

MINUTES

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN HALL**

**Tuesday, January 19, 2021
6:30 PM**

ATTENDEES:

Leo Enos, Selectman	Leon Rideout, Selectman	Shane Beattie, Selectman
Edward Samson, Town Manager	Randy Flynn, Fire Chief	Alan Savage
Rob Christie	Lucy Wyman	Michael Nadeau
Charity Baker		

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPOINTMENTS: Alan Savage wanted to discuss why the board went into Executive (non-public) session a couple meetings ago. He also wanted to mention that Leo stated they didn't need to state a reason to go into Executive session and Alan informed them they did. Alan state that Leo mentioned the board uses a different reference guide then what Alan must have been using. At this meeting, Alan read the procedure that must be followed out of the NH Municipal Association's publication "Knowing the Territory." He wanted to know the reason they went into the non-public meeting the other meeting that involved the Fire Chief. Randy stated he was not called into a non-public session he was there to participate in the regular meeting. Alan feels the motion to go into non-public session needs to be very specific.

Alan brought up an instance where the board of selectmen were in non-public session when Allen Bouthillier threatened to kill him 10 years ago. He wants those minutes unsealed and wants to see them. Alan also mentioned the next board of selectmen meeting they board went into non-public session to accept his resignation and he wanted to caution the board that a member of a board (planning, zoning, etc.) are volunteers and not employees of the town and they should not be going into non-public session to discuss those members.

Leon confirmed that Alan wants the minutes to both meetings unsealed. Alan replied he does and would like to see them.

Motion was made by Leon and seconded by Shane to unseal both meeting minutes from 10 years ago that involved Alan Savage and Allen Bouthillier and their membership on the zoning board. All in favor. Motion carried.

Leon stated it has been 10 years. There is no reason those minutes need to remain sealed. Shane is concerned that there is a 2nd party involved in the minutes and feels the board should be concerned about their reputation as well.

Alan stated, he believes the minutes were around Memorial Day in 2010. He also would like to the board to state the specific reason they are going into non-public session in the future.

Jackie Chaikin was also on the agenda for an appointment. Ed explained he was evicted from his apartment for his own health and safety. He is not sure where he is living at this time. Ed stated his issue was with the health officer that caused him to be evicted. Ed explained to Mr. Chaikin over the phone that the health officer took the appropriate action through the courts and the judge

ruled in favor of the Town to evict. Mr. Chaikin just wanted to make sure the board was aware of what was going on and Ed explained they did.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Review and approval of the January 4, 2021 Selectmen’s meeting minutes. **Motion made by Shane and seconded by Leon to accept the January 4, 2021 meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.**
- Timber Tax Warrant was signed for:
 - Brenda Stewart, Tax Map R15, Lot 034 for \$47.52

NEW BUSINESS:

Ed asked Charity to let the board know the potential plan for the annual town business meeting. Charity mentioned there is current legislation that has passed the Senate and is now in the House to allow municipalities to postpone their town elections and also their business meetings. Since town elections and town meetings are governed by separate RSA’s the procedures would be different. Charity is asking for the election of officers and voting on the school budget warrant articles to take place as usual and to have the business meeting which is usually held immediately following the elections to be postponed to Saturday, March 13, 2021 at the Lancaster Elementary School where proper social distancing can be adhered to. If the legislation does not pass then we will need to open the business meeting at 7:30 p.m. following the closing of the polls as we have done in the past and one of the selectmen will need to immediately make a motion to postpone to Saturday at the new location and a vote taken. If the motion passes than there shall be no discussion of the articles until the meeting takes place on the alternate date and location. It was advised by the town’s attorney to advertise in several places as to what is going to happen so people are not misinformed.

Motion was made by Leon and seconded by Shane to move forward with postponing the town business meeting to Saturday, March 13, 2021 at the Lancaster Elementary School at 10:00 a.m.

Ed asked if the board received copies of the Fire/EMS job descriptions that required their approval.

Motion was made by Shane and seconded by Leon to accept the Fire/EMS job descriptions as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ed gave the board an appoint for Charity to continue on as the motor vehicle municipal agent. An appoint that is required by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Motion was made by Leon and seconded by Shane to appoint Charity Baker as the motor vehicle municipal agent for the Town of Lancaster. All in favor. Motion carried. The appointment was signed.

Ed gave the board the 2020 Municipal Assessment Data Certificate from the Department of Revenue to sign. He also mentioned the advertisement requesting proposals for a contracted assessor has been posted on the NH Municipal Association website.

Rob handed out copies of the Natural Resource Inventory which is now complete.

Ed reported that the Health Officer, Ted Joubert has resigned. Ted feels he no longer has time to fill that responsibility. Leo asked if Ed had a replacement in mind. Ed replied, not at this time.

Leo mentioned he received Ed’s official retirement notice and mentioned they should work to get the position posted in-house.

Alan asked if Dennis’ position has been advertised. It was reported that the position has been and has been offered and accepted by the new person. The name of the new hire was not shared as he had not given his notice to his current employ at that time.

Shane asked who is taking care of the transfer station in the interim. Ed explained that Bill is taking care of things at this time until the new person begins and Dennis has volunteered to help guide him as needed. Shane also asked if Dennis was going to continue to do the 5 cent can deliveries. Ed said he may and the only way he can be compensated is if he submits an invoice.

Alan asked who is going to look after the solar system. Ed said he is not sure about that at this time.

Lucy was wondering what was going on with the Conservation Commission. She noticed the minutes stated they tabled making any appointment recommendations to the board of Selectmen. Leo stated the Commission felt they needed to get to the route of why members were leaving before they recommended appointing any new members. Leo stated that Rob is the cause for members leaving. Rob stated he is not there to make friends and he is trying to do what is right for the Commission and the Town.

He is concerned because the town treasurer stated there is no money in the account and then the Town Manager presented audit reports showing that there was money in the account. Rob stated he has not seen any of the resignation letters that sited him as the reason.

He feels he has brought up some situations and has done his best to rectify them. It is a situation where he saw a problem, identified it and has attempted to fix it. He is still going to do what is right and what is in the rules. He is going to keep going to look for the answers to the issues until it makes sense.

He feels not filling vacancies because they may leave because they won’t like who is on the board doesn’t make sense to him and it is not an adequate reason for not making recommendations for new appointments.

Leon pointed out that tabling the appointments was not something the board of Selectmen discussed. Leo clarified that it was at the Conservation Commission meeting and a vote was taken to table the appointments. Rob stated he does not believe there was a motion in the minutes tabling the appointments.

Ed explained Rob does a tremendous job doing the research although he needs to bring his findings to the commission chair and the chair can discuss it with the board. Ed said there is no formal role of a treasurer. Rob said there is a treasurer position in their bylaws that were accepted by the commission. They used several resources to pull the bylaws together.

It is also required to record their minutes with the Town and that has not happened for many years prior to his serving along with the reporting of the monies in the fund which is not being reported in the town reports. It should be up to the board of Selectmen to provide oversight to make sure things like that don’t fall through the cracks.

Rob mentioned he was told at the last board meeting that he can sit down and go over the records for the Martin Meadow Pond project. He doesn’t feel there is any wrong doing, he just would like to see where it was voted to disperse the money from that fund. Ed stated, he is sure those votes were made at a board of Selectmen’s meeting, that the pass through of those funds were approved.

Rob expressed his disappointment for Jean leaving the commission. He felt she did a great job.

Leon confirmed that there are people interested in joining the commission. He stated even though we have not heard any recommendation from the commission it is still the board of Selectmen’s responsibility to appoint someone and the commission should not be holding up making recommendations for the appointment. He would like their recommendations be presented at the next meeting.

Lucy stated it is her observation that the board is disingenuous in blaming Rob who has stepped in and attempted to get the commission up and running and the board of Selectmen is in fact the ones that didn’t pay attention to the commission like they should have been all along.

Alan stated he has been involved on several boards and stated you will have volunteers galore until the work actually has to be done and then they will bail.

Rob wanted to put it on record that he has heard what Leo is saying and has taken it to heart and he realizes there may be things he needs to change and he will look at that. Leo mentioned it isn’t what he is saying or doing, it is his approach.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Selectmen Date: _____

Charity M. Baker

Leo Enos

Leon Rideout

Shane Beattie