

## MINUTES

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
TOWN HALL**

**February 7, 2022  
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:**

**Water/Sewer Supervisor Timmy Bilodeau** reported they have been busy cleaning the snow out from around the hydrants and doing some indoor clean up. They had three frozen water lines over the last week. He believes it could be due to the lack of snow cover.

**Highway Foreman Tim Brown** reported the crew has been working around the garage and plowing/picking up snow.

**Transfer Station Supervisor Brian Patnoe** mentioned that the recyclables are slowly starting to move again. They shipped out just under 20 tons of tires and will be shipping a load of cardboard and paper over the next couple weeks. The load of tires shipped cost the town \$190 dollars a ton, which was cheaper than the per tire cost. He feels we may have to see if the motor vehicle waste fee can be adjusted to cover the cost of tire disposal.

**Land Use Coordinator Robin Irving** reported the third-party inspection came in for the oncology section of Weeks Medical Center so they signed off on the closeout for that project. Weeks is now moving forward on the MRI building.

She is ramping up for the planning board meeting on Wednesday, they have a lot merger on the agenda and candidates that will be reviewed for reappointment recommendation to the selectmen.

She reviewed training that she will be participating in over the next month and webinars she has been attending with the BEA. She mentioned there is money that will be coming out and a percentage of it is going to go toward housing projects. How it can be used by the Town is still in question, whether it has to be used on town owned projects or if it will be a pass through or even if residents could come to the town as a candidate for the town to sponsor.

The first Lancaster Broadband committee meeting is on Thursday through the Northern Forest. Robin gave Julie Renaud-Evans from the Northern Forest the contact information to wrap in North Country Council to consolidate efforts. NCC has been working on broadband through the Coos County Broadband committee.

She mentioned there are a number of DES grants that she has been asked to write a grant application for and she responded that the town is on board for the water audit so she will be providing them data for that. She reviewed the water audit process to the board.

Rob Christie asked Robin what the progress was on the master plan. He hasn’t seen minutes on the website. Ben said he was still coordinating the master plan and he forwarded the minutes to Rob today. Ben explained they are trying to re-organize and develop a work plan. They would like to start engaging the youth. Rob mentioned he is available to help.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Review and approval of January 18, 2022 meeting minutes.

**Motion made by Troy and seconded by Shane to accept the January 18, 2022 meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.**

- The board signed the ambulance service contracts for Lunenburg, Jefferson and Guildhall along with a fire service contract for Guildhall. Leon asked if that included the price increase and Ben stated it did, he believe it is now at \$35 per capita.
- The board signed the warrant for town meeting.

Ben mentioned, he was hoping to hold town meeting at the school again this year however without a state of emergency in effect there is nothing in the law that allows us to. The only other way is if the town voted in the past to give the authority to the board of selectmen to move the 2<sup>nd</sup> session of town meeting to a different day and location. We have not been able to find in past minutes where that occurred, so town meeting will remain on Tuesday following the election.

- Follow-up on the letter from DOT regarding the Town’s crosswalks. Ben reached out to Councilor Kenney and left a message to see if he could look into it for us. Ben did get a response back Bill Cass from DOT requesting to set a meeting between the town, DOT and Councilor Kenney. Ben is going to reply back and ask Councilor Kenney when is a good time for him to meet.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Ben mentioned at next meeting there will be an application for a request from the loan fund the board will have to review.

Also, there will be a couple of 79E Tax Incentive Relief requests for the Pak Solutions group. He needs to confirm the next meeting will work for them.

**INFORMATION:**

- Report from Conservation Commission regarding town easement which is the water plant property, previously the Southworth easement. It states we are in compliance.
- BTLA Order – Northern New England Telephone withdrawal of their 2019 appeal.
- BTLA Order – Northern New England withdrawal of their 2020 appeal.

- Land Use Permits –
  - C&I Investments, 66 Bridge Street – demolition of existing 40’X60’ wooden barn with asphalt shingles and tin roofing situated on a concrete slab; slab will be preserved.
    - Shall dispose of demo debris in accordance with NHRSA 141-E and NH Code of Admin Rules Ch. Env-A 1800
    - Third-party inspection reports shall be provided to the Town upon completion in both paper and digital form (if available)

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Rob recommended the board ask the school district to consider holding their deliberative session on a different night so it doesn’t interfere with selectmen’s meetings. Leon stated it has been requested several times and nothing has come of it. Troy believes there may be a statutory requirement as to when deliberative session must be held.

Rob also reported the BTLA asked him to meet with the Town to see if an agreement could be reached regarding his appeal. He met with Shane, the selectmen’s representative, and reported that Shane stated he wasn’t educated enough with assessing to make any change from the recommendation of Northtown Associates (Jason Call) the contracted assessor. Rob encourages the board to get educated. Rob had hoped the meeting would have gone better. Shane stated the Town hires an assessing company and feels comfortable recommending him to take the issue the State. Rob stated the BTLA made a recommendation to try mediation before the hearing date and he feels like the Town didn’t make an effort to mediate. The mediation form has been signed and returned to BTLA. Now they will wait for the hearing date.

**Motion made by Troy and seconded by Shane to adjourn. 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