

## MINUTES

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
TOWN HALL**

**September 20, 2021  
6:30 PM**

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### **ATTENDEES:**

Leon Rideout, Selectman      Shane Beattie, Selectman      Troy Merner, Selectman  
Town Manager, Benjamin Gaetjens-Oleson      Charity Baker      Michael Nadeau  
Department Heads      Members of the public      Phlume Media

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

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES:**

**Fire Chief Randy Flynn** reported the change over to the new dispatch has gone well. The department has one ambulance at the Ford garage that is getting a new motor. He thinks they should have it back by the end of the week.

Leon asked Randy how he feels the revenues are coming in. Randy stated they will come in about \$100,000 short of the initial projection. Ben also stated it looks like they may be under-expended as well.

Peter Riviere asked if the departments could make a practice of reporting what has happened throughout the month as far as calls, arrests, etc.

**Police Chief Tim Charbonneau** reported it is business as usual. Kyler Kenison is out on the street doing a great job. Mid-October they will be participating in the National Drug Take Back program. Anyone that has unused medication can bring them on the set day to be disposed. He also mentioned that unused medications can be disposed of at the Police Department any time. They have a secure kiosk to dispose of them.

Tim also reported that their call volume is up. They have had over 125 arrests so far which is a lot. They are still looking to hire more officers.

Troy asked if the backup in court cases is affecting the department. Tim replied it absolutely is and right now they are only working on last years' cases. There was discussion regarding how cases are being handled.

Lucy Wyman asked if the officers are also walking the streets and not just driving. She would like to encourage them to walk more. Tim explained it makes it difficult to get to their vehicle if a major incident occurs. If they are on the other end of town away from their vehicle it now delays responding to the call. She also would like to encourage the officers to use the sirens less.

**Librarian Barbara Robarts** reported they are gradually getting back to normal. They have a full fall program which will be starting in October. There will be bus from the Lancaster School bringing kids to Library so if families would like their children to participate in the after-school activities, they have a way to get there. The first or second week of October they will be issuing 1<sup>st</sup> library cards to the 40 or 50 1<sup>st</sup> graders.

**Recreation Director Eli Vincent** reported the in-house soccer program will be finishing up this week. Seniors on the move are doing well with many participants. They are getting ready for the Halloween Carnival which they are hoping to hold outside. He is hoping their email will be fixed and working tomorrow.

**Health Officer Ted Joubert** reported there are four current health cases at this time, three of which are orders to vacate. He has put together a rough draft of a health ordinance that he would like to have the board look over and offer suggestions in order to get some ordinances adopted.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

Senator Erin Hennessey was in attendance to introduce herself and check in with the board and community. She handed out a summary of the upcoming State budget. She went over a bit about the budget and money that is going back into the municipalities, business, schools, etc.

She stated at the State level they have received just over a billion dollars in ARPA funds from the federal government. They have already put over \$50,000,000 into water and sewer and that is something that Lancaster can apply for and hopefully if the Town is going to be spending their ARPA funds on water and sewer they would qualify for matching funds at the State level. She is aware the Town is looking into putting in an electric car charging station and went over some avenues for funding for project.

Lucy asked if there is anything she can do to influence the Governor on Executive Council’s decision to cut funding to family health clinics by 80%. Ms. Hennessey stated unfortunately there is not. Leon stated the board meeting was not the appropriate place for that discussion. There was back and forth on the appropriate forum which ended with moving to the next topic of business.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Review and approval of the September 7, 2021 meeting minutes.

**Motion made by Troy and seconded by Shane to approve the September 7, 2021 meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.**

Peter Riviere stated the minutes were not posted online as of September 16<sup>th</sup>. Leon explained that the RSA does not say they have to be online within a certain number of days. There was much discussion on transparency and getting the information out to the public and concern that the information is not getting out timely.

- A previously approved abatement for Ann Winnett was signed.
- Confirmation of Receipt of the A9 & A12 forms from the tax-exempt properties was signed.
- Intent to Cut for Demetrius Bagley was signed. Tax map R17, Lot 45. Acreage of lot - 80. 15 acres to be cut.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Michael Leon/Diamond Properties owner of 39 Portland Street was present to discuss the board possibly abating excess usage caused by leaking fixtures in his tenants’ apartments. Mr. Leon mentioned gaining access to the apartments has been challenging with COVID and cooperation of the tenants. He has now fixed all the leaking fixtures and it should not occur again. He reviewed the last several years of excessive usage. The board discussed the ways this situation has been handled in the past.

**Motion made by Shane and seconded by Troy to abate the charge for sewer over and above 216,000 gallons usage for all of 2020 and 108,000 gallons for the 1<sup>st</sup> issue 2021 billing. All in favor. Motion carried.**

- Winter Sand Bid opening – only one bid received.
  - Carroll Concrete - \$6.75 per ton picked up. \$8.25 per ton delivered.

**Motion made by Shane and seconded by Troy to accept the Carroll Concrete bid. All in favor. Motion carried.**

- Fuel Oil Bid opening –
  - CN Brown Company – \$2.369 fixed or .259 over rack
  - Doolan Fuel Company – \$2.459 fixed or .15 over rack
  - Rymes Oil & Propane – \$2.699 fixed or .38 over cost on 9/21/21

Leon mentioned generally in the past they have gone with a fixed rate as it is easier for budgeting.

**Motion made by Shane and seconded by Troy to go with the fixed rate bids. All in favor. Motion carried.**

**Motion made by Troy and seconded by Shane to accept CN Brown Company bid of \$2.369 fixed rate per gallon. All in favor. Motion carried.**

- Ben mentioned a donation in the amount of \$101 has been made by the Weathervane Theater on behalf of Ruby Berryman for the Art Mural Project at the Lancaster Motor Inn, 112 Main Street. The board will need to accept the unanticipated revenue.

**Motion made by Troy and seconded by Shane to accept the unanticipated revenue in the amount of \$101.00 from the Weathervane Theater. All in favor. Motion carried.**

**INFORMATION:**

- Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup> there will be an employee cookout.
- Ben reported Robin Irving started today as the Land Use Coordinator.

**Non-Public Session RSA 91-A:3**

**Motion made by Shane and seconded by Troy to enter into Non-Public Session pursuant to NH RSA 91-A:3 II (e) to discuss Town Counsel’s opinion on the ownership of the waste water lagoons. Roll Call Vote.**

**Shane Beattie: Yes**

**Troy Merner: Yes**

**Leon Rideout: Yes**

**Board left the room to enter non-public at 7:30 p.m.**

**The Board reentered public session at 7:47 p.m.**

**Motion made by Troy and seconded by Shane to accept the legal opinion received from the Town’s legal counsel which was discussed in non-public. All in favor. Motion carried.**

**Motion made by Shane and seconded by Troy to release the minutes and legal opinion discussed in non-public session upon approval of the minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.**

Shane asked Charity if it was possible to post the approved minutes sooner than the usual time frame. She stated she can post them the next day after being approved if that is what they would like. She has been posting the approved minutes when she posts the next meeting’s agenda, however she will start posting after they are approved.

Peter Riviere also asked that any documents that are being referred to during their discussions at the meetings also be included with the minutes. Ex – loan paperwork, special exception on zoning regulations or rules, etc.

He mentioned he would like to see old business items that are pending continue to be listed on the agenda until they are resolved.

Peter asked if the next quarterly budget meeting has been set. Ben stated not yet. He will coordinate with Leo Enos the budget committee chair. Ben is going to try to keep a consistent date after each quarter ends so people will know ahead. Peter also mentioned he feels the public should be able to have input in the budget meetings.

He wanted the board to know that those towns that have started broadcasting meetings there has been more public participation because they are more informed.

There was more discussion on how/when minutes are being posted to the website.

**Motion made by Troy and seconded by Shane. All in favor. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Charity M. Baker

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

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Leon Rideout

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shane Beattie

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Troy Merner