

Board of Selectmen
Minutes September 15, 2020

Convened at 6:00 pm

Present: Andrew Artimovich, Chair
William Faria
Ken Christiansen
Robert Mantegari
Phyllis Thompson

Artimovich called the meeting to order. The board opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board met and reviewed payroll, accounts payable and signed the register. The Selectmen reviewed and signed the recreation register.

Joyce Gallant was in to present the weekly Treasurer's report. Please see last page to view report.

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

- Roy Hurlbert, 17 Dudley Road, electrical for new garage: signed by Board
- Sean Hartnett, 104 Deer Hill Road, electrical for shed, signed by Board
- Three Ponds LLC, 5 Tuck Drive, new dwelling: signed by Board
- Mike Smith, 99 Deer Hill Road, new dwelling: signed by Board
- Deanna Markey, 59 Stevens Drive, electrical permit for split unit: signed by Board
- Chuck Kamon, 59 Stevens Drive, plumbing for bath: signed by Board
- Scott Barthelemy, 470 Rte. 125, 36X60 farm stand: signed by Board
- Robert Cole, 198 Middle Road, plumbing for shower: signed by Board
- Granese Brentwood, 62 Rte. 125, demolition permit: signed by Board.

Mantegari made a motion, 2nd by Faria to approve the public minutes of 09/01/2020 as written. The motion carried with Christiansen abstaining.

Mantegari made a motion, 2nd by Faria to approve the nonpublic minutes of 09/01/2020 as written. The motion carried with Christiansen abstaining.

Keith Levitsky, Chair of Budget Committee, was present to discuss 2021 town budget goals. Levitsky said he would propose a 0-3% increase in the total operating budget. Some concerns that have been expressed in the past were blanket raises across the board and the command vehicle for the fire department. He sees better collaboration between the BOS and BudCom and hopes that will continue. He said that NHRS rates are increasing and said it is probably safe to assume that less surplus will be returned to the town from the school due to COVID 19. Levitsky proposed a reduction in warrant articles by 50% or consider not funding them for a year.

Mantegari said the Swasey School is requesting about \$38,000 to help offset costs of items needed to mitigate the concerns for COVID 19. Mantegari said the school did not ask the state for funds and are requesting the town's GOFERR funds. Mantegari said they should be utilizing their own resources. If the town's grant deadlines are extended, he fears offering the school a large sum of our grant funds

and then not being able to absorb the town's costs for future expenses.

Mantegari went on to say that he just received his first call from Swasey yesterday for their inspection prior to re-opening. He said they had only completed about 60% of his recommendations. He was put off by the fact that the SAU administration has had 6 months to apply for grants and seek funding and now the day of the deadline has come to the town to ask for their money. Mantegari made a motion, 2nd by Christiansen to table this discussion until 9/29 with a rejection letter from the school that states that grant funds were applied for and denied. All were in favor.

Liz Faria, 209 South Road, said when she heard the payroll being read she questioned the Chief's pay. Clement said the restriction on the number of hours that are allowed to be worked under NHRS is waived during the state of emergency. The employee is eligible for overtime.

Lois DeYoung, 105 Crawley Falls Road, asked if the employee was hourly or salary. Artimovich said hourly; otherwise, they would not be eligible for overtime.

This closed the discussion on the 2021 budget.

Bob Stephens, Stephens Associates, presented the board with a status update on the Mill Road Bridge. He has prepared a cost estimate for construction to include excavation under footings and then backfilled with concrete. The design summary will be issued tomorrow. The repairs proposed will extend the service life of the bridge up to 25 years and addresses all DOT deficiencies. Stephens said he would not recommend replacing or reinforcing the arch. The cost estimate is \$170K-\$290K. He would propose this to go out to bid for construction this fall. If the costs come in high for this season, we can put a pin in it and re-bid the project in the spring. Artimovich said if the service life is a 25 year maximum with these repairs, what is the minimum? Stephens said the town should expect the 25 years, but at least enough good years for the town to be able to gain funding through the NH Bridge Aid Program. Mantegari made a motion, 2nd by Christiansen to approve construction costs not to exceed \$350K. Faria said he would like to see no more than \$320K, that is a 10% contingency over the "high estimate and finds that to be more reasonable. Mantegari agreed and withdrew his motion. Mantegari made a motion, 2nd by Faria to authorize Stephens Associates to work full bore with a budget not to exceed \$320K total construction costs. All were in favor.

Mantegari made a motion, 2nd by Christiansen to have Artimovich sign the NH DES Wetlands permit for the Mill Road Bridge project. All were in favor.

Christiansen made a motion, 2nd by Mantegari to approve an Intent to Cut for the Pilgrim United Church. All were in favor.

Mantegari made a motion, 2nd by Christiansen to appoint Robert McConn as a part time police officer for one year. All were in favor.

Mantegari made a motion, 2nd by Christiansen to appoint Michelle Siudut, Christine Belanger, and Carolyn Cocklin as Inspectors of Election for 2 years. All were in favor.

Christiansen made a motion, 2nd by Mantegari to appoint Kathy St. Hilaire as an alternate member to

the ZBA for 3 years. All were in favor.

Mantegari made a motion, 2nd by Christiansen to appoint Michelle Siudut as an alternate member to the conservation commission for one year. All were in favor.

Artimovich thanked Daphne Woss, Town Clerk, her staff, and members of the highway and fire departments for their work at the election. Further, he thanked the following volunteers: Marie and Dana Hall, Becky Dunham, Carolyn Cocklin, Lois DeYoung, and Jonathan Ellis and ballot clerks: Carole Belliveau, Michelle Siudut, Joyce Keegal, Kristin Patch, and Christine Belanger. Artimovich said this was a very successful day and thanked everyone for their contributions.

Artimovich read the following email received:

Hi my name is Liza Schultz. I just wanted to recognize the people that maintain the cemetery. I have to say my mothers, fathers and nephews head stones after 30 plus years look brand new. I personally want to thank Wayne Almon who I know scrubbed all the moss and debris off. I know in the past 30 years the cemetery has grown quite a bit. To keep up with it the way Brentwood has maintained it has impressed me. Once again thank you very much.

Have a great day

Sincerely Liza Schultz

Artimovich thanked Joyce Keegal, Wayne Almon, and the highway department for their hard work at the cemetery.

Christiansen updated the board on the ZBA meeting held earlier in the week. He said Jeff Bryan was going to hire a surveyor to see if there is an encroachment on the wetland's buffer. There will also be a re-hearing for the property located at the intersection of Rte. 125 and Rte. 111A.

Faria said he has started getting calls on the revaluation notices. He said historically as assessments increase, the tax rate will drop. Artimovich said his assessment increased and he looked up on Zillow his assessment and it was right on the mark with KRT. He said the town needs to raise the same amount of money regardless and the tax rate is based on total valuation. Mantegari said if you were paying \$10K in taxes before, you will likely be paying \$10K still. Bob Stephens, 60 Northrup Drive, said he was glad the board clarified that he should not be expecting to pay 30% more as that is how much his assessment increased. Levitsky said the market could change dramatically in 5 years. The town, county, and state still need the same amount of money to operate and the revaluation levels the spread.

Mantegari gave the board an update on the re-opening plans of Swasey Central School. Mantegari said there has not been any communication from the school until last week. The schools were notified about grant funds in the spring and that there was special funding available to the schools for PPE, plexi glass barriers, etc. After review of the plan that was presented to them last week, Rick Murphy, Emergency Management Director, commented that the plan did not address the pandemic. Mantegari said the special education teachers requested plexi glass and the administration did not order it. Further the administration authorized 4 buses when only 3 were needed for the amount of students enrolled. Mantegari said with all of this information to consider, he would like the board to vote that they have no confidence in the SAU administration. Faria seconded the motion. Artimovich said he would let the board vote but felt this to be outside of the purview of the BOS. Artimovich suggested Mantegari draft a letter as the Health Officer that he had concerns with administration and their level of preparation to get the kids back to school. Carole Belleveu, 46 Mill Road, said she thought that the

letter could come from the Health Officer but state that the BOS supported his decision. Mantegari made a motion, 2nd by Faria to take a vote of no confidence in the SAU Administration. The motion carried with Artimovich and Christiansen opposed. Bob Stephens, 60 Northrup Drive, said as a resident and realizing that these votes are outside of the board's purview thought that it was important that the BOS took a stand and was glad that they took a position on important town matters. Liz Faria, 209 South Road, said the administration is busy working on the SAU budget for the next school year and their raises, not focused on getting the kids back to school.

Wayne Robinson, Road Agent, said he will need 1000 yards of sand for the next plow season. He reviewed the cost he received. Artimovich said that needed to go out to bid.

At 7:27 pm a motion was made by Mantegari, 2nd by Faria to go into nonpublic sessions per RSA 91-A: 3, II for (b) hiring and (c) legal. Artimovich - aye, Faria - aye, Christiansen -aye, Thompson - aye, and Mantegari - aye. The motion carries.

At 7:47 pm a motion was made by Mantegari, 2nd by Faria, to come out of nonpublic session and seal the minutes. Artimovich - aye, Faria - aye, Christiansen -aye, Thompson - aye, and Mantegari - aye. The motion carries.

At 7:47 pm a motion was made by Mantegari, 2nd by Christiansen to adjourn. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Clement

WEEKLY TREASURER'S REPORT

DATE: 9/15/2020

Citizens General Fund:

Previous Balance:	21,646.00		
Deposits:	43,779.88		
Payroll:	24,268.93	DD: \$22708.97	CK: \$1559.96
FICA:	6,168.20		
to Impact Fees	10,854.00		
A/P: Regular	\$227,173.06	Swasey: \$205,000**	**Via ACH
void checks From MMA	220,000.00		
TO MMA Account Balance:	16,961.69		
Interest Earned YTD:	14.59		

MMA:

CD's Unrestricted Balance:	3,634,188.19
Total Invested Funds	3,634,188.19
Interest Earned YTD:	24,012.52

