

MINUTES

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN HALL**

**Tuesday, January 18, 2022
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 Caledonian-Record

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATES:

Colonel Town Director Eli Vincent reported both the girls' and boys' teams came in 2nd at the Gorham basketball tournament.

Police Chief Tim Charbonneau reported that Robert Sullivan started as a new officer and will be starting the academy in February. There is another candidate going through the process.

Troy mentioned he received an email regarding speeding on Pleasant Street and they asked if something could be done. Tim mentioned he will have the officers monitor it.

Health Officer Ted Joubert reported there are mostly housing cases and orders to vacate.

The next couple of Wednesdays they will be holding COVID-19 vaccine clinics.

Fire Chief Randy Flynn reported December was a busy month. They had a dozen fire calls, 65 emergency 911 patient contacts, 103 ambulance transfers. For 2021 they had 2,059 patient contacts compared to 1,891 patient contacts in 2020.

Ben mentioned Peter Riviere and Rob Christie wanted to address the board.

Peter wanted to express his concern with the budget meeting procedure. He feels the public should be able to have some input at the meetings. The committee has not allowed public input at the last couple of sessions and stated public input is for the public budget hearing. Attached to these minutes is a copy of Peter's concerns which were read to the board.

Ben mentioned Peter approached him about adding a warrant article for work at the skating rink. Ben asked Peter to speak to the work that needs to be done and how much will need to be requested. Peter stated the boards need to be replaced and he has looked at options for replacements. He found a place to get used stand-alone plastic boards on a metal backing. He figures the cost will be \$50,000-55,000 to complete the work.

Rob is asking the board and the budget committee to cap any increase at 7% which is the cost of living increase. His calculations indicate the increase at this time is at 13%. He also stated, he felt the Colonel Town presentation was very weak. He feels basic questions should have been able to be answered.

Troy asked Rob what he is calculating the 13% increase from and Rob told them he was using the last 2 years rate increases.

There was much discussion regarding the tax rate and the fund balance.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Review and approval of the January 3, 2022 meeting minutes.

Motion made by Shane and seconded by Troy to accept the January 3, 2022 meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.

- The board signed the Northern NH Mutual Aid contract.
- Intentions to Cut –
 - Marty Parks/Dana Barbin – Tax Map R05, Lot 002. 14 acres lot. 14 acres to be cut.
 - Stephen Kenison – Tax Map R11, Lot 033. 55 acres lot. 5 acres to be cut.
 - Rodney Hampton – Tax Map R07, Lot 026. 20.54 acres lot. 3.5 acres to be cut.
- Abatement for Jon Butt. His camper in the Mountain Lake Campground had a valid motor vehicle registration however the current decals were not affixed to the plate causing it to be assessed and tax bill to be issued.

Motion made by Shane and seconded by Troy to abate the taxes for Jon Butt. All in favor. Motion carried. The board signed the abatement.

- The board discussed the updated Land Use Permit application proposed by Robin Irving at the last meeting. The board stated they agreed with the content of the application however, Leon mentioned he has concerns with increasing the fees by double all at once. There was much discussion regarding how the fees should be increased. Ben stated the fees as they are don’t even begin to cover the costs of issuing a permit. He urges the board to back the enforcement of the after-the-fact penalty when one is assessed.

The board decided to increase the Commercial Permit application fee from \$50 to \$75. The residential fee from \$25 to \$35 and the outbuilding and additions fee from \$10 to \$15.

Motion made by Shane and seconded by Troy to accept the content of the Land Use permit application as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Shane and seconded by Troy to accept increase to fees on the Land Use permit application as follows: Commercial permit \$50 to \$75, Residential permit \$25 to \$35 and outbuilding and additions permit \$10 to \$15. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Ben mentioned \$500 was received from NH Charitable Foundation for the Art Mural project. The board needs to accept the money.

Motion made by Troy and seconded by Shane to accept \$500 from the NH Charitable Foundation for the Art Mural project. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Ben shared a letter received from NHDOT regarding a study on uncontrolled crosswalks along US Route 2. The State explained the recommendations for each of the crosswalks. Some were recommended for removal and others are required to have beacons added. If the Town does not come up with a plan to add the beacons the State is going to eliminate

the crosswalks. To purchase the recommended beacons is approximately \$2,500 each and 2 are needed for each crosswalk. Study attached.

Wendy Pedersen asked when the paving project is done, if it is possible to have the crosswalks painted a different more visible color and maybe more reflective.

Troy mentioned he is going to make a call to DOT and Councilor Kenney to discuss the concerns with the traffic/crosswalk study. He asked Ben to wait to respond until he talks with Councilor Kenney.

Several alternative options were discussed. Peter mentioned possibly having crosswalk bump outs. However, there are concerns with that as well. It makes it difficult with plowing and snow removal.

INFORMATION:

- Ben mentioned Barbara Payer is now the new clerk for the Conservation Commission and Zoning Board.
- Building Permits –
 - Gary Baker, 22 Mary Elizabeth Lane – construct a 28’ x 52’, 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom, single-family home on full foundation with a 24’ x 32’, detached garage on a slab
 - Benjamin A. Smith, 29 Williams Street – renovation of 22’ x 30’ first and second floors including 3BR and 1.5 BA to install drywall walls, insulation, plumbing, electricity, new fixtures, and refinish wooden floors. Removal of 16’ x 20’ shed and reconstruct with an open deck/entryway
 - Jay & Kathy-Jean Lavoie, 16 Prospect Street – renovation of second floor 20’ x 20’ open space into a bedroom and a bathroom, construction of walls, installation of flooring, plumbing, electrical outlets, and fixtures
- Public Input – Nothing at this time.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Charity M. Baker

Board of Selectmen

Date: _____

Leon Rideout

Shane Beattie

Troy Merner