

Board of Selectmen
Minutes March 15, 2022

Meeting convened at 6:00 pm

Present: Robert Mantegari
Andrew Artimovich
Jon Morgan
Russ Kelly
Jennifer Jones

Mantegari called the meeting to order.

Artimovich explained to the new board members how the payroll registers are reviewed and compared. The Board reviewed payroll, accounts payable and signed the register. The Selectmen reviewed and signed the recreation register.

Joyce Gallant, Treasurer, presented the weekly treasurer's report. Please see the end of the minutes.

Kip Kaiser, Building Inspector, had the following building permits to be approved this week:

- Curtis & Audrey Kimball, 23 Northrup Drive, Electrical – kitchen remodel: signed by Board
- Johnson Family Revocable Trust, 30 Robinson Street, Plumbing – New master bathroom and Electrical – wiring for bathroom remodel: signed by Board
- William Beauchesne, 31 Mohawk Lane, Plumbing – Bathroom remodel: signed by Board
- Andrew Funicella & Alyssa Maki, 3 Homestead Lane, Minor Projects – new roof: signed by Board
- Jon Lariviere, 46 Three Ponds Road, Building – new dwelling: signed by Board
- Jon Lariviere, 27 Three Ponds Road, Building – new dwelling: signed by Board
- Jon Lariviere, 29 Three Ponds Road, Building – new dwelling: signed by Board
- R&A Chamberlain Revocable Trust 15 Crawley Falls, Minor Projects – addition to garage: signed by Board
- Shane DanielsRoberts, 31 Stevens Drive, Minor Projects – bump out addition to kitchen: signed by Board
- Wright Builders LLC, 23 Route 107, Building – new dwelling: signed by Board
- James Johnson III, 212 North Road, Building – Home remodel: signed by Board
- KG Realty Holding LLC, 109 Crawley Falls Road, Electrical – completion of wiring: signed by Board
- Gilbert Family Revocable Trust, 339 Middle Road, Electrical – Installation of 200amp transfer switch: signed by Board
- Mark & Cynthia Young, 47 Fellows Road, Building – remove/replace asphalt shingle: signed by Board

Mantegari shared information about the upcoming rabies clinic. It will be held April 23 from 9-12:30pm at the Brentwood Fire Department. Cost is \$15 for rabies and \$25 for microchipping. Dogs can also be registered at the event. Questions can be addressed to Daphne at the Town Clerk's office.

Mantegari made a motion, 2nd by Morgan, to approve the public minutes of 3/1/2022 as written. Three were in favor. Kelly and Jones abstained.

Morgan made a motion to nominate Artimovich as the Chairman of the Select Board. Mantegari 2nd the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Morgan made a motion to nominate Jones as the Vice Chair of the Select Board. Kelly 2nd the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Artimovich designated board members to the following committees/commissions.

- Budget Committee – Artimovich
- Conservation Commission – Mantegari
- School Board Representative – Jones
- Planning Board Representative – Morgan
- Library Representative of the Board – Kelly
- Zoning Board of Adjustments (ZBA) Representative – Kelly

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Rick Murphy, Director of Emergency Management, has requested Ken Christiansen be the BOS designee for the Seabrook Graded Drill occurring on 4/6/2022. Christiansen has agreed to serve as the representative. Morgan motioned to appoint Christiansen to serve as the BOS designee to the drill. The motion was 2nd by Mantegari. All were in favor.

The board was presented with a junk yard license request for Bob Webb. The permit would last 2 years and would be for the land at 32 Middle Road. Morgan made a motion to accept the permit request. It was 2nd by Mantegari. All were in favor.

Karen Clement., Town Administrator, also presented an addendum for the extension of the Disaster Mitigation grant for 1 year. Mantegari motioned to accept the extension. Morgan 2nd the motion. All were in favor.

Clement presented recreation appointment slips to the board. The rec commission has recommended Patrick Farrell for a 3-year term, Additionally, Erin Merrill and Valerie Rogers to be reappointed as alternates for 3-year terms. Mantegari motioned to accept the appointment slips. It was 2nd by Morgan. All were in favor.

Clement presented the Board with the annual fraud questionnaire for the upcoming March 21 audit. Mantegari motioned to accept the questionnaire as filled out. It was 2nd by Morgan. Three in favor. Kelly and Jones abstained.

In preparation for the audit, Clement presented adjusting entries for Artimovich to initial. Morgan asked for clarification on transfers from ACH/credit card fund to general fund. Clement explained the difference between the accounts and the reason behind the transfers. Mantegari motioned, 2nd by Morgan, to accept the transfers. All were in favor.

Chief Bird was present to discuss the need for a new ambulance as well as to present bid estimates. Currently there are 2 ambulances in service. One ambulance is a 2005 and the other is a 2014. Both were purchased new. The plan is to get the ambulances on 8-year cycles where the oldest would be replaced every 8 years. Chief shared the pricing of 2 options he has been able to get quoted. Sugarloaf dealership priced out a PL Custom model and provided a bid for three hundred twenty-three thousand, six hundred twenty-four dollars (\$323,624) and Lifeline provided a bid for three hundred forty-one thousand, twelve dollars (\$341,012). According to Chief Bird, both companies are good companies. Currently the ambulances used are Lifeline vehicles. He also stated PL Custom is fairly well established in the area and their services appear to be better. Chief has requested permission for three hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000) to allow for items such as the needed radio, any items accidentally overlooked on the bid, or in the event something arises with chassis issues. Artimovich asked how much was in the account. Clement responded that the end of January there was four hundred sixty nine thousand dollars (\$469,000) in the account. Artimovich asked if Chief Bird was opposed to Sugarloaf dealership. Bird replied that he was not opposed to them. Mantegari motioned to release up to three hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000) with a trade in of the current 2005 vehicle. Morgan 2nd the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Artimovich asked how the hiring process is moving along for the 2 new positions approved by Town Meeting. Chief Bird explained he is working with Clement to get the jobs posted. He understands there are a lot of openings in the area. He estimated at least 62 departments looking for employees.

Artimovich stated the town received an invoice for the newsletter. He offered Robin Wrighton, newsletter editor, the opportunity to sit at the table to speak on the matter. She opted to remain in her seat for the discussion. Artimovich stated the Town Meeting legislative body voted to expend the money for the newsletter. Morgan stated he felt Christiansen, who presented the warrant article at the Town Meeting, was very clear there were contract negotiations in the works. There was discussion among the board members about what should be in the contract. Artimovich stated he was not looking for an editorial oversight contract, but instead a contract which stated the number of issues, approximate page count, and publication dates.

Jones stated it was her understanding that the contract negotiations were in process and ideally should have been completed prior to Town Meeting. It is her belief that what the previous board had in the works should not be derailed because of the change in leadership. Jones shared that Christiansen was very clear in his presentation at Town Meeting that a contract was in the works and for her to be comfortable with the release of the funds, she would like that wrapped up. Jones asked how the decision to go to monthly invoicing was established. Mantegari and Artimovich responded it was because of the meeting in May (2021). Mantegari pointed out that no prior board can bind a future board. Artimovich asked Wrighton if it was possible to get an invoice that outlined what the town would receive for the payment. She responded it could be discussed.

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Wrighton wanted to point out that The Newsletter is not a vendor or subscription, but a volunteer group of people. Jones asked for clarification about the structure of the Newsletter. She stated other towns have it set up as a town function. Brentwood's structure is different in that the function is outsourced to a private non-profit corporation. Jones asked for clarification as to whether the money is a donation or purchasing services from an entity. If the payment is for services, Jones feels there should be some sort of contractual agreement. It is her understanding the previous board was working on getting something (contract/memorandum) in writing to explain what product or service the town would be receiving. Artimovich asked Clement to check with NH Municipal to get clarification on the warrant article wording. Clement responded Town Meeting allows you to authorize the appropriation of the money. She went onto explain the board then decides how to spend it. Wrighton asked for the RSA. Clement responded it is Municipal Law under RSA 32. Jones stated when the warrant article was presented Christiansen explicitly stated that there were contract negotiations in the works, and she feels people voted to not hold up money with the understanding there was an agreement in the works.

Artimovich asked if Kelly had anything to add. Kelly responded that he appreciates the work of the Newsletter and as a person who loves history, he enjoys the Newsletter. He went on to say that he would be willing to be part of the party to sit down and be part of the discussion of the agreement. Kelly would like to move forward with the newsletter while addressing the concerns of the public, previous board and current board. Artimovich asked if Wrighton would be willing to sit down with himself and Kelly. Wrighton responded she would discuss it with Artimovich.

Michelle Siudet, Middle Road, stated she believes most of the items in the warrant article that failed in 2019 or 2020 have since been incorporated. She stated she would be open to discussing a memorandum of understanding. Siudet then asked about clarification of the language used at Town Meeting when asked about the contract. She asked if it was correct that Christiansen said the contract was in negotiation phase. Artimovich and Morgan responded that Christiansen did state that at Town Meeting. Siudet went on to ask how Cathleen Bailey then received a copy of a contract in negotiations. The board responded it was due to a Right to Know Request that was filed following a public discussion of the contract.

Liz Faria, South Road, stated that 1 or 2 selectmen that do not agree with the legislative body are not allowed to change the article. She went on to explain that the contract was not part of the warrant article. Jones asked for clarification on the difference between authorizing funds and appropriating funds.

Jim Johnson, Shannon Way, asked who wrote the contract that was submitted to the Brentwood Newsletter team. Artimovich responded that Clement drafted it using resources she had access to. He went on to explain it would be in the scope of her role because she does the work of the select board. Johnson asked why the attorney did not review the contract. Artimovich explained it was because it was in the negotiation phase. He went on to explain it would be reviewed by the attorney prior to being signed once it was finalized.

Wrighton read RSA 31:10:4. Jones acknowledged it and pointed out that was not fitting to this situation.

Ward Byrne, Rowell Road, shared his thoughts about the divide in the town. He suggested there be compromise. Morgan responded to Byrne's statement. He explained he desires to see a good faith contract and stated he would support the Newsletter.

Bill Faria, South Road, asked if the whole board voted on a warrant article and if it was to fund the newsletter. Artimovich responded that he believed the purpose of the warrant article was to decide whether or not to fund the Newsletter.

Eric Turer, Peabody Drive, addressed the board about the Newsletter. He stated he was mentioned earlier in the meeting as the drafter of the warrant article that was previously mentioned. Turer explained in the past when he came to the board about something that was published with false information, he was told the board had no authority over the newsletter. He requested there be a sense of openness especially in response to items that are submitted/contributed but not published. Artimovich shared that Brentwood might be one of the only towns that print monthly and not quarterly or bi-annually. Mantergari stated the Newsletter is a private entity as evidenced by the Newsletter having their own website and board. Turer stated his desire to see items submitted to flow through a town email or site where it could be reviewed. Mantergari explained it would be a liability to the town for that situation to occur and there would be a Right To Know aspect to consider. Mantergari went onto explain the history of the start of the Newsletter.

Lois DeYoung, Crawley Falls, read a Supreme Court case of Bolton v. Beals from 1954.

Sue Mitchell, Sherman Ave, stated she feels factions of the community are not allowed to volunteer with the Newsletter. She gave 2 examples where she was not reached out to as promised she would be. Wrighton responded the volunteers fold the last Wednesday of

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every month. Mitchell asked if the Newsletter has anyone else on it. Artimovich responded there is a board of 5 member and their information should be listed with the Attorney General and on the website. Siudet added the board is listed inside the Newsletter and their email is listed on every page.

Mantegari made a motion to table the Newsletter discussion until next meeting. Morgan 2nd the motion. Morgan asked if Kelly would be part of the Newsletter discussion. Artimovich responded he would talk with Kelly after his conversation with Wrighton. Kelly stated he would withdraw his request to participate in the conversation. All were in favor.

At 7:45 pm Mantegari made a motion, 2nd by Morgan to go in to non-public for personnel and legal. Mantegari - aye, Morgan – aye, Kelly -aye, Jones -aye, and Artimovich – aye. The motion carries.

At 8:35 pm a motion was made by Mantegari, 2nd by Morgan to come out of nonpublic session and seal the minutes. Mantegari - aye, Morgan – aye, Kelly -aye, Jones -aye, and Artimovich – aye. The motion carries.

At 8:35pm Mantegari made a motion, 2nd by Morgan to adjourn. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Tamera Peek

WEEKLY TREASURER'S REPORT			
DATE:	3/15/2022		
General Fund:	TD BANK		
Previous Balance:	4,755,540.16		
Deposits:	28,279.47		
Payroll:	27,297.08	DDP: \$23,908.67	
		CHK: 1,648.27 & 1,740.14	
FICA:	6290.64		
to Impact Fees	3,618.00	Reg A/P Cks \$47,570.47	NH Retirement 25,622.14
A/P: Regular	246,253.47	Swasey : \$198,683.00	CO-OP: \$
Transfer to Rec void checks			
Account Balance:	4,500,360.44		
Interest Earned YTD:	1,238.71		
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Joyce A. Gallant, Treasurer			