

## MINUTES

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
TOWN HALL**

**February 16, 2021  
6:30 PM**

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### **ATTENDEES:**

Leo Enos, Selectman	Leon Rideout, Selectman	Shane Beattie, Selectman
Edward Samson, Town Manager	Benjamin Gaetjens-Oleson	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**

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Review and approval of February 1, 2021 Selectmen's meeting minutes. **Motion made by Leon and seconded by Shane to accept the February 1, 2021 meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.**
- The board signed the 2021 Town Warrant to be posted for the upcoming election and town meeting.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Rob Christie asked to speak regarding broadcasting the annual business meeting. He mentioned a group of citizens in town have paid to broadcast the annual town business meeting as an experiment to see if it will be viewed by the public. They have contacted Phlume Media to broadcast the meeting. The cost is \$850 and will be paid by the group. The broadcast will be available for viewing on Granite State public television.

Rob mentioned HB1129 which addresses voting by zoom. The group is not attempting to get involved with those details.

Ed mentioned he received an email from Chad Fillion at Phlume Media and Chad mentioned he was going to contact the school to discuss access for set up and web access. Ed suggested that Rob may want to have Chad reach out to the moderator. Rob had handouts of HB1129 for the board if they are interested in having ballot voting or voting via zoom.

Leon mentioned he doesn't have any issue with streaming the meeting. He feels it is too close to the meeting to have the drive through ballot voting of the articles.

- Rob presented the recommendations for members to the Conservation Commission. The commission advertised and 4 people submitted letters of interest. Rob read the letters of interest that each of the following submitted - Margaret Hobbs, Gregg Burri, Nancy Southworth, Eric Livingstone. The commission voted to recommend Margaret Hobbs and Eric Livingstone to be appointed by the Board. One appointment will be to fill the open position left vacant by John Accardi's resignation. The other position available is Kim Votta's position which she is not going to seek reappointment for 2021. Alan Savage

mentioned the individual that is not seeking reappointment should not be appointed by the current board it should be appointed by the new board after the March election.

Ben mentioned, this time of year he puts an ad in the paper which advertises for interested parties to submit letters of interest to the boards and committees and he asked the Commission Chair Allan Ryder if he would like the commission’s open positions in the ad. Allan was in favor of adding the commission to the ad.

**Motion made by Leon and seconded by Shane to appoint Margaret Hobbs to the Conservation Commission to replace John Accardi and finish his term. Leon and Shane voted in favor. Leo abstained as Margaret is his sister. Motion carried.**

- Rob also had a question about warrant article 20. He reviewed and confirmed discussion from the budget committee meeting that the \$250,000 is to come from the unassigned fund balance. It was mentioned that there have been discussions with the hospital to pay a portion of the \$250,000. It is very possible the town will only be responsible for \$125,000.

Ed stated the new tank is not just going to benefit the hospital and Forbes Farm. It is going to benefit all the users on that side of town and it will be beneficial if there is a catastrophic event. He also mentioned it is all contingent on the grant funding through Northern Borders.

Leo asked if any of the landowners have contacted Ed. Ed stated they have not.

Rob’s concern was that the \$250,000 will be tied up for the 5-year non-lapsing period.

Leon knows there are pressure issues at properties at the upper end of Portland Street. Shane mentioned it is his understanding the hospital is on board with assisting with the funding. Shane explained the importance of the tank for fire protection out in that area of town and also for future growth.

Rob mentioned his concern as a tax payer paying for a project that he will have no benefit as he is not a water user. Shane mentioned it is not going to affect the tax rate as the funding is coming from the unassigned fund balance and Rob stated the unassigned fund balance comes from past tax burden.

Leon mentioned he feels the town is lacking in water storage for emergencies and reiterated it is an asset for the town.

There was much discussion of past water pressure issues over the years.

- Leo mentioned he feels the town should seriously look at closing the pool for the summer. Leon stated he strongly disagrees. Leon feels the kids have been kept from so much and feels it is too soon to make that decision and even still they should consider having smaller numbers at swimming lessons etc. Ben stated it is definitely worth thinking about but he doesn’t feel a decision should be made now.

Alan mentioned the pool helps keep kids out of the Israel River where there are many more dangers and that is a concern that should be considered.

- Leo asked about ambulance rotation. He mentioned new ambulances are being made with aluminum bodies which last longer and the department may want to look into rebuilding the engines which is a possible way to save money.

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

Meeting adjourned @ 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charity M. Baker

Board of Selectmen                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Leo Enos

\_\_\_\_\_  
Leon Rideout

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Shane Beattie