



Monday, September 25, 2023

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

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In attendance: Dianne Craig (Selectmen), Derek Tremblay (Selectmen), Alicea Bursey (Selectmen), Bonnie Belden, Shae Simino, Melissa Salinardi

### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **ROAD AGENT UPDATE**

- **Road Maintenance Update:** Shae reported that the highway department is currently grading Province Road. He mentioned that he would like to attend the Town of Lempster's Board of Selectmen meeting to discuss the opportunity of renting the Town of Lempster's roller. The Board agreed to send Shae to the meeting for fact finding and requested that no contract be entertained without permission from the Board.

Shae reported that work on the Center Road Bridge has been started. He spoke with the company Miche and they hope to have the decking completed and ready within the next week. Dianne Craig asked if Shae was still optimistic that the work would be completed by the end of the 2023 year. Shae replied that he was still planning to have the work completed by the end of the year.

- **Additional Updates:** Shae mentioned that he went to the Planning Board meeting last week to discuss Capital Improvement Plans. He suggested six proposals to the Planning Board which included, fixing Lear Hill Road, a new roller, repaving of Sholes and Center Road, 3 new containers for the Transfer Station, a mini excavator, and upgrading the Highway Garage.

Derek Tremblay asked if correspondence with Joel Lussier regarding the extension of his position as assistant road agent had been taken care of. Shae replied that Mr. Lussier had agreed to stay on in his current position through the winter months and possibly through the early spring. Shae added that Joel will confirm his end date as soon as possible.

- **Discovery Park Work:** Bonnie Belden stated that the ready rock ledge stone blocks have arrived and they are ready for installation of the retaining wall which is part of phase 1. She asked the Road Agent if he was going to have time to complete the wall before the end of the year. Shae was not sure, however, did not think he would have time to start the project before November. Some discussion was had regarding the blocks for phase 2 and the plan for interlocking the blocks and the time it would take to complete the projects. Dianne Craig asked how long Shae would need to complete the retaining wall, phase 1. Shae replied that he would need at least 3 to 4 days.

Bonnie furthered explained that there may be leftover money in the project funds to hire outside contractors and asked if AKSA Construction, could be hired to complete the work. Dianne Craig stated that Bonnie would have to make sure it meets the insurance needs of the Town. Dianne added that permission from the Board

would be needed in accordance to the purchasing policy and that all the work done would have to be through private company equipment and that any time spent by Shae Simino would have to be his own time and not Town time.

The Board decided to hold a work session on October 2nd at 6:00 p.m. to discuss any Discovery Park updates. This would allow the Board to review any progress made regarding this topic. Derek Tremblay stated that he was unsure if he would be able to make the October 2nd meeting, however, he is in support of moving forward with hiring an outside contractor based on Bonnie Belden's and Shae Simino's updates.

- **Brush Clearing:** Dianne Craig mentioned that at the intersection of Center and Cross Road brush needed to be trimmed as it was obstructing visibility and was a safety concern. Shae responded that he will work on getting the brush cut back as soon as possible.
- **Highway Assistant Position:** Alicea Bursey updated the Board with the changes to the job description. The Board had no further edits. Derek Tremblay mentioned that the pay rate was an issue and all members agreed to work towards increasing pay for employees based on what is best for the Town. The Board will discuss increases and add them accordingly into future budgets. The Board decided to post the job description as is and will review changing the pay rate once budgets have been reviewed. The job posting will be posted on Indeed, the Town website, and on the Goshen neighborhood watch Facebook page and all applicants will be reviewed by the Road Agent prior to interviews.
- **FEMA:** Shae mentioned that he attended a FEMA briefing regarding the July storms that have now been declared as an official disaster. Shae and Melissa will work with the current Emergency Management Director to submit the proper documents for the storm. It was mentioned that the FEMA rates have been updated and paperwork will have to be updated based on the new rates.

#### **APPOINTMENTS:**

- **Bonnie Belden:** Bonnie asked if the Board wanted an extra table that was no longer used by the Library. Dianne Craig mentioned that she should see if the Town Clerk would like the table for election purposes.

Bonnie mentioned that Forest Smith has dug out the labyrinth for the Discovery Park and Newport Sand & Gravel donated sand and gravel for the area. She added that the trail is completely cleared and the Eversource crew is still coming out on October 12th to volunteer. She mentioned that the Library will be hosting a Pasta Dinner on September 30th at the Goshen Church, all proceeds will go towards the Discovery Park project.

Bonnie gave a Rand Pond Association update stating that concerns were made in a recent meeting regarding the excess of weeds along the shoreline of Rand Pond. They have submitted a written complaint to NH DES about the concern and asked the Board if a sign could be posted regarding the washing of boats going in and out of Rand Pond. Dianne Craig asked the Road Agent to look at the area and see where the sign can be posted.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- **Minutes of September 18th:**

*Dianne Craig motioned to accept the minutes of September 18, 2023 'as is'. Alicea Bursey seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried, 2-0. Derek Tremblay abstained.*

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

## ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT UPDATE

- **Telephone Service Update:** Melissa updated the Board that the Carrick's have given an update that their service is back on as of September 20<sup>th</sup>. Another resident on Four Corners Road located before the Carrick's came forward to let the Board know that they are also having service issues and have lost service at least four times since the beginning of August. The Board discussed that Consolidated will most likely not support the copper lines going forward and mentioned that the residents can determine a better service plan that would include a landline on Fidium which should eliminate the problems going forward.
- **Pest Control Update:** Melissa presented the Board with two quotes for rodent control in the Town Hall and the Grange buildings and stated that she is still waiting for the third quote.
  - **JP Pest Services:** Grange – Initial Service Labor: \$111.00; Initial Service Product: \$66.00; Per Service Installment: \$74.00. Town Hall – Initial Service Labor: \$114.75; Initial Corrective Service: \$239.00; Follow-up week #1: \$76.50; Follow-up week #2: \$76.50. Additional monthly visits with the exceptions of the winter months (3months) are \$76.50.
  - **Hampshire Pest Control Co., Inc.:** Cost for both the Grange Hall and Town Hall - \$825.00. An additional cost of \$275.00 for the Library if needed.

The Board reviewed the estimates and asked Melissa to add the expense to the upcoming budget request.

- **Energy Rates Renewal:** Melissa stated that the Town's energy supplier contract with Energy Rewards, LLC will be ending in July 2024. Currently, the contract with Energy Rewards is \$0.07420/kwh. She added that she has been contacted by a representative of Nextera Energy who was able to provide a few different energy supplier rates for different companies. She will continue to get a rate for the current company before the Board makes any decisions. The additional suppliers and rates provided are as follows:
  - **Engie Energy:** \$0.140/kwh, fixed for 36 months
  - **Direct Energy:** \$0.1360/kwh, fixed for 36 months
  - **Nextera Energy:** \$0.1170/kwh, fixed for 36 months
- **Budget Review:** The Board reviewed the budget expenses. The main concern that was addressed was the legal fee line, which is over budget. Dianne Craig mentioned that anything less than 75% should be okay and the Board did not foresee any only concerns.

Dianne Craig mentioned the \$19,089.95 dollars that was deposited from FEMA for the Lempster Coach bridge work. Dianne suggested that the money be added to the Lempster Coach Road Capital Reserve Fund. The Board accepted the money and agreed to transfer the money to the Lempster Coach Road CRF.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Alicea Bursey:** Mentioned that she contacted Cindy Williams to discuss volunteers to help during election days and suggested asking High School students who need to complete volunteer hours. Cindy Williams agreed to the suggestion as long as the students are 18 years of age and residents of Goshen. Alicea will reach out to Dr. Gail Paludi, Superintendent, to get the information of eligible students.

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

- **FEMA:** Dianne Craig reported that the meeting was cancelled for this week and that there were no current updates.

## OLD BUSINESS

- **Handbook:** The Board is still working on handbook changes. The Board will make the changes to the policy during the next working session.
- **Highway Assistant Position:** See above notes.
- **Culvert Installment Agreement:** The culvert installment agreement has been updated and Alicea Bursey mentioned that she has presented it to the Planning Board. The Planning Board will go forward to make changes to the regulations during a Public Hearing. The Board had no further questions or concerns.
- **Performance Review:** Alicea Bursey has reached out to Kayla Frink, PB Chair, to find the digital version. She will update the Board when the document is found.
- **Planning Board Update:** Alicea Bursey served as the alternate on the Planning Board during the last meeting and provided an update. She stated that she suggested reaching out to NHMA regarding the property concern that has been being reviewed by the Planning Board. There was some discussion regarding the letter that the Planning Board wants to send to the contractor, Mr. Mark Brunelle. Derek Tremblay mentioned that he agreed sending a fact letter to Mr. Brunelle but that further involvement by the Planning Board should cease. The Board discussed that the construction of the road is the main concern of the Planning Board and Alicea Bursey mentioned that a waiver was never signed for the installation of the private road. The Board discussed who should have been monitoring the construction of the road and site plan and thought it best that the Planning Board wait to hear from NHMA before moving forward with the letter.
- **Conservation Committee:** Dianne Craig mentioned that the Conservation Committee reached out to her asking if two picnic tables could be purchased for the Gunnison Lake area. She told the committee members that they would have to go through Heather Peckham with the request and it would have to be indicated by a motion in their minutes. It was also mentioned that the committee members have been working to fix the bridges at Gunnison Lake.
- **Road Agent Time-off:** The Board approved the Road Agent's time-off scheduled for mid-October. Joel Lussier will be on call for emergency needs.
- **Residential Business:** The Board received a request for a wholesale dealer registration for a residential business located at 125 S Mill Village Road. The application needs Code Enforcer and Zoning Board approval before it can be approved at the State level. The Board would like the Code Enforcer and Zoning Board to review all information regarding the business before Town approval is given.

## STANDING ITEMS

- Monthly Budget Review – last meeting of every month (summary given from the secretary).
- Veterans Monument Repair – Dianne Craig mentioned that she let the Historical Society know that the Road Agent had a good idea to move the Veterans monument plaques to the retaining wall that will be installed behind the Library's courtyard. Shae mentioned that he will look into the best way for securing the plaques on the wall.
- Flag Poles at Cemetery

- Planning Board Update
- Professional Development (Ongoing)
- MOU Review (five-year review)
- Code Enforcement Position
- Other Items

*Alicea Bursey motioned to adjourn. Derek Tremblay seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried, 3-0.*

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for **October 2, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** This will be a work session.

Respectfully submitted by Melissa Salinardi