

MINUTES

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN HALL**

**July 15, 2020
12:00 PM**

ATTENDEES:

Leo Enos, Selectman	Shane Beattie, Selectman	Edward Samson, Town Manager
Alan Savage	Rob Christie	Michael Nadeau
Charity Baker		

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Chairman Leo Enos

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ed reported that the BTLA ruled on PSNH appeal that has been going on for several years. The BTLA favored the towns valuation a bit. It is mostly middle of the road. He heard from the attorney and an issue has been identified with the math and there are errors in the equalization calculation and Lancaster is one of the towns that takes the biggest hit. The attorney highly recommends we move forward with the presented calculations on the ruling. Ed feels if we deny moving forward it will put us back to square one and it will be costly to continue with the appeal. Ed has to get back to the attorney by July 16th to let him know if they are going to accept BTLA's calculations on the ruling.

Shane asked if we agree to move forward with the BTLA calculations does that forfeit our right to appeal down the road and Ed stated yes it will.

Leo asked how much altogether we would owe PSNH with this settlement. Ed reviewed the report with the board. Copy of report included with minutes.

Leo and Shane both feel it is not in our best interest to keep spending money each year on attorney fees to continue fighting the appeal. Shane confirmed with Ed that it is the attorney's recommendation to accept the ruling and calculations.

Motion made by Leo and Shane to accept the recommendation from the attorney to accept the ruling and settlement calculations regarding the Public Service of New Hampshire (Eversource) appeal. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ed said he will ask the Attorney Boldt to work up rough figures as to what the town will realize for a refund amount to PSNH.

Ed mentioned the Middle Street paving project is complete. He and Tim are both very happy with Hutchins work.

Ed mentioned the Highway Block grant money for 2019 was roughly \$73,000 and is sitting in the general fund for the purpose of replacing sidewalks. The plan is to replace the sidewalk from the Passumpsic Bank to the Catholic Church. Ed would like to add the

approaches to Walgreens and Shaw’s. Ed asked if the Board is okay with including those approaches.

Both Leo and Shane feel we should reach out to the landowners for them to pay for their approaches while the project is being done. That may assist with the cost to the property owner.

Ed mentioned, the only company that has submitted a bid for the job is Harold Concrete and it looks like it will be hard to beat. Tim also reached out to Colby and ????????? and still they have not received bids as of yet. Shane asked if we put a deadline on the bid. Ed believes we have gone past the date and that is why they are reaching out to the contractors. Shane is going to reach out to Colby’s and see if they are going to bid. Ed said he would like to hear from anyone interested in putting in a bid. Shane is going to reach out to the other concrete contractors he knows.

Shane mentioned he has concerns with the infrastructure of the town and feels the board should start looking at how we should move forward over the upcoming years. He is talking about all parts of infrastructure, roads, sewer lines, water lines, and labor.

Ed mentioned the Highway Department is going to propose Fletcher, Richardson and School Streets be ground down and paved. Shane asked about Railroad Street and Ed stated it is on the list and stated they have most of the pipe for the sewer which will need to be replaced while the paving job is being done. Ed stated usually the money for paving projects is included in the Highway Department budget.

Ed mentioned there have not been any water line issues under the streets they are proposing to pave in 2021.

Leo asked if there is federal money for the lagoons. Ed stated grant opportunities come and go and wanted to remind them that any money paid out is repaid solely by the users.

Ed mentioned the big-ticket items at this point for 2021 is the Highway Department’s 1½ ton will need to be replaced and the Fire Department will be asking for an ambulance. He will check with the department heads to see what else they may have for big ticket items.

Shane mentioned that several of the budget committee members have mentioned they would like information in advance so they have time to look it over for before the 2021 budget sessions.

Rob Christie mentioned they should keep in mind with the COVID-19 pandemic we may see more people moving here to get out of the cities and that will put more strain on our infrastructure. So he feels they may want to consider the potential growth.

Ed feels water and sewer should be considered with any new construction projects.

Ed is going to talk with the department heads and have them put together what they feel will be needed for future infrastructure projects and get information to the budget committee and the board so they can start looking at budgeting in the upcoming years.

Ed mentioned the State is going to work on the railroad tracks on Page Hill Road and a bypass will need to be installed. Shane said that would be a perfect time to incorporate changing the water and sewer lines while those rails are out. Ed will have Timmy identify what is under that section of Page Hill Road and figure up what would be needed for materials.

Motion was made by Leo and seconded by Shane to adjourn. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:51p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charity M. Baker

Board of Selectmen

Date: _____

Leo Enos

Leon Rideout

Shane Beattie