

Selectboard Minutes

February 7, 2023

Present: Andy Artimovich, Chair
Jennifer Jones, Vice-Chair
Robert Mantegari
Jon Morgan
Russ Kelly

At 6pm, Artimovich called the meeting to order.

The Board reviewed payroll and accounts payable then signed the register.

Mantegari motioned, seconded by Morgan, to accept the consent agenda which consisted of public minutes from 01/31/2023, non-public sealed meeting minutes from 01/31/2023, recreation manifest, treasurer's report (found at the end of these minutes), appointment slip for election inspector for Sally Finan and the following building permits:

- Keith & Nicole Levitsky, 12 Pine Road, Solar
- Nicole Larrivee & Scott Sprague, 50 Eleanor's Way, Electrical
- Span Family Trust, 31 Peabody Drive, Building

All were in favor.

Karen Clement, Town Administrator, presented the board with appointment slips for Conservation Commission. Mantegari motioned, seconded by Jones, to accept the following appointments slips: Andy Laroche – 1 year term; Matt Lipinski – 2 year term; Bob Stephens – 2 year term; Lise McNaughton – 3 year term; Jim Nishina as an alternate – 2 year term; Becky Dunham as an alternate – 3 year term. All were in favor. The appointment slips were signed.

Clement presented the board with an indemnification form in regard to a controlled burn the fire department would like to do of a barn on Mill Road on February 19 for the purpose of training. Mantegari motioned, seconded by Jones, to sign the form. All were in favor.

Clement presented the board with a Land Use Change Tax bill and warrant for 64, 66, and 70 Three Ponds. Mantegari motioned, seconded by Jon, to sign the LUCT bill and warrant in the amount of \$15,000 (\$5,000 for each property). All were in favor.

Clement presented the board with a quote from Impact Fire for a heat monitor for the highway shed. The request was for \$15,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund for maintenance of town buildings. Jones asked how much is in the Capital Reserve Fund. Clement responded there is currently \$100,000 in the CRF and \$25,000 will be added to the Capital Reserve Fund after town meeting if the warrant passes. Jones motioned, seconded by Mantegari, to expend \$15,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund. All were in favor.

Clement presented Artimovich with two petition warrant articles. She stated the signatures had been verified as registered voters in Brentwood. Artimovich read the language from one petition warrant article related to town elections. "Shall the partisan ballot system for the election of town officers be adopted by this town? Partisan ballot systems shall not be in effect until the town election first following the meeting at which the system is adopted. Plurality shall elect when used the partisan ballot system." Jones and Mantegari asked for an explanation of what that means exactly.

Becky Dunham, Block Drive, offered information on the petition warrant article. She understands the wording to mean that town elections do not currently have ballots that designate if the person is undeclared, republican, or democrat. Dunham further explained there is a state law which allows partisan ballots. The majority, plurality, wins. Artimovich asked if the petition would go on the ballot or as a warrant article. Clement stated she was unsure and would need to do some research on it. Jones asked what the anticipated benefit would be to the voters or the town? Dunham responded transparency. Jones asked if the wording is clear enough. Clement explained the town does not modify or change the wording of petition warrant articles. Dunham added she believes the wording came straight from the RSA.

Artimovich read the wording of the second petition article. "Adopt the provisions of RSA72:61 through RSA 72:72 inclusively which provide an optional property tax exemption from the property assessed value for property tax purposes for persons owning real property which is equipped with solar systems, wind power energy systems, or wood heating energy systems intended for use at the intermediate site. Such property tax exemptions shall be in the amount equal to 100% of the assessed value of the qualifying equipment under the

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statute.” Jones stated she believed that was the solar exemption topic which was brought up at the Energy & Efficiency meeting but is now broader based on the RSA wording.

Clement stated there were no new requests for Encumbered Funds.

Bob Stephens, Conservation Commission chair, was present to discuss signs for Class VI roads and Class A trails. He stated the Conservation Commission worked with the trails commission and sportsmen of Brentwood to come up with proposal for signs during the mud season. Stephens proposed a sign which reads, “Road closed to motorized vehicles during mud season. Exceptions include authorized vehicles such as abutting landowner, emergency, state, and municipal vehicles. Thank you for your help in preserving our Class VI roads and Class A trails. Too Muddy”. Stephens also provided a sample of a “mud-o-meter” to be posted with the road closed sign. He suggested Wayne Robinson, road agent, could order and post the signs.

Stephens shared he is hoping to solicit cooperation from those using the trails and roads. Jones asked if the “mud-o-meter” sign would be out all the time and who would be responsible for adjusting it. Stephens replied he was unsure who would adjust them, but suggested it would be someone on ConCom or the trails commission. He added he has spoken with numerous abutters who are concerned with the conditions. Stephens suggested keeping the signs up all year to help raise awareness. Artimovich asked how you would prevent someone from adjusting the mud-o-meter. Stephens stated they would need to figure it out and pointed out that any sign is vulnerable to be tampered with. Jones asked if the town had a legal right to post the signs, enforce it, and asked who owned the land.

Chief Ventura, police chief, asked what the enforceability will be for his officers. He asked if police will be called if a person is caught using the Class VI roads or Class A trails during mud season. Stephens reiterated he is hoping to solicit cooperation and believes the signs have a good chance of working without police enforcement. He stated he has no intent to impose on the police department to enforce.

Kelly asked how many signs the posting would entail. Stephens responded he would be focused on Old Haigh Road, Rowell Road, and Ole Gordon Road. Kelly suggested “too muddy” would not be needed if there will be a “mud-o-meter”.

Lois DeYoung, Crawley Falls Road, asked what trails will be affected and if it will affect her use of “her” trail. Stephens responded the pit trail is gated and is on private land.

Mantegari motioned, seconded by Kelly, to purchase and post the signs with the wording “too muddy” removed from the larger sign. All were in favor.

Stephens asked who would be purchasing the signs. Artimovich responded Conservation Commission. Stephens replied he would prefer the road agent pay for the signs. He added the Conservation Commission meeting would be held tomorrow and the topic of signs being made and where they would be posted will be addressed, as well as coordinating who will change the signs.

Andy Gray, recreation director, was present to discuss with the board a need for additional funding for the flooring. He explained due to some changes including the addition of grit/anti-slip material in the epoxy floors, the flooring cost has increased. Jones motioned, seconded by Mantegari, to expend an additional \$3,132.01 from impact fees for flooring at the recreation center. All were in favor.

Mantegari motioned, seconded by Jones, to accept the suggested dedication for the town report. All were in favor.

Artimovich requested the board review the report of the selectboard for the town report. Jones suggested modifying the wording a bit to add “intentionality behind the use of ARPA” and “tax rate”. Morgan motioned, seconded by Mantegari, to accept the report of the selectboard 2022 in the town report with the added wording. All were in favor.

Clement presented the board with a request of an on-call firefighter to take a 6-month leave of absence in order to complete his full-time probationary period at his new employer. Mantegari motioned, seconded by Morgan, to allow the leave of absence. All were in favor.

Kelly requested clarification on the DRA letter in the mail. He stated the ratio was at 72%. Clement explained that means the median home is 28% below market value. She stated there will be a full revaluation in 2025.

Kelly thanked Kendra Brackett, police department administrative assistant, for all her hard work with the police department awards

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banquet.

Morgan had no committee updates.

Mantegari attended the school board meeting for Jones. He requested Letty Bedard offer an explanation of what is occurring at the school board level.

Letty Bedard, School Board member, speaking in an unofficial capacity explained there are two projects which were not budgeted for. She stated there was a safety and security project which was completed and cost \$150,000. The school had planned to request use of impact money from the fire and police departments to help pay for the cost of the project. Jones asked if the costs could be included with a capital improvement plan. Bedard responded the timeline to create a capital improvement plan is not conducive due to timing, as the project has already been completed. She added the school's legal counsel has a different take on the use of impact fees than the town's counsel does.

Bedard explained the school budget runs from July 1 – June 30 and unlike the town, there is no general fund of money to “fill the gap”. She stated the school board has decided to halt all spending except paying staff and keeping the lights on. Jones asked how much was available for impact fees for the fire and police departments. Clement responded the police department has \$30,000 and the fire department has used their impact fees for the bond. Bedard responded the school board has approved up to \$23,000 from their capital reserve funds, but explained they do not plan to expend that at this time. Artimovich suggested the selectboard wait until they receive an official request from the schoolboard.

Jones stated she had no committee updates.

Artimovich shared there is a budget hearing Thursday, February 9 at the Brentwood Recreation Center (BRC) at 6pm.

Artimovich announced there will be a public hearing on SB2 starting on February 21, starting at 6pm at the town hall. He shared there may be a possible power point presentation and plans to have information from NH Municipal available to explain SB2.

There will be no meeting on Tuesday, February 14.

Clement shared there will be a need for signatures for the election warrant which can be signed at the next meeting on February 21.

Carole Belliveau, Mill Road, asked what the date of the barn burn was. Artimovich responded February 19.

Doug Finan, Gove Road, spoke about the recent power losses. He explained Eversource customers were restored in 20 hours for one storm and 19 hours for another storm. Finan explained residents utilizing Electric Coop were without power for 2½ days. He cautioned the board to explore situations like this before making town wide changes recommended by the Energy & Efficiency Committee. Finan expressed concern for extended outages leading to loss of pipes and food.

Artimovich explained Eversource would still deliver the power even if the town switched to a different supplier. He stated Electric Coop delivers power in the same way Eversource does.

Becky Dunham, Block Drive, asked when the annual town report and absentee ballots will be available. Clement responded the town report will be available on March 7. She explained Dunham would need to check with Daphne Woss, Town Clerk/Tax Collector for the ballot availability.

Mantegari motioned to adjourn the meeting. Morgan seconded the motion. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 6:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tamera Peek

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WEEKLY TREASURER'S REPORT				
DATE:			2/7/2023	
General Fund:		TD BANK		
Previous Balance:		6,994,373.60		
Deposits:		81,675.69		
Payroll:		32,319.34	DDP: \$30,982.94	
			CHK: \$1,336.40	
FICA:		6931.59		
A/P:		31,014.96	Reg A/P Cks \$31,014.96	NHRS \$
			Swasey \$	CO-OP: \$
GF to Impact Fees				
Admin CC Pd				
Payroll: 12/30/2022				
Account Balance:		7,005,783.40		
Interest Earned YTD:		9,579.91		
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Joyce A. Gallant, Treasurer				