



## TOWN OF DEERING

### *Board of Selectmen*

762 Deering Center Road  
Deering, NH 03244

### **Meeting Minutes**

**May 25, 2021**

#### **Continuation of Meeting from 20 May 2021**

Selectmen present: Rebecca Mitchell, Bill Whisman, Roy Watson

Ms. Mitchell made the motion to open the meeting at 1900. Mr. Whisman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

#### **SAU 34 – Committee membership reviewing HD Coop Agreement**

Ms. Mitchell asked about who should go and Mr. Whisman said that he would do it as he is listed on the town Warrant Article. Mr. Watson stated that it could be considered a conflict of interest for any of the BOS to attend due to the town Warrant Article. Ms. Mitchell said that legal should be consulted before any decision is made.

#### **Comcast Franchise Agreement**

Ms. Mitchell made the motion to move the Comcast franchise agreement to the next BOS meeting. Mr. Whisman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

#### **Reopening Town Hall**

Mr. Whisman brought up reopening town hall. Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Watson agreed. Ms. Mitchell asked Ms. Baker the town Tax Collector how she felt about that due to her having to deal with customers throughout the day. Ms. Baker explained that she is ready to have town hall open, but requested that social distancing would be observed and requested that customers wear masks. Mr. Whisman made the motion to open town hall on 1 June 2021 with the caveat that it be in a limited capacity and people must wear masks. Mr. Whisman also stated that it would be reevaluated at the end of June to the beginning of July. Mr. Watson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

#### **Appropriations Voted / Budget Reductions**

Ms. Mitchell started by calling on the Police Chief. Chief Philibert explained the decreases and stated he could get by this year with the decreases due to one of the PT officers has a full time job in another town and hasn't been working in Deering lately. Next to brief was Fire Chief LeBlanc. Chief LeBlanc went through the decreases and stated that the decrease in ambulance raises could hurt as some of the EMT's have left to get better wages in other towns. He also talked about the brush fires and how the decrease in the forest vehicle may hinder the ability to get to some fires. The Board and the Chief discussed the explorer program and it was decided to leave \$1 in the account to keep it open. Another decrease was in the repair/maintenance line item. The Chief discussed how there are many repairs that need to be done on the stations. He stated that he sent a list to the TA. Ms. Mitchell told him to send the list of repairs to the BOS. Mr. Whisman clarified that the Chief needed to send them to the TA again also. Mr. Whisman then stated that the BOS would make plans to visit each station to view repairs that are needed. The BOS all agreed that would be a great idea and that a date would be set during their goal planning session. Mr. Whisman asked Chief LeBlanc about looking into the NH Saves program which could help determine energy saving plans for the stations and weather upgrades to help save energy. The Road Agent was called up next. Mr. Houghton acknowledged the decrease in the F/T wages due to the mechanic position being terminated. He did request that he be allowed to inquire during the next budget season. Mr. Whisman inquired about the duties of the mechanic and Mr. Houghton explained the duties and responsibilities of the position. Mr. Whisman asked if the position could be a P/T position instead and Mr. Houghton said it could. Mr. Houghton was questioned on the account for sand at \$9000 and why money wasn't taken out of it if there was sand being put on

the roads. Mr. Houghton stated that the sand account was for screening the sand and utilizing a backhoe to increase productivity for screening the sand. Mr. Houghton also stated that the sand, gravel, calcium, and other road products were event driven and it is sometimes hard to determine how much salt or sand may be needed. Mr. Houghton also explained to the Board that the Highway Department budget is the same as it was with the old highway department head. Mr. Watson asked about gravel crushing and the money spent and Mr. Houghton answered that it was due to the maintenance of the some of the dirt roads. Ms. Mitchell then inquired about roadside mowing and Mr. Houghton said it could go one year without doing it, but not any longer than that. Ms. Mitchell also inquired about the crack sealing. Mr. Houghton explained differences between crack and chip sealing and stated his preference of chip sealing due to it holding up better than the other and would like to see funding for chip seal in the future. Sharon Simpson praised the Highway Department for their continued service to the dirt roads and stated that they have been doing a great job.

**Non-Public Session - RSA 91-A:3 II (a)**

Mr. Whisman made the motion to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) to discuss a personnel issue. Mr. Watson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. Roll call vote: Rebecca Mitchell, Aye; Roy Watson, Aye; Bill Whisman.

The Board entered non-public session at 2010.  
 The Board reconvened into public session at 2042.

**Acceptance of Resignation Letters from the Town Administrator and Town Administrative Assistant**

Mr. Whisman made the motion to accept the resignation letter from the Town Administrator. Mr. Watson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. The Board thank the TA for his many years of great service to the town and wished him well in his future endeavours. Mr Whisman made the motion to accept the resignation letter from the Town Administrative Assistant. Mr Watson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. The Board thanked the Administrative Assistant for her time she served in Deering and wished her well in her future plans. Mr Whisman stated that he will instruct the TA to contact MRI to set up the interview process for a new TA and to inquire with a previous temp hire to see if she would be available to do payroll. Mr. Whisman also commented on hiring the current TA in a P/T capacity until a new TA could be hired, 1-2 days a week to deal with email and other items that are required to be accomplished (checks and balances and other administrative duties). Mr. Watson and Ms. Mitchell said that would be a good idea and asked Mr. Whisman if he would inquire about it.

**Police Department Employee Raise**

Mr. Watson brought up Officer Tyler Davy and the possibility of losing him to another police department. Mr. Watson stated that it would be in the best interest of the town to keep a young police officer in the force. Police Chief Philibert stated that Officer Davy currently has a current offer to make more money at another police station and that this is a systemic problem in Deering; hiring police officers, spending roughly \$25000-\$30000 to train them, and then have them leave to make more money elsewhere. Elizabeth Kirby stated that we should keep Officer Davy as he is familiar with Deering and wants to stay. Ms. Mitchell made the motion to give the below employee a raise. Mr. Watson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

<b>Employee</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Current Rate</b>	<b>New Rate</b>
Tyler Davy	Police Officer	\$18.50	\$21.30

The Board went through the rest of the budget. Some highlights are that the Board reviewed the admin budget and made the admin assistant position part-time (30 hours per week) as it once was. This eliminated the health insurance benefits associated with the position and added the ambulance pay raises back.

**Other Business**

Mr. Whisman stated that there will be a Memorial Day ceremony at the Veteran Memorial across the street from town hall. He stated that Chris Bober and the Boy Scouts will assist. The ceremony will take place 31 May at

0900. All agreed.

There being no more business to come before the Board Mr. Whisman made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Watson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. The meeting adjourned at 2155.

Respectfully Submitted,

\s\ William Whisman  
Board of Selectman