



Monday, February 13, 2023

Board of Selectmen Minutes

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

Steve Smith mentioned that Derek Tremblay will be joining the meeting a little later.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No changes were suggested.

Dianne Craig motioned to accept the minutes of January 23, 2023 'as is'. Steve Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried (2-0).

APPOINTMENTS

Shae Simino (Road Agent)

- **Transfer Station Report:** Shae Simino reported that he has been working on the transfer station report and that he discovered that the permit that Goshen currently holds does not allow for the Gosehn Transfer Station to accept plastics. However, he is working with NHDES to get the permit updated and DES has advised him to continue collecting plastics.
- **Pit Changes in Prices:** Shae remarked that he has received several pit price lists and is waiting for a few more before he decides which pit offers the best price for material to maintain the roads.
- **Posting the Roads:** Shae mentioned that he would like to start posting the roads by next Monday, February 20th. Dianne Craig suggested that he post the roads sooner due to the warmer weather. Steve Smith agreed that the posting of the roads should happen sooner.

Dianne Craig motioned to post the roads no later than Wednesday, February 15th. Steve Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried (2-0).

Steve added that the Board can always decide to unpost them if the weather changes.

- **Maintenance:** Shae mentioned that he and Joel have been working on winging back the snow banks to widen the roads. He also mentioned that some equipment work has taken place to get the equipment ready for the change in seasons.
- **Road Safety Concerns:** Dianne Craig mentioned that there was a section on Center Road where residents are parking their cars very close to the road which has been creating a much

narrower portion especially when snow plowing occurs. She added that because these cars are parked so close to the road, the highway department has to work around these vehicles by pushing the snow closer to the other side of the road which is causing the narrow section and becoming a safety concern. She mentioned that, from what she understands, this has been an ongoing problem for years. She asked if this was something that the Road Agent could address.

Shae added that he has also been having some problems with people pushing their snow into the roads and not fully cleaning the area. He mentioned that at times, the snow becomes heavy and too packed for him to safely move the snow without risking damage to the Town vehicles.

Steve Smith looked up the Town's parking ordinance and stated that according to the ordinance, "no vehicle shall be parked so as to restrict the portion of the road available or through traffic to less than sixteen (16) of road width...", he added that if this ordinance was not being followed, the Board may be able to take action. Steve suggested that Shae measure the area and see if it falls below 16ft. If the ordinance is being broken, he suggested that Shae issue a warning to the residents and then if further actions need to be taken, a parking ticket can be discussed.

- **Mud Season:** Steve stated that this will be Shae's first mud season and he suggested to Shae to do his best and go with what he think and knows to be the best solution for fixing the roads.
- **Road Complaint:** The Board had received a complaint on January 18, 2023 via email regarding the highway departments maintenance of Rand Pond Road. Specifically, the use of excess sanding on the already bare road and the use of chains on the fully loaded dump truck and its harm to the road. The resident asked the Board to investigate his claims and speak with the Highway department regarding the issues he brought forward. Steve Smith asked Shae to provide an update and explanation of his actions. Shae remarked that he was pushing back snow banks on that particular day and he noticed that the road was icy so he instructed Joel to spot sand the roads. While Joel was spot sanding, the resident approached him to discuss the excess sanding. Shae mentioned that at one point, the sanding door may have been left open for too long, but it was not done intentionally, and the overall purpose of the spot sanding was to lay down a barrier against the icy spots on the roads. The Board thanked Shae for his explanation and had no questions or concerns. Steve Smith asked Melissa to reach out to the resident with Shae's response.

Derek Tremblay arrived at 6:53 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

ZBA Update: Alicea Burse shared that the ZBA had requested to join the meeting to discuss transfer station findings, however, they would like to discuss this at a later meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Operating Budget: Dianne Craig suggested that the Board vote on the final operating budget that was recommended by the Budget Committee. She added that the Budget Committee did not have any changes to what was originally discussed by the Board of Selectmen. Derek Tremblay asked to see the final copy of the operating budget and asked if the increases to the operating budget were due to inflation and personnel expenses. Dianne said, "yes," and added

that the operating budget increased also due to the planning ahead for an additional employee for half of the year. Barbara Paronto stated that she would be willing to explain the increase at the town meeting if necessary.

Steve Smith motioned to recommend the final operating budget as presented by the Budget Committee. Dianne Craig seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried (3-0).

Warrant Articles:

• **Dump Truck/Plow Lease:**

Derek Tremblay motioned to recommend to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$26,060 for the 2020 Dump Truck/Plow lease payment; the annual payment required by the 7-year lease-purchase agreement authorized at the 2019 Annual Town Meeting (Art. 11). Steve Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried (3-0).

• **Backhoe/Loader Lease:**

Derek Tremblay motioned to recommend to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,445 for the 2017 Backhoe/ Loader lease payment; the annual payment required by the 7-year lease-purchase agreement authorized at the 2017 Annual Town Meeting (Art. 14). Steve Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried (3-0).

• **Discontinue Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund:**

Steve Smith motioned to recommend to see if the town will vote to discontinue the existing Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund created in 1990. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, [approximately \$8,001.97] are to be transferred to the Town's General Fund. Dianne Craig seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried (3-0).

• **Discontinue Highway Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund:**

Dianne Craig motioned to recommend to see if the town will vote to discontinue the existing Highway Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund created in 1994. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, [approximately \$6,050.15.] are to be transferred to the Town's General Fund. Derek Tremblay seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried (3-0).

• **Highway Truck and Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund:**

Dianne Craig motioned to recommend to see if the town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of purchasing Highway Trucks and Heavy Equipment, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,052.12 [the total of the two discontinued capital reserve funds estimated at approximately \$14,052.12] to be placed in this fund from the unexpended General Fund balance. The

Selectmen to be agents to expend from said fund. Steve Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried (3-0).

- **Highway Transfer In:**

Derek Tremblay motioned to recommend to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$11,100 to be added to the newly created Highway Truck and Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. This sum to come from the unassigned General Fund balance (this amount represents the amount received from the sale of a highway truck) and place the funds in the newly created Highway Truck and Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. No amount to be raised from taxation. Dianne Craig seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried (3-0).

- **Transfer Station Offset:**

Dianne Craig motioned to recommend to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to \$35,000 to offset the cost to operate the Transfer Station with said funds to come from the Transfer Station Special Revenue Fund. No amount to be raised from taxation. This amount is in addition to the amount contained in Article 03D Solid Waste Disposal. Derek Tremblay seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried (3-0).

- **Police Cruiser:**

Steve Smith motioned to recommend to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$44,000 to purchase a new police cruiser; \$26,600 of which would be taken out of the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund and \$17,400 to be raised from taxation. Derek Tremblay seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried (3-0).

- **Library:**

Dianne Craig explained that the warrant changed slightly at the request of the Library trustees. Steve Smith mentioned that he wasn't sure if the Town was going to approve this warrant and added that the residents might feel like there could be another way to acquire the funds needed for the project. Derek Tremblay agreed with Steve and mentioned that he had some reservations about recommending this warrant due to the potential kick back from the Town. Dianne mentioned that Bonnie Belden has already tried applying for a grant and was denied. Barbara Paronto added that the residents may decide to approve the warrant when they are told about the deterioration of the structural beams in the Library building.

Steve Smith motioned to recommend to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,550 for the purpose of replacing Library building beam supports and piers, level soil, repair floor and pipe drain, add vapor barrier, and spray concrete mix onto stone foundation to bind stones, seal leaks and prevent rodent infiltration to place a concrete slab of approximately 400 sq. ft. with French drain around the perimeter of the Library building. Dianne Craig seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried (3-0).

- **Bridge Construction Capital Reserve:**

Derek Tremblay motioned to recommend to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$39,460.54 which represents unanticipated revenues awarded to the Town under Senate Bill 401, to be placed in the Bridge Construction and Repair Capital Reserve Account. No amount to be raised by taxation. Steve Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried (3-0).

- **Reconstruction of Roads Capital Reserve:**

Steve Smith motioned to recommend to see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$26,249.56 which represents unanticipated revenues awarded to the Town under Senate Bill 401, to be placed in the Reconstruction of Roads Capital Reserve Account. No amount to be raised by taxation. Dianne Craig seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried (3-0).

- **Optional Veterans' Annual Tax Credit:**

Barbara Paronto explained that the veteran's credit was recently changed to include active individuals and that the ceiling was raised to an optional \$750 credit. She mentioned that if Towns do not re-adopt, the credit will default back to the minimum of \$50. She cautioned regarding the potential increase and mentioned that there is no way to know right now of how an increase would impact the Town and recommended to readopt the existing policy.

Derek Tremblay motioned to recommend that the town re-adopt the Optional Veterans' Tax Credit in accordance with RSA 72:28, II, for an annual tax credit on residential property of \$500.00. Steve Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried (3-0).

Proposed Capital Reserve Contributions:

The proposed capital reserve contributions are as follows; Revaluation-\$14,000; Highway-\$25,000, \$15,000, and \$15,000; Fire-\$15,000 and \$20,000; Police-\$10,000; Town Buildings Maintenance and Improvements-\$15,000.

Derek Tremblay motioned to recommend all the proposed capital reserve contribution amounts 'as is' to the Town. Dianne Craig seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried (3-0).

COMMUNICATIONS

Administrative Assistant

- **Sale of Town Owned Property:** Melissa Salinardi gave a brief update on her correspondence with the attorney regarding the sale of the Town owned property located on Province Road. Upon further investigation, Barbara Paronto was able to provide deed information which indicated that Goshen did indeed own the property. Melissa will continue to go forward with the sale of the property.
- **Solar Exemption:** Melissa presented the Board with a Solar Exemption application for them to review. No actions were made.

- **Change in Hours:** Melissa presented the Board with a proposed office hour change for the months of March through mid-June. Due to a previous engagement (that was discussed during her hiring process) Melissa is requesting that the office hours be changed from Monday through Thursday from 8 am–4 pm to Monday through Thursday 7:30am-3:30pm to accommodate an earlier dismissal. She also proposed a change to her normal hours from Monday through Thursday 7:30am-4:15pm to 7:00am-3:45pm. The Board did not have a problem with her suggestions and approved the change. Melissa will post the spring hours on the website and at the Post Office.
- **Change in Land Use:** Melissa explained that in 2018, Mr. Grant was given permission to have a home-based business on his property on Messer Rd and about a year ago, the Town was informed that a change in land use tax was never submitted and Mr. Grant's property still remained in Current Use even though it is clearly being used for a business. Mr. Grant can still keep some of the property in current use, but should take out any acres that are being used for his business. Melissa added that the Town of Sunapee has suggested issuing a change of land use form to Mr. Grant as they have already done the same. Melissa suggested sending a letter to Mr. Grant informing him of the Board's decision and asking him to update his property information. The Board remarked that Mr. Grant has not been paying the appropriate tax on that particular parcel and agreed to send the A-5 form along with a signed letter by the Board.
- **NH Boat Launch Municipality Grant:** Steve Smith mentioned a GOFERR grant that the Town may want to look in to. Barbara Paronto mentioned that Ashley Cleary has experience with grant writing and may be someone to reach out to for assistance. Steve mentioned that the deadline is June 1st and Dianne Craig agreed that it might be something to be looked into.

Board of Selectmen

None

OLD BUSINESS

Handbook: Derek Tremblay asked if any one had any additional comments, questions or changes. Dianne Craig mentioned that she had some concerns regarding the language of the sick and vacation accruing time. She believes that the sick time and vacation time should be accrued for the first year of employment. She added that she would be happy to create language that would define this section better. The Board discussed approving the handbook as is and then amending the handbook at the next meeting.

Steve Smith motioned to approve the handbook 'as is'. Dianne Craig seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried (3-0).

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 7:54 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled **February 27, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Melissa Salinardi