



OFFICE OF SELECTMEN

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SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES January 11, 2023

Chairman Paight called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Selectman Pitt and Selectman Nelson were present. Also in attendance were Ellen Smith, Town Administrator, Roland Veaudry, and Dustin Franco.

The first item on the agenda was to discuss the Bell Tower Project. The Garden Club came forward several months ago to propose a project involving the improvement of the area around the Bell Tower and along the river. The area is made up of one piece of land owned by the town and another by the state. The Garden Club is looking into the Land and Water Conservancy Program (LWCP) through the New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation as a funding source and they would be looking for all the land in the project area be owned by the town. TA Smith contacted the NHDOT and received information on surplus land disposal and Chairman Paight reached out to Ed Goodrich about joining this meeting to discuss the area. In addition, the following members of the Garden Club joined the meeting, Linda Ferranti, Glenn Parker, Ulysses DeGuzman, Roger Fisher and Gary Bergeron.

Ed Goodrich provided a copy of the state of NH highway plan that shows the area and he marked up the part owned by the town and the part owned by the state, also providing deed references. It is his experience that the state might be reluctant to transfer the land to the town. After some discussion, it was decided that the Garden Club would need to go back and consider if the grant funds could be used for improvements on the town land and private donations on the state land.

Any grant funding received from LWCP would need to go through the town so it was decided that a town committee would be established for this project.

Selectman Pitt moved and Selectman Nelson seconded a motion to establish the Bell Tower Project Committee and further to appoint Linda Ferranti, Glenn Parker, Ulysses DeGuzman, Roger Fisher, and Gary Bergeron as members. Vote to approve was unanimous. Ed Goodrich and members of the Garden Club left the meeting at 10:55 am.

A few moments later representatives from Cheshire County and their EMS team joined the meeting as did Fire Chief John Manning.

Cheshire EMS Chief Michael Spain gave an update on the ambulance service now available. They are ramping up operations to be able to cover not only patient transport but to take on the ambulance service needs of municipalities in Cheshire County. At this time no municipalities have signed onto the service. The Board thanked the county contingency for coming in. Everyone but the BOS, TA Smith and Chief Manning left the meeting at 11:55 am.

Motion to enter Nonpublic Session made by Selectman Nelson, seconded by Selectman Pitt, under RSA 91-A:3, II(c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to include any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant. Roll Call vote to enter nonpublic session Chairman Paight - Yes, Selectman Pitt – Yes, and Selectman Nelson – Yes, motion passed. Entered nonpublic session at 11:55 am.

The public session reconvened at 12:45pm. Motion made to seal these minutes made by Selectman Nelson, seconded by Selectman Pitt because it would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this board. Roll Call Vote to seal minutes Chairman Paight - Yes, Selectman Pitt – Yes, and Selectman Nelson - Yes, motion passed.

Chief Manning gave a brief update on the fire truck that is being considered for purchase to replace the 1989 Pierce Pumper. At first, they were looking at an apparatus that was around \$700,000. The one they are now considering is a truck built on a commercial chassis which is smaller but still meets the needs of the department. The cost is approximately \$500,000. There are still funds available through last year's assistance to firefighters grant and Chief Manning is planning on applying to the next round, they remain hopeful perhaps some funding may come their way. However, it is time to move forward and so a warrant article will be present on the 2023 Town Warrant to lease the remainder of funds that need to be raised if grant funding is unsuccessful.

Another project the fire department is working on is investigating the refurbishment of the 2000 Pierce Pumper which would cost approximately \$100,000 but would extend its life avoiding the need to immediately replace a second truck.

Chief Manning left the meeting at 1:00 pm.

Selectman Pitt moved and Selectman Nelson seconded a motion to approve the January 12, 2023, Payroll Check Register in the amount of \$472.31 Direct Deposit Register in the amount of \$9,407.72, and Accounts Payable Check Registers in the amount of \$105,613.88. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Selectman Pitt moved and Selectman Nelson seconded a motion to approve the meeting minutes of January 4, 2023, as amended, vote to approve was unanimous.

A building permit application was received for Map 07-042, the lot is on Bigelow Hill Road which is a Class VI road. The question is if a structure is built on this lot, is it considered the third and therefore requires the road to be brought up to town specs? The BOS will be consulting with the Planning Board at their next meeting, which is statutorily required, before issuing a building permit on a Class VI road, however, at this time the BOS is of the opinion that a structure built for human habitation would require the road upgrade.

The BOS agreed to supply the Building Inspector with a town-issued cell phone.

Building and Electrical Permit Applications were approved for 12-005 and 03-072. The Q4 2022 Water and Sewer Levy was signed.

Selectman Nelson moved and Selectman Pitt seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:45 pm, vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Smith, Town Administrator