

MINUTES

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN HALL**

**September 21, 2020
6:30 PM**

ATTENDEES:

Leo Enos, Selectman	Shane Beattie, Selectman	Edward Samson, Town Manager
Benjamin Gaetjens-Oleson	Randy Flynn, Fire Chief	Ted Joubert, Asst. Chief EMS
Alan Savage	Michael Nadeau	Charity Baker

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Leo Enos

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPOINTMENTS: Leo asked to speak with Randy and Ted after they took care of regular business.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Review and approval of the September 14, 2020 Selectmen's meeting minutes. **Motion made by Leo and seconded by Shane to accept the September 14, 2020 meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.**
- Request was submitted by the Planning Board to appoint Vickie Gibbs to the Planning Board as an alternate member. **Motion made by Shane and seconded by Leo to appoint Vickie Gibbs to the Planning Board as an alternate member. All in favor. Motion carried.**
- A building permit for David and Connie Solon was submitted for formal approval by the board. Mr. & Mrs. Solon purchased a parcel of land from Paul and Marilyn Crane at the end of the Arthur White Road, a private section of the road. In order to approve the building permit, the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen need to approve the permit to move forward with the owners signing a liability waiver. The waiver (road resolution) releases the town from liability. The resolution makes them aware that they can't hold the town liable if emergency services or school bus services, etc. can't make it to their home. **Motion was made by Leo and seconded by Shane to approve the building permit for David and Connie Solon at the end of the Arthur White Road. All in favor. Motion carried.**
- Benjamin Gaetjens-Oleson the town's Emergency Management Director requested approval from the Board to accept ownership and care of the North Country Public Health trailer which was previously kept in Colebrook and cared for by the Town of Colebrook. Lancaster is now housing the trailer and is available for the current pandemic and will serve as a point of dispensing for vaccines. **Motion was made by Shane and seconded by Leo to accept the trailer as a gift and authorize Benjamin Gaetjens-Oleson to sign the memorandum of understanding. All in favor. Motion carried.**
- Ed provided a list of all properties up for deeding this year along with deed waivers for each of the parcels. He asked that the board review the list and any properties they do not want a deed issued they must sign the deed waiver. If they want a deed to be issued if the

balance is not paid they should not sign the waiver. The board is going to review the list and get the waivers back to the tax collector.

INFORMATION:

- Ed shared an email from Attorney Chris Boldt regarding the PSNH appeal. The authorization to have the attorney accept service on the town’s behalf did not reach the PSNH representative before they sent the appeal notice to the Sheriff’s office, so it will be served to the Town Clerk via a sheriff. Once received, Ed will forward a copy to the town’s attorney’s handling the appeal, Chris Boldt.
- The town also received notice regarding a public hearing in the Town of Carroll regarding the construction of a 151’ tall lattice style telecom tower.

Randy Flynn the Fire Chief and Ted Joubert, Assistant Fire Chief for EMS were in attendance to discuss where they are with upcoming budget season. Ted reviewed expenses and revenues. He stated he believes they will be coming close to what was projected for the 2020 budget. He also reviewed run statistics.

Leo asked how the ambulances are holding up. Ted said the last few years they have done their best to replace what needs to be replaced and they are doing a good job to preserve the trucks that are in service at this time. They are looking to rotate one out this year and put it in the back up rotation. Randy mentioned that each truck earns over a million dollars in revenue in its life span.

Randy asked the board what they see for a service moving forward. Ed mentioned that revenues are probably not going to be consistent with the past several years. There was discussion with regards to staffing and finding ways to pay staff to keep the trucks going.

Ted explained that a service without transfers will still cost around \$600,000 to cover the station and run the station and only bring in about \$200,000 in revenue. He mentioned it costs \$320,000 a year just to staff the ambulances.

Randy explained that revenues are not going to stay the same and want the board to be aware of it as they scale back on what they are taking for transfers.

Shane asked if they just took care of Lancaster what would that budget look like. Ted said \$800,000 but only make \$650,000 in revenue.

Leo and Shane stated they feel it is time to take care of Lancaster, Weeks and Dartmouth and that’s where it ends. Leo asked about contracts to other towns and if we can do away covering those towns. Ted said he doesn’t think it is in the best interest because we would be losing steady income. Randy and Ted both expressed they need to prep the other towns that discussions will be happening in the next year to increase rates. Randy mentioned he has reached out to other services and they we are charging half of what we should be to cover the other towns. Leo stated we should go up on contract costs and if they don’t want to pay then we just won’t cover them any longer.

Ted mentioned one way to possibly draw people in to work is to offer to pay for paramedic school for 2 people with a guaranty they give us at least one day a week for a year after they graduate. That will be a good way to draw people in and a benefit for the town.

The board tasked Randy and Ted to pull together what it will cost to cover just Lancaster, Weeks, and Dartmouth and what they project for revenue for those facilities and report back so they can decide how they want to move forward.

Motion made by Leo and seconded by Shane to adjourn. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Charity M. Baker

Board of Selectmen

Date: _____

Leo Enos

Leon Rideout

Shane Beattie