

MINUTES

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN HALL**

**October 18, 2021
6:30 PM**

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 Shane Beattie.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES:

Police Chief Tim Charbonneau reported receiving the new cruiser last week. It is now getting the radio and lights installed and then will go have the lettering added. Also, conditional offers have been given to two new officers. Making an offer allows him to move forward conducting background checks, etc.

Assistant Fire Chief Ted Joubert stated the ambulance that was being repaired at North Country Ford is back in service. He reported they have lost 2 part-timers and looking for new people. Also, the billing software company was hacked and they haven't been able to bill for a 3-week period. It is back up and running and have started billing again. He also reported COVID cases are up.

Librarian Barbara Robarts mentioned the winter program has started and there is an afternoon bus for kids that want to participate in the afterschool programs.

Recreation Director Eli Vincent reported they had their 1st travel soccer tournament. The Halloween carnival will be held outside on October 30th from 1-3 p.m. and window painting is coming up along Main Street and Neighboring Streets. Seniors on the Move are seeing 30+ participants. Basketball will be starting and signups are going out.

Ben reported that Trick or Treating will in held on October 31st from 4-6 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Leon opened a public hearing to discuss and accept a NH Department of Justice Grant in the amount of \$18,000.00 for the purchase of IV pumps.

Assistant Chief Ted Joubert reported they are refurbished pumps that are the same model the hospital uses which will allow for a seamless transfer of the patient to the hospital.

Leon asked if there were any questions or input from the public regarding the NH Department of Justice Grant. There was nothing from the public.

Motion made by Troy and seconded by Shane to accept the Department of Justice grant in the amount of \$18,000.00 for the purchase of IV pumps and to authorize Town Manager Benjamin Gaetjens-Oleson to sign any and all paperwork. All in favor. Motion carried.

Leon opened a public hearing to discuss and accept a Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant from the National Park Service in the amount of \$180,000.00 for improvements to the outdoor facilities at Colonel Town.

He asked if there was any questions or input from the public regarding the Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant. There was nothing from the public.

Motion made by Shane and seconded by Troy to accept the Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant from the National Park Service in the amount of \$180,000 .00 for improvements at Colonel Town and to authorize Town Manager Benjamin Gaetjens-Oleson to sign any and all paperwork. All in favor. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Review and Approval of October 4, 2021 Selectmen’s meeting minutes.

Motion made by Shane and seconded by Troy to accept the October 4, 2021 meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.

- The board signed previously approved abatements for Daniel Blaikie and Michael Fennell.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Ben explained the order for the new Highway department pickup truck from Saint Johnsbury Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram was never placed. Tim Brown the Highway Foreman called to check on the status and found the salesman was no longer with the dealership and the order was never placed and now they are unable to purchase that vehicle. Tim and Ben reached out to the previous bidders for updated bids with the same specs. Ben presented the two bids that were resubmitted for a 2022 model. North Country Ford bid \$69,710 and Crosstown Motors \$70,165. Ben asked the Board to vote to accept a bid.

Alan Savage asked why a Chevrolet dealer was not asked for a bid. Ben mentioned he has been informed that Chevrolet doesn’t make a truck with the specifications they are looking for.

Motion made by Shane and seconded by Troy to accept the bid from North Country Ford for a 2022 Ford F600 4x4in the amount of \$69,710.00. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ben mentioned it is becoming very difficult to purchase equipment and wanted to let the board know he is going to discuss, with the budget committee, making upcoming capital purchase agreements as soon as possible. He feels with it taking so long for vehicles to come in, we may need to put bid requests out before the budget is voted on and make agreements with the dealers knowing if the budget item does not pass, the deal will not go through.

- Ben mentioned the Town has received a grant from NH State Council on the Arts for the Art Mural project in the amount of \$4,500.00 and the board needs vote to accept the funds.

Motion made by Shane and seconded by Troy to accept a \$4,500.00 grant from the NH State Council on the Arts and to authorized Town Manager Benjamin Gaetjens-Oleson to sign any and all paperwork. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Ben also mentioned the Town received a \$500 donation from North Country Ford for the Art Mural project and the board needs to vote to accept it.

Motion made by Troy and seconded by Shane to accept the \$500 donation from North Country Ford. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ben reported the Tillotson fund has awarded a grant in the amount of \$1,500 to the Art Mural project which covers the difference between what was requested from the NH State Council on the Arts grant and what actually was awarded.

He mentioned there is a Mural Project Charrette on October 21, 2021 at 6 p.m. at the Lancaster Motel to discuss ideas for the mural.

INFORMATION:

- Letter from Eversource regarding Petition for License to construct and maintain electric lines over and across State owned land in Northumberland and Public Waters in Lancaster.
- Letter from BTLA regarding Rob Christie ordering the parties to attempt coming settlement before February 4, 2021 in an attempt to avoid holding a hearing. Shane volunteered to sit in on the mediation meeting. Rob was happy with setting a meeting to discuss.
- Building Permit
 - Consolidated Communications Inc, 13 High Street – Remove and replace existing roof. Remove and replace existing failed HVAC unit and replace with 7-Ton Split System.

REMINDERS:

- Quarterly budget review meeting will be held October 19, 2021 at 5:15 p.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium.
- The fuel tank in the municipal parking lot was removed about a week and half ago. There was some seepage. They have scheduled some soil testing which will take place Friday, October 22nd. The parking lot will be closed that day. Ben let the people that may be affected by the closure know so they can make plans to use alternate parking.

PUBLIC INPUT:

- Rob asked if the bids for the Highway truck came in higher than what was approved at the annual meeting where does the balance come from. Ben explained that the truck with the

body and plow will come in higher than what was approved and the amount over what was approved will come out of the highway department budget.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charity M. Baker

Board of Selectmen Date: _____

Leon Rideout

Shane Beattie

Troy Merner