



Monday, June 26, 2023

## **Board of Selectmen Minutes – FINAL APPROVED**

---

In attendance: Dianne Craig (Selectmen), Alicea Bursey (Selectmen), Barbara Paronto, Shae Simino, Melissa Salinardi, Alan Howe, Sandra Sonnichsen, Judy Martz

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Board called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **ROAD AGENT UPDATE**

- **Calcium Chloride:** Shae Simino gave an update and presented the Board with some additional cost options for spraying the roads with calcium chloride. Shae explained that one option would be to hire a company to come and spray, however, there may be some problems with the size of the machines that are used, another option is to share the machinery with another town, specifically Lempster has shown interest in sharing road crews and machinery to get the job done. Another option would be purchasing the storage tank and sprayer outright. He added that he is still working on this and will bring more information to the Board when he has it available.
- **Vehicle Maintenance:** Shae mentioned that the 2022 International truck is getting worn on the body. He believes that the truck itself is running fine, however, the body work estimate could be upwards of \$30,000 to fix the issues that are starting to appear. He stated that he would like to be proactive and will research other options for either replacing or fixing the truck. Alicea Bursey asked if there was money in the Capital reserve Funds for truck repairs. Barbara Paronto responded stating that there was about \$25,000 in a CRF account. Dianne Craig asked if Shae could look into the cost of a new truck as well to see whether it would be better to purchase a newer vehicle rather than replace the old.

Barbara Paronto asked Shae if he has taken inventory of all the equipment and vehicles in the Town's possession to determine which items may be needing repairs or replacements in the future. She added that it would be important to know if the budget can expect yearly charges for replacement or repairs or whether this would be an as needed situation. Shae mentioned that he has started to take inventory but has not completed that task and added that he believes the next item that may be on the list to either repair or replace would be the grader. Dianne Craig suggested looking at this from all angles and providing the Board with more options.

- **Highway Assistant Position:** Melissa Salinardi reported that the Highway Assistant position has been posted on Indeed, the Town website, and the Goshen Neighborhood watch. The position has received several inquiries. The Board will review the applications after July 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **APPOINTMENTS:**

- **Zoning Board (Transfer Station Discussion):** Judy Martz, Chair of the Zoning Board, came to give an update to the Board of the ZBAs findings in regards to cost effective solutions for change at the Transfer

Station. She added that the ZBAs goal is to find ways that the Town's Transfer Station can become a source of revenue or at the very least break even and not cost the Town.

Judy mentioned that she would like to get connected and attend classes and training sessions for a better understanding of State policies. She mentioned that the ZBA has done research into other small towns and found that several small towns are bringing in revenue from their transfer station and she believes that Goshen could do the same. She asked if Shae has been able to attend any trainings. Shae stated, "yes." Judy added that she would also like to be able to get some additional information from the State and get caught up on some training. Dianne Craig stated that she had no problem with the ZBA working with Shae to come up with alternative solutions for transfer station revenue. Alicea Bursey added that she was also in agreement and added that she did not think any of the cost for training should come out of the ZBAs budget. Dianne agreed and mentioned that the cost should be covered under the sanitation/transfer station budget.

Judy Martz and the Board discussed different practices used by other towns and current practices of the transfer station including composting, burning, glass removal, rental container fees, paper and mixed papers, cardboard, battery disposal, tires, etc.

The Board would like Judy Martz and the ZBA to continue researching alternative methods for transfer station improvements. Judy will connect with Shae and look into training options. The Board thanked Judy and the ZBA for the update and being willing to assist the Selectmen on this matter.

- **Library Update (Bonnie Belden):** Not present – no report given.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- **Minutes of June 19th:** The Board had no concerns or edits to the June 19th work session minutes.

*Dianne Craig motioned to accept the minutes of June 19, 2023 'as is'. Alicea Bursey seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried (2-0).*

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dianne Craig opened the floor for public comments – Sandra Sonnichsen stated that she and Mr. Howe were present to discuss and hear the updates for the bridges. No public comments were made.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT UPDATE**

- **Gunnison Lake Permit:** Melissa Salinardi presented the Board with a permit request for a wedding ceremony at Gunnison Lake. The Board reviewed the details of the request and agreed to sign the permit.
- **Truck Speed:** Melissa updated the Board that Dianne Craig spoke with Mr. Shawn Carroll, Jr. on June 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss the speed of the trucks coming and going from the Andersen Pit. Mr. Carroll has addressed the situation and is willing to monitor the situation. Melissa added that the truck speed seemed to decrease for a few days, however, it appears that some trucks are still speeding through the town. She also added that the trucks are not the only ones speeding through and that the speeding traffic through the center of town is a common thing by many who pass through Goshen. Dianne Craig stated that she is willing to speak to Mr. Carroll again, however, if the traffic does not slow down, the Board might have to look into other options for additional speed limit enforcement. Alicea Bursey asked if it would be possible to invite the Police Chief to the next meeting to discuss the matter with him further. The Board agreed to invite Chief Andersen to the next meeting and discuss this matter at a future meeting.

- **Flags:** Melissa updated the Board that Dianne Craig spoke with Mr. Alan Greenhalgh on June 13<sup>th</sup> regarding his donation of additional flags. Since the conversation, Mr. Greenhalgh has purchased twenty-eight flags and the old ones have been replaced. The Board would like to send a thank you to Mr. Greenhalgh for the donation of the flags.
- **Budget Review:** Melissa provided the Board with an updated budget overview. She explained that she has been working with Mr. Paul Mercier (auditor) on reorganizing the QuickBooks chart of accounts to match the state reports and streamline the accounts to be more understandable when reviewing the budget. She added that the change to the accounts has been ongoing and she is continuing to update the system of review and hopes to implement new reports for this coming budget season. The Board had a couple of questions with the report that Melissa will look into to.

## NEW BUSINESS

- **Employee Reviews:** Alicea Bursey explained that while she was Chair on the Planning and Zoning Board, the Boards created a system for reviewing their employees annually. She asked if the Selectmen had a process for reviewing the Town employees. Dianne Craig stated, “no system was in place.” Dianne agreed that something should be set up for annual review of the employees. Alicea Bursey added that she thought it was important to review the work and give feed back annually not just for work merit but also for rate of pay changes. The Board will discuss this during their next work session in August.

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

- **FEMA:** Dianne Craig gave an update on FEMA and bridge repairs. She stated that the last couple of meetings have been frustrating as FEMA representatives have requested different items that were not discussed previously. She added that the Lempster Coach, Class VI, bridge is being reviewed and will continue to be evaluated by FEMA representatives.

She stated that Ball Park bridge got denied, however, she is going to go through the appeal process because she believes that the Town did everything that was asked of them and that there was no reason for the denial. She explained that one reason FEMA has given for the denial is for a missing DOT report that was not able to be found at the DOT level. She also added that Ball Park bridge is being reviewed by the State, however, the timeline on acceptance is longer and the Town could be waiting until summer 2024 before they hear any responses. Alicea Bursey and Barbara Paronto suggested having the DOT draft a letter to explain the missing documents and Barbara added that a waiver from the State might be able to be obtained if the fault was not the Town’s. Dianne asked Shae if he would be willing to reach out to DOT to request additional documentation.

## OLD BUSINESS

- **Handbook:** This item was tabled until a future meeting.
- **Planning Board Update:** No update was given.
- **Grange Hall Occupancy:** The Board discussed the current MOU with the School Board and whether the Board would like to go forward with the current cost sharing approach. Both Dianne Craig and Alicea Bursey felt that charging the school Board for use of a Town building may not be the best approach. Alicea added that the School Board is part of the Town and the Town should be paying for the buildings. Dianne agreed. Alicea added that she would like to see a reviewing of the MOU annually and the Board agreed to discuss this at a future meeting.

- **Employee Time Cards:** Melissa discussed that she had been made aware of a missing day of pay for the Transfer Station Employees. After additional research it was discovered that a day of pay was missed during March 2023 and the Transfer Station employees were not issued the proper wages for that day. After reviewing supporting documentation, the Board of Selectmen agreed to pay the employees their earned wages for the missed day.

#### **STANDING ITEMS**

- Monthly Budget Review – last meeting of every month (summary given from the secretary).
- Veterans Monument Repair: Dianne Craig expressed her desire to see something happen with the monument repair. The Board will continue to keep this as a standing item.
- Flag Poles at Cemetery: Dianne Craig asked if any of the new flag poles were damaged. Shae reported that one had been damaged.
- Planning Board Update
- Professional Development (Ongoing)
- Deputy Emergency Management Position
- Other Items: The Board discussed the fact that Goshen no longer has an Old Home Day or Town wide event and they discussed the possibility of holding Town wide events every five years. They thought it best to see if anyone was interested from the community to participate and agreed that some type of committee would have to be created to handle this type of event. A sign-up sheet during Town meeting was suggested. The Board will discuss this topic at a future meeting.

*Alicea Bursey motioned to adjourn. Dianne Craig seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried, 2-0.*

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled **July 10, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Melissa Salinardi