



Monday, November 7, 2022

Board of Selectmen Minutes

In attendance: Steve Smith (Chair), Derek Tremblay (Selectmen), Dianne Craig (Selectmen), Bonnie Belden, ShaeDel Simino, Melissa Salinardi

CALL TO ORDER

Steve Smith called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CONSENT AGENDA

Dianne Craig motioned to accept the agenda and all documents that were signed by the Board. Steve Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried (3-0).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Some grammatical changes were suggested.

Derek Tremblay motioned to accept the minutes of October 24, 2022 'as amended'. Steve Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried. Dianne Craig abstained.

APPOINTMENTS

Bonnie Belden (OGPL)

- Bonnie Belden gave an update on the resolution and insurance certificates that were needed for the LWCF Grant. All documents have been submitted and the Library Trustees are waiting for the results from the Governor's council.
- Ms. Belden mentioned that the retaining wall material that the Trustees had wanted is not available and will not be available until spring. However, the Road Agent was able to dig a swale behind the retaining wall to help protect the bank against erosion that may occur during the winter months. Hours and equipment used will be recorded for reimbursement purposes from the grant.
- The Library is in the process of partnering with the Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center (SRVRTC) students to build picnic tables and an arbor swing during the winter months.
- The Build America, Buy America waiver will expire in January and the requirements will return to buying more American made products. The Library will follow the updated requirements.
- Ms. Belden received notice of another potential grant that might be available for \$2,500. She requested a letter of support from the Board as she moves forward in applying for the grant. The Board agreed to sign a support letter. Bonnie Belden will draft the letter for the Board to sign on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 during election hours.

- Ms. Belden shared the warrant article for structural upgrades to the Library basement. She explained that the upgrades were suggested several years ago, but had not taken place. The warrant article includes the updated cost of the project. Steve Smith asked if there was any grant money for this project. Bonnie Belden was unsure, but she will look into it. The Board had no problem with the warrant article.
- Steve Smith commented on the Discovery Park ground breaking ceremony. He was glad to see such a good turn-out. Bonnie Belden agreed, stating that she was happy with the outcome and she thanked Chair Smith for orchestrating the event.

Shae Simino (Road Agent)

- Shae Simino gave a work update stating that ditching on Cross Road has been underway with the goal to change a culvert towards the top of the road.
- Mr. Simino mentioned that both Lear Hill bridge and Cross Road bridge have been sprayed and sealed.
- Mr. Simino asked the Board if they would like to put an ad up for a replacement employee at the Transfer Station. He stated that he has called and emailed several of the applicants that had originally shown interest but has not heard back from anyone. Steve Smith suggested recalling and re-emailing the applicants first. Derek Tremblay asked if things were running smoothly at the Transfer Station. Shae remarked that they have moved into their winter hours, however, the need for extra help could be isolated to Sunday, as it seems to be busier on Sundays. Dianne Craig mentioned that Dennis Giannatti might be available to help and suggested that Shae give him a call.
- Shae Simino mentioned the change in the collection of mixed paper as of November 1st. He remarked that notices have been posted on the website and in public notice areas around town. Steve Smith asked if the change was temporary or permanent. Shae was unsure as the NRRRA did not give him an exact time frame for this change.
- The Board discussed the holiday hours of the Transfer Station. It was decided that the Transfer Station will be closed for Christmas and New Years as both days fall on Sunday's. The Transfer Station will only be open on those weeks on Wednesday from 9:00-3:00pm. A notice will be posted to the website and at the Transfer Station. Shae Simino also mentioned that the year to date earnings from recycling is roughly \$460.
- Steve Smith wanted to clarify that no work could be done on Ball Park Bridge because FEMA is currently reviewing the bridge. Dianne Craig responded by stating that FEMA is indeed reviewing Ball Park Bridge, as well as Brickyard Bridge and it both will be reviewed by mitigation. She mentioned that Center road has been approved, however, an environmental study of wildlife living in the area is taking place and the Town has to wait until the study is complete before moving forward. She added that Lempster Coach Bridge is being reviewed by two different parties, however, no decision has been made yet. Dianne Craig believes that Center Road Bridge might be able to be fixed this year, if the weather holds. Steve Smith commented saying that it was good that the Board enacted the emergency lane statute a few years ago which allowed the town to use money on a Class VI road. Dianne Craig mentioned that all the money that was spent on road repairs from the flood a few years ago has come back to the Town through FEMA. Going forward, FEMA is concentrating on the bridge repairs.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

Administrative Assistant

- Melissa Salinardi gave a report regarding a timber tax bill that was mailed to Mr. Earley. The bill was received; however, no payments have been made at this time. Mr. Earley has been notified of next steps and the Board reviewed the correspondence letter that was sent to Mr. Earley with recommendations from the Department of Revenue, timber appraiser. There are no actions that need to be made at this time, however, the Board will stay informed of any further developments.
- An update was provided on the status of the Ambulance contract with Newport. The agreement was being voted upon at the Newport Selectmen's meeting and then will be sent to the Goshen Board of Selectmen for review. Dianne Craig asked if the Board was going to make an exception to not put the ambulance contract out for bid although the procurement policy suggests otherwise. Steve Smith mentioned that he believes that out of the two options available, Newport is the best choice due to response time and distance for residents. Dianne Craig stated that she understands that the Board can make an exception but just wanted to be clear that the Board was going to continue in the direction of not putting the ambulance contract out for bid. Derek Tremblay suggested that the Board make that decisions after reviewing the contract with Newport.
- The donation of the SMART Board from the Goshen School Board was addressed and the Board agreed to accept the donation.

Steve Smith motioned to accept the SMART Board from the Goshen School Board, SAU#102 for use at the Town Hall. Derek Tremblay seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes (3-0).

- Dianne Craig mentioned that she would like to allocate money in the budget for the assessing office to review Goshen's current use files. She explained that there are about one hundred and sixteen current use files which should be updated. The Board agreed to have Dianne update the budget accordingly and they will review the proposed budget at a future meeting.
- There was some discussion regarding warrant articles. Ms. Salinardi asked the Board if there were any potential warrant articles that the Board wanted to add. Dianne Craig mentioned that a warrant article for the 2020 truck would have to be written as well as an article for the backhoe. Derek Tremblay mentioned that he would like to continue seeing money be set aside for road restoration
- Ms. Salinardi gave an update on the status of setting the tax rate. She is waiting for a response from the Department of Revenue, but hopes to be able to get numbers to the Board for review soon and also hopes to have tax bills sent by November 16th. Once the numbers have been calculated, the Board will meet to finalize the tax rate. Derek Tremblay asked if there was any money in the budget to help lower the tax rate. Ms. Salinardi stated that the budget was still being prepared and that she should have more information after it is finalized and after her meeting with Dianne Craig and Budget Committee Chair, Barbara Paronto.

- The Board looked at an overall expenditure report and discussed anticipated expenditures and agreed that it would be good to be able to lower the tax rate if possible, however, as it stands now, the Board may want to suggest to department heads to not use their entire budgets. Steve Smith added that the boards shouldn't spend it if they do not need to. Derek Tremblay asked if the Board should vote to freeze spending. The Board was uncertain of their ability on this matter, however, they decided to send out an email to department heads asking them to not spend their entire budgets if they can help it. Steve Smith reminded the Board that they can move money from one department to another as long as the bottom line is not changed to help offset the budget. However, if the budget looks like it will go over, the Board must hold a special Town meeting.
- Shae Simino asked what would happen if a department overspent their budget. Steve Smith replied that it is the job of the department head to maintain their budget and the Board of Selectmen would reprimand the department head. It was mentioned that it is also the job of the department head to be following the rules of the procurement policy.
- Shae Simino mentioned that an unexpected cost may need to be addressed. The newer truck has a very large blind spot and he may need to purchase a backup camera for the vehicle. The Board asked Shae if this purchase was something that could wait, however, Shae believes that it could be a dangerous situation if he waited to address this issue.

Board of Selectmen

Derek Tremblay stated that he was working on the Personnel policy and that he would put the policy in an email so that the Board could review it.

OLD BUSINESS

- FEMA update: Update was given under Road Agent update.
- Health Trust Review: Derek Tremblay explained the chart that he created to compare the different plans. He reviewed the options and the Board discussed the numbers that would be paid by the town. Dianne Craig stated that the insurance itself is going up and that she did not believe that the cost to the employee should be increased or a plan change should happen. Derek Tremblay agreed, however, stated that he believes that the 10/90 split is very generous and it might be something that the Board wants to review in the future. Steve Smith mentioned that he was surprised that the changes in the plans were not that substantial. Derek agreed and added that the savings to the town would not be a lot. Dianne Craig suggested that the Board look at the percentage and savings to the town annually, however, no change be made this year. Steve Smith stated that he believes it is important to take care of the employees and agrees that the change would not be substantial and things should remain the same for this year.

Derek Tremblay motioned to continue to offer the same medical HealthTrust plan to the employees with the same cost sharing of ninety percent paid by the Town and ten percent paid by the employee. Dianne Craig seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes (3-0).

Dianne Craig motioned to get rid of the ninety-day probationary period for the dental insurance plan and to coincide the effective date with the Health Trust plan and leave the cost share at zero percent to employees and one hundred percent to the town. Steve Smith seconded the motion, All were in favor -yes (3-0).

- Planning Board Update: Derek Tremblay gave a Planning Board update stating that there is an application in motion for a subdivision on Route 31. He mentioned that there are some concerns regarding the placement of the driveway, however, the applicants will be seeking a state permit. He mentioned that the acting chair has decided to give her stipend to the secretary.
- Steve Smith asked Shae Simino if he knew where the flag poles were. Shae responded saying that they were still in the boxes up at the town garage. Dianne Craig mentioned that she had the sleeves and the top pieces.
- Derek Tremblay asked if retirement benefit payouts were recorded in the budget. Dianne Craig said yes, they are in the budget. She added that not everything has been paid yet and that bills will continue to be paid for the next few months which will alter the current numbers. Steve Smith thanked Dianne for keeping an eye on the budget and working with Melissa to get everything straightened out. He feels that the Board has more information to review and he appreciates the time she is taking to keep the Board informed.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled **November 28, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Melissa Salinardi