project led by the Olive G. Pettis Library Trustees. Steve Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried (2-0).

Bonnie Belden mentioned that everyone was invited to the groundbreaking ceremony for the Discovery Park Project which would be taking place on Tuesday, October 25, 2022. will be happening tomorrow.

Ms. Belden also asked Mr. Simino if he had time to discuss a possible timeline for completing the project of the retaining wall. Shae asked if they could discuss the topic towards the end of the month so he would have a bit more time to determine a better timeframe.

Teresa Williams (Healthtrust)

Teresa Williams, Healthtrust Representative, presented the Board with a spreadsheet of data regarding possible health care plans that can be offered to employees. Ms. Williams discussed the plans in depth and stated that the Town has the ability to offer up to three different plans. She continued by stating that all plans are Access Blue New England plans and explained that some offer site of service (SOS) locations while other plans have a higher deductible but can be paired with HSA or HRAs. She remarked that there are many options, however, the decision remains with the Town and what they would like to offer.

Derek Tremblay asked what similar size Town's are doing. Teresa Williams stated that most smaller groups do not go with the higher deductible plans and that generally, the other plans are used. Mr. Tremblay asked for further clarification on the deductible and how an employee would meet that standard deductible. Ms. Williams gave the example of getting an MRI, saying that if the employee received an MRI, the deductible would be met and any surgery or additional medical aid would be a zero cost to the employee once they have used the deductible. Steve Smith asked if the SOS count towards the standard deductible and Ms. Williams stated that they did not.

Ms. Williams further explained that the SOS locations sometimes take a little more work to see what is available in the area. The Board asked what services were available to the employees. Ms. Williams stated that Healthtrust has a call center willing to connect with employees, there is also an employee portal which can be set up with little effort and is a very useful tool for messaging the enrollee services team.

Derek Tremblay asked what the deadline was for changing plans. Ms. Williams explained that right now Healthtrust has an open enrollment until November 18, 2022, however, the Town can set the enrollment period for themselves within that timeframe. She suggested that the Board make their decision and then have the Administrative Assistant contact her with the decision. From there, changes in applications and informing employees of their new choices will need to be done before December 10, 2022.

Ms. Williams also mentioned that currently the medical plan probationary period is zero days, however, the dental plan has a ninety day probationary period. She recommended that the Board make a decision on whether they would like to see these two probationary periods consistent with each other. The Board thanked Ms. Williams for her presentation.

Derek Tremblay stated that he will prepare some projections and comparison charts for the Board to review at the next meeting. These charts will include information about cost to the Town and cost to the employee. Both Steve Smith and Derek Tremblay agreed that they would like to keep the costs to the Town low but provide a good insurance plan for the employee. The Board would like to table a decision until all members of the Board can be present.

Steve Smith asked the employees who were present at the meeting if they had any thoughts. Cindy Williams wondered what the co-pay was for Physical Therapy and whether there was a lower cost than what she has been paying. Derek Tremblay stated that the co-pay was fifteen dollars and that was the lowest in the different plan options. He also suggested that the employees get a copy of the spreadsheet that was provided so they can review the data themselves. The Board will make a decision during the next meeting.

Judy Aron (State Representative)

Judy Aron, State Representative, introduced herself and stated that she likes to attend Town meetings every so often to check in and see if Town's have any needs from her at the state level. She added that she continues to fight for additional grant monies and certain funds to be replenished so that she can continue to send financial aid to her districts. She remarked that she is here to listen and see how the Town is doing.

Steve Smith stated that he appreciates the updates from Concord. He mentioned that school funding continues to be an issue for small town's but other than that, he doesn't have any concerns.

Judy Aron remarked that in 2018 there was a Commission report done on school funding and she believes that there is some useful material in that report that should be reviewed. She also mentioned that money has been put into the SWEPT fund in hopes to help with lowering school taxes. However, she mentioned that there is only so much that can be done but that she continues to try to make change.

Derek Tremblay mentioned that Dianne Craig is Goshen's liaison to FEMA and the Town has begun to see reimbursements in that area.

Judy Aron stated that she is optimistic about the coming year as it is a budget year and she hopes to be able to put more money aside to help small town's lower there expenses. Steve Smith thanked Ms. Aron for coming and keeping the Board informed.

Shae Simino (Road Agent)

The Board congratulated ShaeDel Simino on his marriage and wished him well.

- **Equipment:** Mr. Simino reported that the 2008 Chevy 1 ton truck has been sold for \$11,110.00. The Town should receive the money within a month of the sale. He also mentioned that he intends to continue looking at other equipment that might need to be fixed or sold. He would like to look at the roller next.
- **Shoels Road:** Some work has taken place to fix some of the concerns that were made by Mr. Hodgeman regarding Shoels Road. Mr. Simino believes that in the future, a culvert at the bottom of Shoels road may need to be added. Steve Smith mentioned that he saw the ditch work that was done and noted that it looked good and seemed wider than before. He asked if Mr. Hodgeman said anything about the road work. Shae responded saying that Mr. Hodgeman did stop by while work was being done and it seemed like Mr. Hodgeman was pleased to see work being done.
- **Garage:** The garage door is now fixed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kirsten Hershey asked about the status of her neighbor, Mark Stadtmiller's property. Steve Smith responded by saying that the issue has now become a state concern. Derek Tremblay added that it will now be the responsibility of the Code Enforcer, who is also appointed by the state, to pursue further actions. He suggested that Ms. Hershey reach out to Mr. Nadeau as he may be able to provide her with immediate answers.

Ms. Hershey was aware that it might become a state issue and Steve Smith added that the states approach seems to be to address one issue with the hope that the rest will resolve themselves. He believes that the state will address the gray water issue first. Ms. Hershey voiced her concern regarding the hazardous waste on the property that is very evidently a health concern. Steve Smith stated that he hopes the issue will be resolved as quickly as

possible, but as it stands, the Board of Selectmen have no control over the situation. He also mentioned that Chief Andersen and Mr. Bruce Nadeau did go to the property on October 20th to determine the next steps.

COMMUNICATIONS

Administrative Assistant (Melissa Salinardi)

- **NHMA Files:** Ms. Salinardi asked the Board to respond to an email that was sent from the NHMA regarding Town files. The Board asked Ms. Salinardi to respond via email and gain access to old Town files.
- **Audit Report:** Chairman Smith signed the Audit Report on behalf of the Board. Ms. Salinardi will gather remaining signatures and send the document back to the Auditing company.
- **Smartboard:** Ms. Salinardi read an email from the SAU#102 Superintendent, Dr. Gail Paludi regarding a donation of a SMART Board to the Town. Due to a constant change in technology, the Board would like further information about the donated equipment to determine if the equipment can be used with current technology. Ms. Salinardi will reach out to Dr. Paludi for more information.
- **Email Correspondence:** When emailing outside parties on agenda items or Board concerns, Ms. Salinardi asked the Board members to remember to CC or BCC her on the emails so she could have prior knowledge of the potential discussion during the meetings. The Board members agreed to keep her informed when applicable.

Board of Selectmen – Derek Tremblay had nothing further to add.

Planning Board Update

Derek Tremblay stated that he was not at the previous Planning Board meeting and did not have an update. Chair Smith asked Alicea Bursey to provide the update.

- **Subdivision:** Alicea Bursey presented the Board with information regarding a proposed minor subdivision on the corner of Route 31. She explained that there were some concerns regarding the placement of the driveway. The Planning Board intends to invite, at the surveyor's suggestion, the Road Agent, Goshen EMS, and the Code Enforcement Officer to do a site inspection of the area of concern.
- **Laptop:** Ms. Bursey reported that the shared laptop for the Planning Board and the Zoning Board has been purchased and the software will be loaded within the week. She also remarked that the Planning Board has decided to entrust the laptop and projector to the Recording Secretary of the Planning Board. Steve Smith asked what would happen if the secretary did not work in an office space where the equipment can be locked up. Ms. Bursey stated that the Planning Board has decided to allow the equipment to remain with the secretary, whoever that may be.

OLD BUSINESS

FEMA update: This discussion was tabled.

New Employment Policy: This discussion was tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

SAU #102-MOU: The Board reviewed the changes that were presented by the Goshen School Board. They agreed to all changes made with one suggestion. They would like to see an effective date noted on the MOU. Ms. Salinardi will contact Dr. Gail Paludi with the Board's suggestion and ask for a final copy for the Board to sign.

Budget: Steve Smith asked about the status of the budget preparation. Ms. Salinardi responded that some departments have responded with their budgets and the deadline for department budgets is November 1st. She continued by saying that she hopes to continue working with the Budget Committee Chair, Barbara Paronto and Dianne Craig to finalize budget preparation within the next few weeks.

Derek Tremblay asked ShaeDel Simino how he was coming along with his budget preparation. Mr. Simino responded that he also hopes to have a conversation with Ms. Paronto to discuss budget. Mr. Tremblay spoke about a potential warrant article to reserve funds for repairs to the roads. His concern was that the Board of Selectmen have enough time to prepare Warrant Articles for the Town Meeting in hopes of staying ahead of things. Steve Smith mentioned that in the past before the floods from last year, there had been a ten to fifteen year plan for repairing roads, however, with FEMA grant money it has allowed for roads to be maintained in a quicker manner. Mr. Tremblay said that he was interested in hearing Mr. Simino's approach on maintaining the roads and what he proposes for budgeting purposes.

Newport Ambulance Contract: No new information regarding the contract has been presented. Steve Smith will reach out to Newport to see if there is any progress.

STANDING ITEMS

- Pre-Construction Meeting (Lempster Coach Bridge)
- UVLSRPC
- Grange Update
- Mt Sunapee Advisory Commission Update
- Library Grant Update
- Monthly Budget Review
- Veterans Monument Repair
- Flag Poles at Cemetery
- Other Items

Derek Tremblay motioned to adjourn. Steve Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried (2-0).

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled **November 7, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. (This is a change from the November 14, 2022 regularly scheduled meeting).**

Respectfully submitted by Melissa Salinardi