



Monday, November 28, 2022

Board of Selectmen Minutes

In attendance: Steve Smith (Chair), Derek Tremblay (Selectmen), Dianne Craig (Selectmen), Alicea Bursey, Barbara Paronto, ShaeDel Simino, Melissa Salinardi

CALL TO ORDER

Steve Smith called the meeting to order at 6:33pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Some grammatical changes were suggested. The misspelling of Bonnie Belden's name was corrected. On page 5, last paragraph before new business, Derek Tremblay suggested adding "retirement benefit" before the word "payout".

Derek Tremblay motioned to accept the minutes of November 7, 2022 'as amended'. Steve Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried (3-0).

APPOINTMENTS

Alicea Bursey (Planning Board)

- Planning Board Stipend: Alicea Bursey explained that the Planning Board unanimously voted to transfer the Planning Board chair's stipend to the Recording Secretary. She asked the Board of Selectmen to consider approving the transfer of allotted funds from the Planning Board chair to the Planning Board Secretary.

Steve Smith motioned to transfer allotted funds from the Planning Board Chair to the Planning Board Recording Secretary in agreeance with the Planning Board's decision. Dianne Criag seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried (3-0).

Shae Simino (Road Agent)

- Highway Update: Shae Simino gave an update on road work and improvements to equipment. He stated that the highway department has been able to continue ditch work on Cross Road and will continue to make improvements as long as the weather holds.
- Transfer Station: Shae Simino asked the Board to further discuss the Holiday Transfer Station hours. It had been previously determined during a past meeting to only open the transfer station on the Wednesday after Christmas and the Wednesday after New Years, however, the transfer station employees are willing to work an additional day to allow residents time during those weeks to drop off trash and recyclables.

Shae suggested to the Board that the employees are willing to work on the holidays or even the Saturday before the holidays. Steve Smith mentioned that the Town would have to pay time and a half if the employees were working on a holiday or a federally observed holiday. Dianne Craig asked if the concern of the employees was that they would be losing a day of pay. Shae responded by saying that "yes, that is part of their concern."

Derek Tremblay asked the Board to entertain opening the transfer station another day to allow residents options for trash and recyclable disposal. Steve Smith asked Shae Simino if he would be able to reach out to the transfer station employees and ask them if they would be willing to work an additional day. Alicea Bursey suggested opening the transfer station on Christmas Eve but have shortened hours. Derek Tremblay responded, saying that he didn't feel comfortable with asking people to work on Christmas Eve. Steve Smith agreed. Derek Tremblay stated that he was comfortable asking Shae to speak with the employees to see if they would be willing to work the Friday before New Years as an additional day to be open. Dianne Craig corrected a previous statement that was made by Steve Smith, stating that part-timers do not receive holiday pay, however she agreed that the transfer station should not be open on the holiday. Shae Simino will ask the transfer station employees if they are willing to work, in addition to their regular Wednesday's, the Friday (December 30th) before New Years. Once a decision is made, a notice will be posted in public locations.

COMMUNICATIONS

Administrative Assistant

- Oath of Office: The Board reviewed and signed an oath of office for Mr. Sebastian Zyzdorf who has been sworn in as an alternate for the Planning Board. No questions or concerns were made.
- Address Numbers and 911 Numbers: Chair Smith updated the Board stating that the secretary had received a call from a resident who had been searching for address numbers and a 911 number for their houses on Pheasant Runn Road. He explained that both the Fire Chief and Building Inspector have been contacted and hopefully the issue will be resolved quickly as the resident stated that they had tenants moving into the houses within the next few weeks.
- Letter of Support: The secretary presented a drafted support letter for the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission. The Board reviewed the letter and had no concerns. They agreed that the letter of support should be signed and sent back to the UVLSRPC.
- Cyclical Revaluation Proposal: Dianne Craig presented the three-year cyclical revaluation proposal from Commerford Nieder Perkins, LLC. The Board reviewed the contract and Dianne added that she believes that it is important for the Town to go ahead with this revaluation. The proposal had a few minor statements that needed clarification. The Board will review and sign after the clarifications have been made.
- Ambulance Contract: Steve Smith recommended that the Town needed a non-appropriation clause in the contract in order to approve. The Board discussed adding the following clause to the contract, "The term of this Agreement shall be twelve (12) months commencing on January 2, 2023, with two (2) annual renewals terminating on December 21, 2025. The Subscriber may terminate the agreement based upon non-appropriation."

Dianne Craig wanted to clarify that the Board was going to make an exception to bypass the purchasing policy and not put the ambulance contract out for bid. Steve Smith noted that he didn't see it as bypassing as there were limited options to choose from.

Derek Tremblay motioned to waive the purchasing policy for the Newport Ambulance Contract procurement for 2023. Steve Smith seconded the motion.

Further discussion was had and Dianne Craig continued to advise that the Board of Selectmen set a good example to other Boards and follow the purchasing policy when possible. She believes that the Board should follow the policy by putting the ambulance contract out to bid and determine the best option for the town based on facts. Derek Tremblay thought that it made sense to make an exception as the Town has already been in partnership with Newport for the ambulance contract. He further asked what other options the Town had. Dianne Craig mentioned Claremont, New London and Newport as being the closest emergency units in the area. Steve Smith stated that when he spoke to the owner of Golden Cross in Claremont a few years ago, the owner had encouraged Goshen to pursue a contract with Newport as the response time and distance to Goshen residents would be a better solution. He added that he agreed with the decision and continues to feel that the response distance and time should be the Board's top priority.

VOTE: All were in favor-yes; motion carried (3-0).

Derek Tremblay motioned to accept the Newport Ambulance Contract 'with pending changes to secure town approval on an annual basis.' Dianne Craig seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried (3-0).

- Upcoming Meetings:

Steve Smith motioned to start the December 12th meeting at 6:00 p.m. instead of 6:30 p.m. Derek Tremblay seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried (3-0).

Steve Smith motioned to cancel the December 26th meeting. Dianne Craig seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried (3-0).

- Timber Tax Bill: The secretary explained the current status of an overdue Timber Tax Bill. She provided additional details and requested that the Board review the documents and advise her how to proceed with notifying the property owner of the Board's course of action. Discussion was had and Dianne Craig suggested that the Board take into advisement the direction that the State Timber Tax Appraiser suggested. Derek Tremblay noted that there seems to be negligence on the side of the forester and the owner. Steve Smith mentioned that if there was fault on the Town's side, the Board could decide to take action, however, agreed that the Board should follow the suggestions of the State appraiser. The secretary will draft a letter to the owner for the Board to review and sign.

Board of Selectmen

- Derek Tremblay made mention to an email that the Board received from Paul Mercier, the Town's previous auditor. Dianne Craig explained the request and stated that she believes it would be beneficial for Mr. Mercier to come in and speak about the audit and best practices as he had been the Town's auditor for years and it could be informative for the new secretary. The Board agreed and the secretary will reach out to him for an appointment in the new year.
- Property Complaint: The Board discussed a property complaint that was brought to the Board's attention via email by Neil and Sue Rutter regarding a property that is owned by Mr. Greenhalgh on Brook Road. The Board has asked the Code Enforcement Officer to discuss the complaint with Mr. Greenhalgh and also inspect the property in question. Dianne Craig stated that she had not received any further information and that she would reach out to Bruce Nadeau for further details. Derek Tremblay acknowledged the Rutter's observations to be true

and agreed that the property should be inspected. Alicea Bursley commented on the types of businesses that are allowed in the Town of Goshen and also mentioned that there is a search option for businesses on the state website that might be useful in determining whether the business on the property is registered.

- Steve Smith mentioned that he represented the Town of Goshen while walking the perimeter of the Johnson Farm Conservation Easement. He added that it is the responsibility of the Selectmen to annually walk the perimeter to make sure roads haven't been added to the property. He remarked that there are no violations and the property line has been maintained.

OLD BUSINESS

- Budget: The Board reviewed the proposed budget. Derek Tremblay mentioned that he would like to add money into the budget to account for an increase in compensation. Dianne Craig stated that the Board would have to explain the increase. Derek added that he thinks it is wise for the Town to plan appropriately when it comes to wage increases as the Town would not want to see turnovers due to cost of living increases. He would like to see the Town prepare for something rather than nothing. Speaking in regards to the new hires, Dianne Craig mentioned that an increase is fine, however, not after only a few months of work. She suggested that the Board may want to wait at least four to six months before considering new hires for a wage increase.

The Board further discussed a wage increase to salaries. Steve Smith agreed that the increase should be added to the budget so the Board has something to work with instead of not planning for it at all. Derek Tremblay mentioned that he didn't want to see employees not receiving a raise for an eighteen-month duration, which is what it would be if the Board did not consider adding funds into the budget to account for a raise. Dianne Craig was in agreement that she wanted to see the employees being paid fairly but thought it best to wait for an annual review or at least a four month raise for 2023. Steve Smith was in agreement that something should be put into the budget in anticipation for next year. Rough estimates were discussed and Dianne Craig remarked that she was unsure of what the town could afford and that the Board should be cautious of that. Barbara Paronto mentioned that the cost overall has gone up and during Town meeting she is prepared to address that to the residents.

Steve Smith remarked that the employees are assets to the Town. Dianne Craig agreed but stated that part of their compensation is the great health care plan that they take advantage of. She further added that she still does not believe that new hires should receive wage increases after three months of work. She mentioned that if the Board decides to add funds to the budget for wage increases and then does not use the funds, the Board will be accused of fluffing the budget and would have to justify the underspending.

Derek Tremblay suggested having a standard increase in the budget, possibly 3%, that is added to the budget annually. Steve Smith added that it was important to remember that no one would be getting a \$1 increase, but rather it would be up to \$1 and based on the employee's performance. The Board decided to add additional money into the new hires salary lines to account for a potential raise within the next year.

The Board continued reviewing the proposed budgets and proposed warrant articles. As they reviewed the Libraries proposed warrant article they questioned whether money was available from the Library Capital Reserve Funds to help cut the cost for their proposed project. Steve

Smith mentioned that he will email Bonnie Belden to ask whether the Library can look into putting Capital Reserve Funds towards part of the proposed project.

The Board discussed the possibility of creating a new Capital Reserve Fund for employees who retire. Steve Smith asked if the Board could create a new fund. Barbara Paronto was not sure and suggested speaking with Jessica Dennis regarding this question. Some discussion was had regarding a slush fund/Capital Reserve Fund. Steve explained that the capital reserve funding must go to a specific item while there would be more flexibility with a slush fund account.

Derek Tremblay thanked Barbara Paronto, Dianne Craig and Melissa Salinardi for prepping the budgets and getting everything to the Board in a timely manner.

- Employee Handbook: Steve Smith tabled the discussion of the employee handbook until the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

None

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

Planning Board Update

Other Items

Derek Tremblay motioned to adjourn. Steve Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried (3-0).

The meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled **December 12, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Melissa Salinardi