



TOWN OF DEERING  
762 Deering Center Road Deering, NH 03244  
Board of Selectmen Meeting  
November 17, 2022  
Minutes

**In Attendance: (Chairman Roy Watson, Jill Smith, Vice Chair William Whisman, Interim Town Administration Peter Flynn)**

**BoS MEETING CALL TO ORDER - 7:00 pm**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda:**

- a. Minutes – November 3 and November 9, 2022
- b. Employee Payroll November 7, 2022
- c. AP Manifest November 1<sup>st</sup>
- d. AP Manifest November 8th

Mr. Watson moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mr. Whisman, all in favor.

**First Public Comment#1(Maximum 3 minutes)**

Mr. Whisman explained there should be no shouting questions, screaming or rude outbursts. Chairman may choose to answer questions.

Katie Lavoie – Fisher Road – Requests permission to install a donated Christmas Tree in the Gazebo the weekend after Thanksgiving. Mrs. Smith made motion; Mr. Watson seconded. All in favor. Motion passes.

**New Business**

- 1) Acting Chief Cavanaugh – re: staff resignations and plan for replacement.  
Officer Davey has resigned and accepted a full-time position with the Hillsborough PD. Effective December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The remaining contract of \$3,128.28 will be paid by HPD. Hillsborough PD and NH State Police will help with coverage until an officer can be hired. An ad will be placed on the Deering and NHMA website.  
Police Academy Schedule – Feb. 7, 2023, and June 6, 2023  
BoS to discuss further action to hire and retain police officers. – November 22, 2022, 8:00 am meeting.

- 2) Gale Lalmond – re: Old Francestown Road – Gated and impassable for Fire Apparatus and other vehicles. Gale presented a map to the board showing where the gate is



located.

First step: Have Road Agent Inspect area and contact property owner.

- 3) Donn Mann III – Manseville Road – Flagpole lighting – Permission requested to install a solar light for the flagpole located at the Veterans’ Memorial. There seems to be no town policy currently. Elizabeth Kirby provided a solar light for the flagpole. Installation the weekend of 11/19/22.

Mr. Whisman motioned to form a committee to handle patriotic celebrations and flag responsibilities. Mr. Watson seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1) Interim TA Mr. Flynn discussed the hiring on the new Finance Coordinator – On November 10, 2022. Mr. Flynn interviewed the candidate and later that day the BoS was able to interview and hire the candidate. She will start November 21, 2023.
- 2) Authorization to renew the IT contract with Back Bay (IT Service). Mrs. Smith requested a copy of the contract to review and confirm nothing is outdated. Motion to renew the contract subject to review by Mrs. Smith.

Mr. Watson motioned to accept. Mr. Whisman seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

- 3) Mr. Flynn spoke to setting the tax rate – Discussion began. Comments came from all selectmen and Mr. Flynn.

Mr. Flynn- it’s customary to use fund balance to offset the taxes.

Mr. Watson – if a system isn’t doing what it should do – why hold the money? Mrs.

Smith – Wait until Town Meeting. If there is extra money to offset the ambulances and other charges – Fund balance could offset FD charges.

Clean up at the town meeting.

Mrs. Smith asked about the general fund balance and Mr. Flynn is still trying to decipher.

Mrs. Smith brought up the \$290,000.00 that was transferred to the general fund after the invoices had already been paid. Mr. Whisman – wait until Town Meeting

Mr. Watson – Get correct numbers.

Mrs. Smith – The Fund Balance can be used to offset taxes.

Vote on at the town meeting, warrant article for expenditures, designate leftover funds at the end of the meeting

TA will notify selectboard of suggested tax rate.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

TA Search – MRI is being used. Applications have been received. Mr. Watson asked for review meeting November 22, 2022, at 0800.

Mrs. Smith asked for a copy of terms and conditions to review

Mr. Flynn assured BoS the new Finance Coordinator was having a background check before starting. No time for much training. Addressing payroll and accounts payable as a priority. Account system being used not very favorable. The system is geared more toward schools. Looking at a new system.

Met with Primex – inspected 5 buildings

Working on transfer of power with the Treasurer.

Mrs. Smith suggested cross training for posting on the town website.

Mr. Whisman doesn't think there should be cross training. Too many hands. Mr.

Watson – TA should be able to have access along with assistant.

Mr. Flynn to ask committee chairs for a list of all board members and any vacancies.

Public #2 – Mr. Watson – Board should respond to grievances or complaints.

Mrs. Smith – Another Fire Department Public Hearing should be scheduled.

The contractor should be heard from.

Mr. Watson agreed. More information is needed to make an informed decision.

Mrs. Smith presented an option for the ventilation system as a temporary solution to poor air quality at the fire stations. Description sheets and a cost of \$1200 per unit (labor not included) for the units. ARPA funds to be used to pay for the units. (\$108,000.00 available)

Mr. Watson asks to have the fire chief review and confirm these units meet the requirements.

Check with Highway department, too.

TA to get quote

Mrs. Smith has been finding errors through the BAC and is asking for corrections for any transactions that are still entered incorrectly. Library - \$91.00 belongs to the fund  
Wrong coding. TA to make corrections Board approved.

## **Commentary #2**

Gale Lalmond – Loss of Officer Davey – asks for something to be done about the salary. Very concerned about the loss of Officer Davey to the Hillsborough PD.

Joanne Cobb – Tubbs Hill Road - stood up and asked about the air filtration system for the FD. How was it being paid for.

Mr. Watson explained that the buildings are inadequate, they have bad ventilation, and no fire suppression.

Katie Lavoie asked for the final management letter and completed audit.

Mr. Flynn explained he reached out and still hasn't received them. There are a lot of issues that being addressed.

Can we meet with Office Davey and discuss how we get him to stay? Mrs. Smith suggested meeting on November 22, 2022 -0800.

Tentative Fire Department Public Hearing – Dec. 15, 2022 – 7:00 pm. Invite Great Brook (contractor) and Fire Chief.

Mr. Watson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Whisman seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm.

Next meeting will be on December 1, 2022, at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Kirby.