

Monday, February 10, 2025



Board of Selectmen Minutes – FINAL APPROVED

Board Members Present: Dianne Craig (Chair, Selectmen); Sebastian Zyzdorf

Guest (s): Katheryn Holmes (Newbury Conservation Commission); David Rhodes (Newbury Conservation Commission); Geroge Hebert (County Commissioner); Bonnie Belden; Road Agent Shae Simino; Recording Secretary Melissa Salinardi

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Craig called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Board signed and reviewed the consent agenda.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Sullivan County Commissioner Report (George Hebert):** George Hebert spoke about the concerns he has regarding the increase of county taxes. He stated that at the county level, the taxes have increased significantly over the last few years and will continue to increase if something does not change. He suggested that the increase of county taxes is negatively affecting residents who are on fixed incomes and younger demographics. He hopes to hear from communities in Sullivan County supporting his belief and is looking to receive Board input into this issue.

Chair Craig stated that the Town of Goshen has many residents that are on fixed incomes and agreed that the increase to the county taxes would impact these residents. She spoke about the challenges of running a small town with few revenue sources and stated that this past year the Selectmen were again to lower the overall tax rate by using unassigned fund balance money; however, that will not always be an option in the future, especially when the cost of living continues to increase.

Sebastian Zyzdorf stated that, as a young person himself, he has experienced cost increase in this area and many of his friends also have felt the effects of higher taxes and the topic of increase taxes and cost of houses have been a frequent topic of conversation.

George Hebert stated that the majority of the county are retired residents on fixed income and school-aged individuals. He added that as a county commissioner, he has not signed off of the county tax rate for the past few years due to its excessive nature. He has been looking for different ways to help lower the costs and continues to look to the Sullivan County communities for feedback and support.

Chair Craig opened the floor for discussion. Bonnie Belden mentioned that Goshen has roughly four-hundred and fifty households and the tax burden on those individuals is very high. She added that in a recent survey, Goshen residents have the lowest per household income out of fifteen towns. George Hebert stated that although Goshen only pays 1.5% of the county tax, Goshen is one of the poorest towns in the county.

Chair Craig asked about some of the suggestions for lowering the county tax rate. George Hebert spoke about cutting some of the services that the county provides. He added that some services such as the county nursing home are good services to have; however, they are may not be beneficial to the whole county and will end up

costing tax payers more if the cost to run the facility increases. He suggested that the Board write a letter to the delegates and express their own concerns, as he is only one member. Chair Craig stated that the Board will draft a letter with the concerns of Goshen and send it along. The Board thanked Mr. Hebert for his presentation.

George Hebert left the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

- **Newbury Conservation Commission (Katheryn Holmes & David Rhodes):** Katheryn Holmes, Chair of the Newbury Conservation Commission (NCC), gave a brief history and summary of the Mount Sunapee proposed parking lot expansion project and the concerns with wastewater and stormwater management that the Newbury Conservation Commission has been working to address for the past year and a half. She stated that site reviews of the proposed parking lot location have been done by members of the Newbury Commission and several concerns have been raised. The Newbury Conservation Commission feels that the Mount Sunapee Lagoons and Spray Fields are polluting surface and ground water that flow into Beck Brook, which ultimately feeds into Lake Sunapee. Ms. Holmes added that the NH Department of Natural & Cultural resources (DNCR) has ignored multiple public hearing requests from the NCC which is why the NCC is requesting the abutting town boards sign a petition for a public hearing with the DNCR so that concerns can be addressed and explored.

Ms. Holmes and David Rhodes spoke about some of the NCC concerns including the surface water flow of the spray fields to the south are, groundwater flow of the spray fields, surface water and groundwater flows from the spray fields towards the septic lagoons, lagoon seepage, the age and deterioration of the septic lagoons and spray fields, and lack of a stormwater management plan. The NCC is hoping to finally bring their concerns to Commissioner, Sarah Steward of the DNCR with encouragement from abutting towns and other key supporters.

The Board asked for clarification on a few points of concerns and it was noted by Mr. Rhodes that the purpose and hope of the NCC is to see the issue understood and addressed in a proper manner and hopefully an upgrade to the system can be agreed upon. The Board had no further questions or concerns and agreed to sign the petition.

Dianne Craig motioned to sign the petition to the Mount Sunapee Advisory Commission to hold a special meeting to understand the concern with the septic lagoons, the stormwater management plan, and the proposed parking lot at the Mount Sunapee Resort, and to develop plans to mitigate any potential pollution as presented by the Newbury Conservation Commission. Sebastian Zyzdorf seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried, 2-0.

Katheryn Holmes and David Rhodes left the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

- **Discovery Park Update (Bonnie Belden):** The Board reviewed the partnership agreement for the Discovery Park project. Some discussion was had regarding the timeline of the project and the monetary responsibility of the park after completion. Bonnie Belden stated that she hopes that the Library Trustees will be able to use funds from the Lillian Wright Trail Run towards future park monetary needs. She also mentioned that the Library Trustees have fundraised in the past and will continue to fundraise in the future for this project if needed. Bonnie added that the project is on track with the deadline for the three-year grant and is scheduled for completion by the end of September. The Board had no further questions or concerns.

Sebastian Zyzdorf motioned to sign the Discovery Park MOA between the Town of Goshen Select Board and the Olive G. Pettis Library Trustees. Dianne Craig seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried, 2-0.

Bonnie Belden also provided a Discovery Park budget update stating that the remaining grant-funded amount available is \$14,404.36 and that the match contributions have been surpassed. She mentioned that the Library Trustees are also working on ideas for the signs within the park and added that any language used on the signs will have references to the Goshen Recreational Ordinances.

ROAD AGENT

- **General Update:** Shae Simino shared that the total snow fall this season has been about 4ft with more storms on the way. Dianne Craig suggested that the Highway Department may want to adjust their schedule to accommodate for the upcoming storms. Shae mentioned that one of the plow trucks has a coolant leak and the department is working to fix the vehicle before the next storm. Dianne Craig asked about a concern she received from a resident regarding the condition of one of the Town trucks during the recent storm. Shae stated that one of the Town trucks did get stuck; however, no damage was done to any of the vehicles. Sebastian Zyzdorf thanked Shae and his team for being out and clearing the roads in a timely manner.

Shae reported that the Highway Department participated in several training activities in the past few weeks. He spoke specifically about a new road condition tracking system that the department intends to implement. He hopes that by using this new system it will be a helpful guide for tracking the condition of the roads. He added that the road tracking system will work with the culvert tracking system and both systems should be valuable tools for the Highway Department to use in the future.

Shea mentioned that he received a phone call from a construction company that might be interested in purchasing the scrap material of the old truck. The Board asked Shae to provide a comparison of sale offers for the vehicles.

Sebastian Zyzdorf asked whether the Town was planning to take Mr. Shawn Carroll, Jr. up on his offer to provide sand from the Davys Pit at no cost for the sand. Shae stated that a bid had been accepted prior to the conversation with Mr. Carroll for the 2024 sand and that he was planning to speak with Mr. Carroll again and add the estimated cost for delivery into the 2025 sand bids.

Discussion regarding the Transfer Station began and Shae provided some of the total amounts of recycling that took place in 2024. He also mentioned that Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRA) is able to print the Town's name or logo on green recycling bins that can be purchased by residents to be used for personal recycling sorting. Shae will ask residents at the Transfer Station if anyone is interested in this recycling option.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Review of Regular Meeting Minutes (January 27, 2025):**

Dianne Craig motioned to approve the Non-Public and Regular Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2025 "as is". Sebastian Zyzdorf seconded the motion. All were in favor-yes; motion carried, 2-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT UPDATES

- **Utility Update:** Melissa Salinardi read the response that was received from Tasco Security. She noted that no additional funds had been added into the 2025 proposed budget in preparation of potentially switching security vendors. Dianne Craig suggested that the department heads be contacted to discuss this matter further. The Board will further discuss this after department heads have been contacted.
- **2025 Warrant:** The Board reviewed the 2025 Warrant and MS 535. The Board will sign the documents after the Budget Committee has held their public hearing to accept the proposed budget on February 11, 2025.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

STANDING ITEMS & OTHER BUSINESS (Some standing items may not have been discussed during the current meeting).

- **Monthly Budget Review:** (Monthly reports are reviewed during the last meeting of the month).
- **Veterans Monument Repair**
- **Planning Board Update:** No new updates.
- **Brickyard Road Bridge**
- **Abandoned Property**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Melissa Salinardi.