

MINUTES

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN HALL**

**April 19, 2021
6:30 PM**

ATTENDEES:

Leon Rideout, Selectman	Shane Beattie, Selectman	Troy Merner, Selectman
Benjamin Gaetjens-Oleson	Charity Baker	Michael Nadeau
Ted Joubert, Asst. Fire Chief	Alan Savage	Rob Christie
Lucy Wyman	Other members of the public	

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Selectman Leon Rideout.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OLD BUSINESS:

- Review and approval of the April 5, 2021 meeting minutes.

**Motion made by Troy and seconded by Shane to accept the April 5, 2021 meeting minutes.
All in favor. Motion carried.**

- Ambulance mutual aid contracts were signed. Peter Riviere asked if the contracts are lapsing. Ben mentioned they are annual contracts for 911 coverage only. Leon stated the time frame the contracts cover and if adjustments need to be made, they will adjust accordingly.
- Reimbursement request form for forest fire warden training was signed.
- Intent to Excavate was signed for Paul Crane, Tax Map R13, Lots 066 & 068. 200 cubic yards for each lot.
- Timber Tax Warrant was signed for Demetrius Bagley, Tax Map R17, Lot 045 for \$413.92.

Ben mentioned the quarterly budget meeting will be held Wednesday, April 21st and that he has asked the department heads to participate in the quarterly meetings.

He also mentioned he has asked that the department heads start participating in one selectmen's meeting a month. Half of the department heads will come to the first meeting of the month and the other half the second meeting. He believes they will start attending in June which will give them time to work it into their schedules.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Ben asked the board members their thoughts regarding face masks and coverings now that the mandate has been lifted by the Governor. Shane asked what Ben's thoughts were as the Emergency Management Director. Ben feels it is a good idea to keep a mask requirement here at the town office where people don't have a choice about coming in

if masks are not being worn by others in the office. The board agreed that town buildings should still require masks be worn.

- Ben mentioned his appointment as a commissioner for North Country Council has expired and would like to be reappointed.

Motion was made by Troy and seconded by Shane to reappoint Benjamin Gaetjens-Oleson as North Country Council Commissioner. All in favor. Motion carried.

- The Conservation Commission had 3 recommendations for appointments to the commission. Rob Christie mentioned there are 3 positions open. Two 3-year terms and one 1-year term.

Motion made by Shane and seconded by Troy to appoint Rachel Stuart and Kathy Jean Lavoie to the 3-year terms and Nancy Southworth to the 1-year term. All in favor. Motion carried.

- The Planning Board submitted recommendations for Maggie Jones to be appointed as a regular member moving her up from an alternate member. She will serve out the remainder of her current term and become eligible for reappointment in 2022. The board also recommends to appoint Leo Enos as an alternate member to complete a vacant term expiring in 2022 and Rick McCarten as an alternate member for a 3-year term.

Motion made by Troy and seconded by Shane to appoint Maggie Jones as a regular member until 2022. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Shane and seconded by Troy to appoint Leo Enos as a regular member until 2022 and Rick McCarten as a regular member until 2024.

Alan Savage mentioned he objects to Leo being appointed to the planning board and several others in the audience agreed. Alan shared information as to why he should not be appointed to town boards. Due to the controversy, Leon asked Shane who made the motion if he was willing to separate the motion and vote for each recommendation separately. Shane agreed to separate his motion.

Motion made by Shane and seconded by Troy to appoint Rick McCarten as an alternate member until 2024. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Shane and seconded by Troy to appoint Leo Enos as alternate member until 2022. Leon called for a vote and no members voted for or against. There was more discussion regarding the allegations made by Alan. Leon called for another vote. There were zero votes for the motion and zero against the motion. Leon ruled with no votes in the affirmative, his ruling as the chairman is the appointment is not approved.

Ben also wanted to make the board aware of a topic that was brought up at the last Conservation Commission meeting regarding Eversource proposing work on the B142 power transmission line. He mentioned they are proposing an increase in pole height.

Rob mentioned at the time of the meeting the only information he had was an email to accept the mitigation funds. Rob mentioned he tailored the commission meeting to discussing the mitigation funds. The commission received the wetlands application the day after the meeting and Rob mentioned he has asked NHDES to give them the 40-day review period to look at the plans and meet to discuss.

Leon mentioned the board will need to decide whether or not they will support the commission and their request for the review period.

Motion was made by Shane and seconded by Troy to support the Conservation Commission in asking for the 40-day extension to review the Eversource B142 power transmission line project.

Rob mentioned he is going to ask the Commission to have an interim meeting to discuss this project to get their findings to NHDES.

Troy mentioned Eversource is willing to come up, possibly the first week in May, to do a walk-through of the project/site. It was mentioned that some poles are 48-49 feet and the proposed pole height is 56 feet.

Ben shared the information he received from Chad Fillion at Phlume Media regarding the question asked by Mr. Garrison at the April 5, 2021 board meeting. See attached copy of the email report.

Ben let the board know that Chad wished he could have given the report himself however, he had prior engagement. Ben will continue to have discussions with him regarding recording board of selectmen meetings. Ben mentioned, Chad has recommended doing what he does for Littleton which is not live streaming but recording and then posting online.

Alan Savage stated since the weather has been good it would be nice to see the road bans lifted a week early and not wait until May 1st. He feels it should be ok for some roads maybe not all. Shane mentioned he has spoke to the State and they have lifted a lot of their road bans.

INFORMATION:

- Ben mentioned receiving a thank you from the Community Cupboard for funds appropriated at town meeting.
- The notice to BTLA informing them when the last 2020 tax bill was sent has been submitted.
- A letter from the NH Liquor Commission was received. The letter was with regards to a smoke shop being put into the Kwik Stop at 100 Bridge Street. The shop is known as the Smoker’s Den LLC.

- Building Permit –
 - Global Montello Group Corp., 202 Main Street – Cut the existing coffee island in half to make one longer coffee counter and build wall behind it to separate it from the kitchen.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Charity M. Baker

Board of Selectmen Date: _____

Leon Rideout

Shane Beattie

Troy Merner