

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes –

Approved

October 20, 2022

Members present Roy Watson (Chairman), Bill Whisman, Jill Smith

Also in attendance: Peter Flynn (Interim TA) Brian Houghton and members of the public (attendance Sheet attached)

CALL TO ORDER: Roy Watson Called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Comment by Bill Whisman: Selectman Whisman made it very clear that a disruptive member of the public will be removed from the meeting if they do not act in a professional manner and treat each other including the Board, with the utmost of respect.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chairman Watson asked for the approval of the October 6th minutes be delayed until next meeting due to the Board needing more time to absorb its content. All agreed.

Item 1:

CONSENT AGENDA:

Roy Watson moved to accept the Consent Agenda, seconded by Whisman. All voted in the affirmative. Trust Funds and Planning issues were discussed. Vote 3-0 in the affirmative.

NEW BUSINESS

Item 2: Appointment with Road Agent Brian Houghton.

Brian presented comparison estimates for a 'screener' for the Highway Department sand. He said the rental estimates were for a period of two weeks. The Board discussed all three price comparisons, and it was decided that T-Quip had the most inexpensive quote. Brian concurred that this choice would be most beneficial, and he is recommending that choice. Roy moved that the Town award the quote for Screening equipment rental to T-Quip for a price quote of \$9,000, seconded by Bill. Vote carried at 3-0.

Brian also discussed the delivery status of the 'grader' and that it is scheduled to be shipped on November 18th. He reminded the Board that a transfer of funds is needed.

Item 3: Appointment with Gary Samuels

Gary Samuels appeared before the Board to discuss Conservation Commission updates which included a report from the Natural Resources Inventory and Assessment with Co-Occurrence Mapping. He cited RSA-36. A pertaining to the 1) Value to residents, which covered aquifers, 2) soils, 3) recreation, cultural value and more. Mr. Samuels emphasized that the Central NH Planning Commission was extremely helpful in their involvement, The project should be useful to all residents. He is grateful to the Conservation Commission and Planning Board who helped make up the questionnaire and to recognize and prioritize the input from the community. The product consists of interactive maps to be available online. Hard copies of the project will be on the table in the lobby Bill listed many features from the handout which described many projects. A full display of maps and information is featured in the lobby of the Town Hall.

Item 4: Comments and request -Peter Flynn

Peter emphasized to need to act as soon as possible to hire a Finance Administrator to replace Samantha Ivanov who will serve her last day with the Town on November _____. He said that is position is more urgent to fill than the TA due to the fact that many reports are due for the Board to review and to be completed and forwarded to the DRA. Said reports have strict deadlines especially in preparing for Town Meeting. The Board concurred and authorized Peter to immediately begin the search via newspaper ad and NHMA Classifieds. Peter and Board members praised Samantha for her diligent and quality work and their remarks were followed by an applause from the audience.

Jill requested that ARPA funds be placed on the next agenda for discussion.

Old Business

Item 5: Fire/EMS presentation of October 6th meeting

Roy stated that he felt that the 'feedback' consensus was in favor of a full-time staff for 24-hour service. Jill feels that immediate action regarding health and safety issues should be considered as soon as possible. The 'outside contract services' plan was not fully convincing to eliminate. She has many questions regarding the presentation.

1. Breakout projects and cost
2. Ask Fire Department Study Committee to continue.
3. C.I.P Committee balance of \$41,666 - Is this considered?
4. Life expectancy of Engine 1?
5. How was formula done?
6. People want exact numbers for on call and full-time staff.
7. Breakdown on types of calls
8. Contract prices (\$225,000 calculated rate?
9. Residents want to hear from the Contract Services people.

Roy asked to provide Jill's requests for next meeting and also include C.I.P. data

Bill asked about regulations that may apply. Jill stated that the Expendable Trust for the Building is \$77,000. And \$150,000. For two sections She requests identity list of most pressing mitigating items. Bill asked that Peter and the Fire Chief meet to discuss the \$77,000.

Discussion continued mostly regarding ARPA funds. Jill listed other ARPA priorities.

AUDIENCE Input allowed.

Steve Biers mentioned that he was surprised by the discussion on the Fire Department presentation. He wanted to get involved and was on the Committee. He has dug into many Fire Department issues and went to other towns for advice. He said the October 6th meeting did not have the complete information and consisted of half truths from a couple of people, He would need a complete of EMS calls (80%). He was concerned about people's reactions to contract services Some comments were inaccurate criticisms of contract services. Fire Department maintenance funds are left over at the end of the year. He cited windows at a fire station should be replaced. He said it was refreshing to sit in on a

Highway and Police Department budget review before the BAC and see them ask for what they need and spend it wisely. He compared ventilating systems in Concord, and he stated that "we are an aging town".

Roy said that this issue will probably be revisited, He feels there is some chance for improvement.

OTHER BUSINESS

Item 6: Town Administrator Report

1. Communicated with Jamie Dow of the ORA relative to preparing and setting up a tax rate. He sent me the final copy of the MS 535 form completed by the auditing company (Total 2021 expenditures) Other MS documents are pending as is the SAU final information.
2. Need to transfer TD Bank authorizations from current treasurer to Peter for now.
3. Received final Health Insurance, Dental, Life, Property Liability, Workers Comp and unemployment Comp rates for inclusion in the 2023 budgets.
4. Meeting with Department Heads on October 19th. Very informative meeting.
5. Attended Budget Advisory Committee on October 13th-Highway budget was received.
6. Office updates relative to Peter's email ID and other IT functions with Back Bay
7. Made inquiry with MRI regarding possible seeking a contract type temp for the Finance Administrators position in case the process of hiring is not happening to soon.

Selectmen's Comments

- Bill announced that Halloween hours for Trick or Treating will be on October 29th from 5-7PM. Festivities will be held at the Fish and Game on this day also.
- Jill was concerned about the ad on the NHMA Classified Ad site. She cited some issues that were mentioned that needed revision, including changing employee roster from 8 to 4 full time, salary of \$80,000 being eliminated from ad completely and change the closing date for applications from November 21 to November 11th, 2022.
- Roy suggested that the Board add a new feature to the agenda makeup. He asked for support to allow a "Public Comment "section in the beginning and end of each meeting to allow the public to make comments not lasting over three minutes. The Board complied and thought it was a good idea.
- Peter mentioned that he would work to improve the procurement (bidding) policy.

Roy moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25pm, seconded by Bill. All in favor 3-0