

OFFICE OF SELECTMEN

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SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES January 10, 2024

Chairman Pitt called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Selectman Paight and Selectman Nelson were present. Also in attendance were Robert John, Andrew Cullen, Roland Veaudry and Dustin Franco.

Mr. John was in attendance to discuss the property he leases at 122 Main Street. Chairman Pitt asked about his planned use of the property to determine if he would need planning board approval. Mr. John stated the use is the same as his prior use: used car sales, inspections and vehicle repair. Chairman Pitt explained the history of the EPA test wells on the property and, with the proximity to the river, she noted it was a sensitive site and he should keep that in mind when dealing with pollutants like waste oil. Chairman Pitt then discussed the condition of the property and read the zoning description for junk or salvage, "the open and exterior storage or deposit at any place of business or residence, whether in connection with another business or residence or not, and which is subject to public view, to consist of old iron, unserviceable motor vehicles (those that are not registered and/or do not have a current State of NH inspection sticker), trash, garbage, appliances, metal, glass, plastics, paper or cordage or other waste of discarded or secondhand materials." She explained that the condition of the property fits the definition of "Open lot storage or sale of junk or salvaged materials" and that is not allowed in this zone. Mr. John said he was in the process of cleaning up the property but in his line of work discarded car parts would be common on the property. Selectman Nelson suggested a corral or fenced area to keep the auto parts out of public view. Chairman Pitt stated action is necessary to clean up the property. Selectman Nelson asked when Mr. John could erect the fenced area. Mr. John said maybe this weekend. Before leaving, Mr. John provided a letter to the Selectmen requesting reimbursement for the cost of towing he incurred for a vehicle left at the municipal parking lot. Selectman Nelson questioned if the vehicle met the NH RSA definition of being abandoned and that the board would need to discuss the matter with the Police Chief. Mr. John left at 10:29 am.

Mr. Cullen spoke with the Selectmen about pedestrian safety at the intersection of Route 124, McKinley Circle and Pleasant Street. There was a discussion about the upcoming paving on Route 124, the State of NH 10 year plan and if the Swanzey DOT office or SWRP might have suggestions about safety improvements for the crosswalk. Mr. Cullen, left the meeting at 10:50 am.

Craig Cashman and Mike Wilber joined the meeting briefly at 10:59 am. Chief Byam joined the meeting at 11:00 am. Mr. Veaudry, Mr. Franco, Mr. Cashman and Mr. Wilber left the meeting at 11:10 am.

Motion to enter non-public session made by Chairman Pitt per RSA 91-A:3, II(a) the dismissal, promotion or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a public meeting, and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. Seconded by Selectman Nelson. Roll call vote: Nelson—yes, Paight—yes, Pitt—yes. Entered non-public session at 11:20 am.

Selectman Nelson moved to leave non-public session at 11:30 am. Seconded by Chairman Pitt. Vote was unanimous. Motion by Selectman Nelson to seal the minutes, seconded by Chairman Pitt, because it is determined that divulgence of this information likely would render a proposed action ineffective. Roll Call vote: Nelson—yes, Paight—yes, Pitt—yes. Minutes were sealed.

Chief Byam left the meeting at 11:30 am.

Chairman Pitt reported that an estimate to move the granite chairs and large granite slab from the Gates House in advance of the sale would be approximately \$2,200.

Jay and James St. Jean joined the meeting at 11:35 am. There was a discuss about the auction process for the Gates House and how the property would be advertised. The Selectmen would need to establish a minimum value before the sale. Timing for the sale was discussed. Early spring was proposed. Selectman Paight was bringing Jay and James to the property after the meeting for any recommendations they may have.

Selectman Nelson moved and Selectman Paight seconded a motion to approve the January 4, 2024, Payroll Check Register in the amount of \$2,318.65, Direct Deposit Register in the amount of \$16,857.22 and the Accounts Payable Check Register in the amount of \$216,285.57. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Selectman Nelson moved and Selectman Paight seconded a motion to approve the January 11, 2024, Direct Deposit Register in the amount of \$11,660.16 and the Accounts Payable Check Register in the amount of \$14,884.09. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Selectman Nelson moved and Selectman Paight seconded a motion to approve the meeting minutes of December 27, 2023. The vote to approve was unanimous.

There was no Board of Selectmen's meeting held January 3, 2024.

Selectman Nelson moved and Selectman Paight seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:58 am. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted, Gina Paight