

MINUTES

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN HALL**

**Tuesday, January 17, 2023
6:30 PM**

ATTENDEES:

Selectman Shane Beattie Selectman Troy Merner Selectman Leon Rideout
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:

Fire Chief Randy Flynn reported they responded to 160 calls last month. 105 transfers and 55 911 calls. They also responded to 40 calls with the new Community Paramedic program and they have heard all positive feedback.

Ben mentioned there is a meeting in the next couple weeks with the State and hospital to discuss how the program is going.

Fire truck pump maintenance is being done and all the ambulances are running well.

Police Chief Tim Charbonneau reported David Walker started the Police Academy last week and is adapting to it very well. They had some cruiser maintenance items and the new mechanic was able to repair at low cost. Tim stated, the mechanic is working out very well.

Col. Town – Ben reported Eli had basketball games and was unable to attend. Seniors on the move is going well. February 3rd–5th the 3rd & 4th grades will be hosting a basketball tournament and the 5th & 6th grades will be hosting their tournament on February 18th–19th.

Library – Barbara was unable to attend. Ben reported the potential bus for the after-school program was not able to be worked out.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Review and approval of the January 3, 2023 meeting minutes.

Motion made by Leon and seconded by Shane to accept the January 3, 2023 meeting minutes. Troy abstained. Leon and Shane voted in favor. Motion carried.

- Sign various paperwork –
 - Ben mentioned the contract for the annual assessing with Northtown Associates and the utility assessing with Sansoucy needed to be signed.

Alan Savage asked if spreading the revaluation out over 5 years actually saved money than doing it all in one year. He thought spreading it out and looking at the properties over the 5 years the town would not need to go through the State mandated revaluation. It was explained spreading it out over the 5 years helped

with visiting all properties and now the statistical portion of the revaluation needs to be done bringing the valuation in line with the current market.

- Intent to cut signed for Michael and Keith Kopp, Tax Map R23, Lot 17. 21.23 acres lot with 21.23 acres to be cut.
- Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) to be signed –
 - Lewis & Daphne Cassady, Tax Map R15, Lot 049. 4 acres removed. LUCT - \$1,500.
 - David & Connie Solon, Tax Map R13, Lot 057. 1 acre removed. LUCT - \$3,500.
 - Beverly Esson, Tax Map R17, Lot 040. .5 acre removed. LUCT - \$6,000.
 - Zachary & Denise Grootenboer, Tax Map R10, Lot 080. 1.2 acres removed. LUCT - \$3,000.
 - Marceau Family Trust, Tax Map R10, Lot 067. 5.66 acres removed. LUCT - \$4,800.
 - Marceau Family Trust, Tax Map R10, Lot 071. 2.34 acres removed. LUCT - \$4,000.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Earned Time Policy – Ben wanted to let the board know the employees are not losing anything moving from their current vacation and sick time policy to the earned time policy. He explained how the policy works and mentioned as long as the board is comfortable with the policy it will be effective the 1st of the year.

Motion made by Troy and seconded by Leon to accept the Earned Time Policy as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ben mentioned the Historical Society would like to put a warrant article on the Town Warrant without getting the 25 petition signatures. The board mentioned they included the one submitted last year without signatures. Leon would like to know what they are looking at for grants. He feels they are one organization that should be able to qualify for an LCHIP grant. Ben will get a list of any grant funding and the status for the next meeting.

Alan Savage asked Ben if taking ownership of the Welcome Center was going to be on the Warrant for town meeting. He feels the Town should not be taking ownership and feels the Renaissance Committee should be encouraged to sell the building instead.

Alan mentioned the Welcome Center used to pay a payment in lieu of taxes and now they don’t. Ben mentioned payments in lieu of taxes for all exempt properties will be looked at during the 2023 revaluation process.

INFORMATION:

- Email NHDES letting us know that the HB 7776 which included the deauthorization of the Israel River Dam was signed by President Biden which will now allow them to pursue the removal of the dam. DES is looking to fund that removal.
- Notice for the Public Budget Hearing – Thursday, February 9th at 7 p.m.
- Land Use Permits –
 - Dan-Lynn of New Hampshire, 177 Main Street – Installation and replacement of 3 rooftop RTUs HVAC (1-3t/45”x82”; 1-12.5t/89”x59”; 1-10t/89”x59”); no change in footprint
 - David & Sarah Hill, 71 Rowell Road – Demolish on site existing sugar house and replace with stick-built, unheated/unplumbed 5-bay 24’x60’x20’ garage with electricity all on concrete slab situated on former 34’x48’ footprint extending toward rear of property, intended for agricultural use.
 - Jay & Kathy Jean Lavoie, 16 Prospect Street – Kitchen renovation with replacement of floor, counters, and cabinets; no change in structural footprint.

Public input – Alan Savage stated he was surprised that the company looking to put solar arrays on the Rexford property on Main Street has to go to the zoning board but no one else had to. Ben explained all the others were to service the property owner’s property and the new company will be selling the power to the grid. Alan doesn’t feel they should be made to go to the zoning board.

Alan also asked if Ben had an update on Davidge’s hedges. The attorney did say Ben should go talk with Mr. Davidge and let him know the board of Selectmen are within their right to have them removed.

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

Respectfully submitted, Board of Selectmen Date: _____

Charity M. Baker

Shane Beattie

Troy Merner

Leon Rideout