



Monday, January 9, 2023

Board of Selectmen Minutes

In attendance: Steve Smith (Chair), Dianne Craig (Selectmen), Derek Tremblay (Selectmen-arrived at 6:41pm), ShaeDel Simino, Melissa Salinardi, Bonnie Belden, Laurie Wilkinson, Sherry Morin, Jean Reney, Willfred Reney, Tina Champney, Alicea Bursey

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No changes were suggested.

Dianne Craig motioned to accept the minutes of December 12, 2022 'as is'. Steve Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried (2-0).

APPOINTMENTS

Shae Simino (Road Agent)

- **Highway Update:** Shae Simino gave an update on the condition of the roads after the recent snow fall. He remarked that the warmer weather has caused an issue when plowing, but the Highway team has been working to fix some of the softer spots and areas that need additional care.
- **Paving:** Shae stated that he received some quotes from R&D paving for road repairs. He mentioned that the quote for shimming Sholes Road would be \$93,000 and shimming Lear Hill Road would be \$120,000 with repaving the roads closer to \$211,000. He asked the Board how they would like him to proceed. He remarked that the shimming would be a bandaid for the repairs and that more work would have to be done including the repair of culverts. Dianne Craig asked if the cost that Shae quoted was all inclusive. Shae responded that the cost was only the pavement repair and would only fix the roads as they are now. He also mentioned that shimming the roads, especially Lear Hill Road is not recommended. Both Steve Smith and Dianne Craig briefly spoke about the possibility of a bond for the Lear Hill Road project for the future. Steve Smith added that he would like to see two more quotes for the projects and Dianne Craig added that the quotes should include a complete total cost of the entire repair for both roads. Steve Smith thanked Shae for getting things started. The Board will wait for additional information and quotes.
- **Garage Door:** Shae remarked that the garage door, that was fixed a few months ago, had broken again but is now fixed and he is waiting for the adjusted bill from LaValleys. The cost would be included in last years budget.
- **Current Work:** Shae remarked that a mud hole was fixed on Brickyard Road. He mentioned that while the weather remained nicer, he plans to pick up some of the brush and fix what he can.

Light Fixtures: Steve Smith asked if the light in the garage stays on all of the time and whether it is an energy efficient light. Shae stated that one light has been left on so that in the early morning it is easier to get into the garage. He was not sure if the light was energy efficient, but will check.

(Derek Tremblay joined the meeting at 6:41pm).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sherry Morin:

Sherry Morin introduced herself as the daughter of Shirley Jennings and explained the history of her parents house on Lear Hill Road and its current situation. She explained that since the death of her mother, the house was being occupied by another sibling and the rest of the family thought that the taxes were being paid, however, they have found that not to be the case which has resulted in several years of back taxes and accrued interest. Ms. Morin asked the Board to consider waiving the interest fees of \$372.70 from the bill so that the family can focus on paying the back taxes. She further explained that the house is still in probate court and cannot be sold at this time to help pay for the back taxes.

Steve Smith asked Dianne Craig what her opinion was. Dianne stated that although she feels empathetic towards the family and their unfortunate situation, she would not suggest waiving the interest as it would set a negative precedent for the Town. Steve Smith agreed with Dianne and stated that he too felt bad about the family's situation, however, believed that granting the waiver would set a difficult precedent for the Town. Derek Tremblay agreed with the other Board members but also asked if there were any other options that the Town could offer. The Board could not think of another solution.

Ms. Morin asked what would happen if nothing was resolved. Steve Smith said that the Town has the ability to take the property, however, that is not something that the Selectmen want to have to do and a payment plan could be set in place to work with the family before that would happen. He added that he can't guarantee that the property would not be taken, but he assured the family that the Town would be willing to work with the family if matters became worse. The Board reluctantly gave Ms. Morin and her family their decision to not waive the interest fee.

Tom Dombroski:

Tom Dombroski, representing John and Erica Caron, approached the Board to discuss the potential of a variance or special exception at the Caron's property at 163 East Mummery Road. He explained that the Caron's would like to move an existing structure (small bunkhouse) which would be converted to a shed. They would also like to build a small two-bedroom cabin. He explained that he has already gone before the Zoning Board for the variance and special exception, however, the Zoning Board suggested that he come before the Board of Selectmen first for a waiver to build on the class VI/private road.

Steve Smith asked Alicea Bursey, Zoning Board Chair, if she had any additional updates. Alicea mentioned that she has reached out to NHMA for a question regarding whether the road is considered private, highway, right-of-way, etc. She was told that she needed to find the warrant article and year of when the Town voted to discontinue the road. She is currently working with the Town Clerk to find that information.

The Board agreed that they would like to have further information and all other steps completed before they sign the class VI highway/private road waiver. They asked Mr. Dombroski if he

would be willing to attend the January 23rd meeting. Mr. Dombroski will try to attend that meeting and hopefully, all additional information will be found before the next meeting.

Alicea Bursey also suggested that the Planning Board chair be contacted and that the Planning Board be made aware of the project. Additionally, a driveway permit will have to be submitted. Mr. Dombroski suggested that the Caron's had already filled out a driveway permit application and already paid the fee. Dianne Craig stated that a driveway permit should not have been given if the Zoning Board did not sign off on the project and that if a driveway permit was paid for, a reimbursement might need to be given. Melissa Salinardi will look to see if a driveway permit was already submitted.

Bonnie Belden:

Library Update: Bonnie Belden provided an update for the Library. She mentioned that the Library did not get the grant for the basement improvements. She has not been able to find additional funding at this time, but will continue to research other funding.

She remarked that the Discovery Park area has started to be cleared of brush and dead trees. She mentioned that several engraved plaques have been ordered and will be displayed around Town when they come in. She also mentioned that all work and purchases for the Discovery Park grant must be recorded in a certain way and asked if Melissa Salinardi and Shae Simino would be willing to meet with her to discuss the proper method of documenting for the project. Both Shae and Melissa are willing to work with her on this matter.

Bonnie asked if the Town highway crew would be able to clear the Library ramp and path to the shed during snow storms. She remarked that it is been more difficult to clear the areas needed and that assistance would be greatly appreciated. Steve Smith asked Shae Simino what he thought. Shae responded by saying that his only concern would be time; he didn't think he would be able to get to it until after the roads were taken care of. He stated that he is willing to try but that it would probably happen after the storm. Dianne Craig wondered if someone else could be hired to shovel that area, she suggested asking Greg Getman if he would be willing to help in an emergency situation. Derek Tremblay asked if the Town had a small snowblower that could be used. Shae stated that a snowblower might be a good solution and that it was not something the Town currently owned. Steve Smith stated that he does not want to see Shae get pulled off of his duties in maintaining the roads, but if a snowblower would help then he believes that is the best approach and he added that as a back-up, Shae could ask Greg Getman if he would be able to help out in an emergency. The Board agreed to have Shae purchase a small snowblower for snow removal around the Library and other Town buildings. Bonnie was willing to give Shae the Library's schedule so that he would know when the area needed to be cleared. Steve Smith added that in purchasing the snowblower, Shae should stick to his budget and stick to what he can afford.

COMMUNICATIONS

Melissa Salinardi (Administrative Assistant)

- **MOU:** The Board reviewed the MOU agreement with the Goshen School Board. The occupancy date of January 16, 2023 was added to the agreement. The Board had no issues with the agreement and signed the document.
- **Sale of Town Owned Property:** Melissa Salinardi asked the Board how they would like to proceed with the possible sale of the 4.1-acre land locked lot on Province Road that is owned by the town. She reminded the Board that Michael Mayo contacted the office to discuss the possibility of buying this small parcel of land. Steve Smith mentioned that he was fine in

selling the property. Dianne Craig mentioned that she was unsure of the whole process but it would have to go out for bid and be posted in the paper. The Board was in agreement to sell the land and asked Melissa to go forward with the next steps.

- **Revaluation & Utility Appraiser Contract:** The Board reviewed the proposed utility appraisers service agreement.

Steve Smith motioned to accept the proposal of Brian D. Fogg as Goshen's utility appraiser. Dianne Craig seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried (3-0).

The Board reviewed the revaluation contract. Derek Tremblay asked Dianne Craig what she thought about the assessing company. Dianne Craig stated that right now they are the Town's option, however, in the future another assessing program may be a better option. She also mentioned that although more time and money is being spent now to clean up the records, the Town is moving in a positive direction with the hope that as problem areas get addressed more revenue might be generated for the Town.

- **Bridge Payment:** Ms. Salinardi remarked that the Town received a one-time payment from the State for bridge maintenance, construction, and reconstruction. The Board will hold a Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m. before the next regular meeting on January 23, 2023 to accept the funds.
- **Weekly Pay Periods:** Melissa asked the Board if they would like to change the biweekly pay period for the Transfer Station employees to weekly pay periods. The Board agreed and signed the document that was created to be handed out to the Transfer Station employees.
- **911 Numbers:** Melissa updated the Board and stated that the families living on Pheasant Runn Road now have 911 numbers and addresses and that she now has access to record addresses for any future builds.

Board of Selectmen

Dianne Craig

- **Budget:** Ms. Salinardi provided the Board with an up-to-date end of the year expense review of the budget. The overall budget is at 94% used, however, additional invoices may still be coming in.

She asked the Board if they wanted to cancel the request for \$10,000.00 to be moved from the Capital Reserve Gravel fund which was requested back at the last meeting. Dianne Craig explained that she believes that the transfer of those funds is not necessary. The Board agreed to cancel the transfer of money from the Capital Reserve Gravel Fund.

Steve Smith asked if the Board should also cancel the transfer of money from the Transfer Station Passbook account. Dianne Craig mentioned that the money was to cover only what was spent. Steve stated that if it is not needed, it should go back into the account and save the money for another year. Dianne stated that she will discuss it with the Budget Committee chair.

Dianne mentioned that Paul Mercier, a previous auditor that has worked with the Town before, is willing to assist the administrative assistant in closing the books and cleaning up the Town's

software. She requested that the Board add an additional \$5,000 to the budget to cover his expenses. The Board agreed and added \$5,000 to the Executive budget under the line item of 'Training'.

Dianne also mentioned that there has been no requests for Capital Reserve Fund money from any of the departments, however, she will speak with Barbara Paronto and Melissa will contact the departments to get that information.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Handbook:** Derek Tremblay began to address some of the changes that he made to the handbook. He asked the Board to give him any other suggested changes that they might have. He also asked Shae Simino to review the handbook and suggest changes. The Board decided to block off a section of the January 23rd meeting to work on the handbook.

Steve Smith motioned to table the discussion of the handbook until the next meeting. Derek Tremblay seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried (3-0).

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 **January 23, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Melissa Salinardi