

MINUTES

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN HALL**

**November 15, 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 Leon Rideout.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES:

Transfer Station Supervisor Brian Patnoe reported the markets are slowly going down and will continue over the next couple of months and then they will start to go back up in the spring.

Police Chief Tim Charbonneau reported the department is very busy. They are still down on employees. The new cruiser is out being lettered and hope to have it in service in the next week.

He mentioned he would like to sell the oldest 2017 cruiser as a whole with all the equipment and believes he has a buyer. Ben mentioned the last time the town sold a cruiser, it was sold as a whole with the equipment to the Town of Dalton for \$5,000 and Chief Charbonneau would like to do that again with the board's approval. The Essex County sheriff's office is interested in purchasing the vehicle. If the board doesn't want to go that route, it will be stripped of its equipment and put out to bid as any other vehicle and the equipment will be put in storage as it does not fit the new cruiser.

Motion made by Shane and seconded by Troy to sell the 2017 white cruiser to another law enforcement agency for no less than \$5,000. All in favor. Motion carried.

Chief Charbonneau also mentioned the department participated in a fundraiser "stuff a cruiser" at Shaw's to benefit Project Homebound. They were able to raise \$700 in cash and collected lots of food for the project.

Assistant Fire Chief Ted Joubert mentioned Chief Flynn was on vacation and he would give the report in his place. He reported that COVID numbers are up in town. They have begun giving the COVID boosters for those that received their initial shots from them.

Leon asked if any of their staff have contracted COVID due to exposure from transporting patients. Ted stated the staff have been great about protecting themselves and they have only had one at the beginning of the pandemic due to exposure. Leon asked if they have enough personal protective equipment (PPE) and Ted replied Chief Flynn has been very proactive in keeping plenty of supplies on hand.

Ben mentioned the hospital approached him and asked if the town would be willing to make a mask mandate. Leon stated he feels as a board they can highly recommend people wear their masks however doesn't feel it can be enforced. Chief Charbonneau added, he feels there would definitely be a struggle with enforcement. Rob Christie asked if the board would be willing to

make a public statement recommending people wear masks. Ben said he can write something up and get it out in the newspaper and on Facebook.

Librarian Barbara Robarts reported they have hired Lufkin Security to install a security system due to recent events that have occurred there.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Review and approval of November 1, 2021 meeting minutes.

Motion made by Troy and seconded by Shane to accept the November 1, 2021 meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The trash hauling bids were opened. They received 2 bids for a 3-year contract. Shane recused himself from the discussion as Beattie Enterprises was one of the bidders. Bids were as follows:
 - Beattie Enterprises bid for 2022 - \$275 per trip, 2023 - \$285 per trip, and for 2024 - \$295 per trip.
 - Normandeau Trucking bid for 2022 - \$360 per trip, 2023 - \$371 per trip and for 2024 - \$382 per trip.

Motion made by Leon and seconded by Troy to accept the bid from Beattie Enterprises for a 3-year contract. Leon and Troy voted in favor. Shane was recused from discussion and vote.

- The equipment purchase bids were opened.
 - The 1994 Sewer machine had one bidder – Timmy Bilodeau of A1 Water Services of NH in the amount of \$1,001.

Motion made by Troy and seconded by Shane to accept the bid from A1 Water Services of NH in the amount of \$1,001. All in favor. Motion carried.

- The Eager Beaver roller had one bidder – A1 Water Services of NH in the amount of \$50.

Motion made by Shane and seconded by Troy to accept the bid from A1 Water Services of NH in amount of \$50. All in favor. Motion carried.

- The 2011 Ford E450 Ambulance for parts had 2 bidders. Forbes Farm in the amount of \$855 and Craig Colby in the amount of \$252.

Motion made by Shane and seconded by Troy to accept the bid from Forbes Farm in the amount of \$855. All in favor. Motion carried.

- The 2011 E450 Ambulance had 2 bidders. Forbes Farm in the amount of \$1,855 and Craig Colby in the amount of \$852.

Motion made by Troy and seconded by Shane to accept bid from Forbes Farm in the amount of \$1,855. All in favor. Motion carried.

- The 2010 Ford E350 Van Ambulance had 2 bidders. Forbes Farm in the amount of \$930 and Craig Colby in the amount of \$452.

Motion made by Shane and seconded by Troy to accept the bid from Forbes Farm in the amount of \$930. All in favor. Motion carried.

- The 2013 Ford Taurus Sedan had 2 bidders. Scott Forbes in the amount of \$1,780 and Craig Colby in the amount of \$1,252.

Motion made by Troy and seconded by Shane to accept the bid from Scott Forbes in the amount of \$1,780. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Ben stated now that decisions have been made as far as ownership with land at the lagoons, he would like the board think about whether or not they will allow people to have access there to bird watch. Ben knew the board had concerns about the town’s liability with people on the property. They discussed options for signage and what would be allowed on the property. Shane mentioned he feels the lagoons are not a place for people to be around. He feels it can be a dangerous situation. The fence is there for a reason. Alan Savage mentioned the solar panels are inside the fence and shouldn’t have access to be tampered with. Rob Christie asked if it was possible for them to approach an organization like the Audubon Society to assist with building an observation platform outside the fence where the public could watch the birds from. Ben stated he didn’t expect any decisions be made tonight. He brought it up for them to think about how they would like to move forward and they can take some time to think it over. Leon stated the board will take some time to look into it further and make a decision in the coming months.

Ben mentioned he spoke with the town’s attorney who felt that as long as the town doesn’t require them to do anything in order to use the property (ex. - pick up trash, etc.), the town would be covered under NHRSA 508:14 for liability.

INFORMATION:

- Ben read a letter from NH Conservation Sergeant Glen Lucas expressing his gratitude and thanks to the Town’s departments for assisting with the NH Fish and Game’s Dive Team in missions along the Connecticut River.
- Building permits –
 - Guilbert Desrochers, 225 Elm Street – construct 8’x40’ attached canopy on front (and possible rear) of new garage having electric but no water/sewer, and temporarily place one storage container for personal use.
 - Shall dispose of demo debris in accordance with NHRSA 141-E and NH cod of Admin. Rules Ch. Env-A 1800

- Not approved as a dwelling unit. No bathroom or kitchen units shall be constructed until an approved septic system is installed.
- Zina Schmidt, 260 North Road – construct 6’x30’ stick-built addition on concrete foundation walls off existing kitchen/dining room to expand room space and also re-plumb and upgrade electrical to laundry and ½ bath.
 - Shall dispose of demo debris in accordance with NHRSA 141-E and NH Code Admin. Rules Ch. Env-A 1800.
- Richard & Ellen Romyns, 196 Garland Road – (renewal) construct a 40’x54’ 3-bedroom, single family log home on full foundation with attached 26’ x 42’ 3-car garage on slab.
- Sign permit –
 - Justin Roy/Smoker’s Den, 100 Bridge Street
 - Free standing sign shall be situated upon owner/lessee’s property
 - Location of free-standing sign shall be compliant with any and all State of NH regulations regarding placement of signs along state roads.
 - Location of free-standing sign shall be compliant with the Town of Lancaster Zoning Ordinance regarding distance from right of way edge.

Leon asked if there was any public comment.

Rob Christie asked where the equipment that was decommissioned when dispatch was moved to Grafton County. Ben mentioned it was not decommissioned it is still in use by Grafton County. Most of the equipment is on towers and right now they are working to get ownership transferred to Grafton County so they can deal with the maintenance of it. Rob asked if that equipment would be put out to bid and Ben explained that it was purchased with grant funds and it would only be transferred for the purpose it was intended for.

Rob also asked if the board will be looking to appoint someone to the recent vacancy on the budget committee or are they going to leave it until the next election. Leon stated he would recommend leaving the position vacant until the next election then the voters can decide who will fill that position. Shane mentioned it is difficult at this stage of the budgeting process to bring someone up to speed.

Alan Savage wanted to encourage the board to get to the bottom of why committee members are getting done and feels the board should be backing their committee members.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charity M. Baker

Board of Selectmen Date: _____

Leon Rideout

Shane Beattie

Troy Merner