



Office of Board of Selectmen

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Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 1, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

Belmont Mill Tioga Meeting Room

Chairman Ruth Mooney called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Also present were Selectman Claude Patten, Selectman Jon Pike, Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin, Assistant Town Administrator Alicia Jipson, Craig Clairmont Director of Public Works, Fire Chief Mike Newhall, Thomas Murphy, Jason Griffin, and Police Captain Steve Akerstrom.

Pledge of Allegiance

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Abatements, Exemptions & Credits

The appropriate abatements, exemptions, and credits were signed by all attending Board members.

Minutes

Selectman Claude Patten moved the minutes of the meeting held on October 13, 2021, as written; seconded by Selectman Jon Pike and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Jon Pike moved the minutes of the meeting held on October 18, 2021, as written; seconded by Selectman Claude Patten and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Jon Pike moved the minutes of the meeting held on October 20, 2021, as written; seconded by Selectman Claude Patten and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Claude Patten moved the minutes of the meeting held on October 25, 2021, as written; seconded by Selectman Jon Pike and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Draft MOU City of Laconia-Mountain Lakes Village- TA Beaudin discussed that we had been approached back in 2013 by Phil Brouillard for Mountain Lakes Village Properties for a project off Mile Hill Road where new homes will be constructed and located in Laconia and Belmont. That was the start of discussions, they went back and forth with the city and it had stalled. We had retained Paul Fitzgerald

to work on this as he started the original one back in 2013. We have a draft MOU on how services will be addressed. From the town's perspective any charges from the City of Laconia will be the responsibility of Phil Brouillard, the expectation will be there will be no cost to the taxpayers. The additional charges for water and sewer will be charged to Phil. Selectman Mooney asked who will inspect the road when complete? TA Beaudin replied that typically the Planning Board requires this and funds to be set aside in escrow. In accordance with this agreement the water & sewer will be installed in accordance with the City of Laconia's guidelines. Selectman Pike commented that on page 6 they spelt Belmont wrong. TA Beaudin commented that she will make the changes, she has not sent this to Phil at this point, she will do so after this meeting and with comments from DPW Director Craig Clairmont and the Planning Board. DPW Director Craig Clairmont commented that Belmont is going to have to assume some responsibility for the plowing and roadside maintenance for the homes that are in Belmont. TA Beaudin added that she would like the board to agree with her recommendation that any fees that will be assessed by Laconia will be paid by Phil Brouillard as the developer. Then those fees will become the associations once they become full and up and running. Selectman Mooney asked if they will all be metered for water, and paying fees to Laconia. TA Beaudin responded that Belmont will not have meters, and is under the impression that there will be a meter at the Belmont line and then those fees passed to Laconia.

Light Request on Main Street- TA Beaudin commented that that Rep. Trottier and Rep. O'Hara had reached out and had corresponded in writing with William Lambert from the NHDOT regarding the installation of a rapid beacon flashing light on Main Street near the church. The state did not have the resources to do the installation but will allow the Town to do the installation and maintenance. TA Beaudin looked up the cost and they run from about \$2,000 to \$4,000 each plus the cost of engineering and we would need 2 of them. Selectman Pike asked about the street light on Main Street. TA Beaudin replied that she had reached out to Eversource and they will take a look at it. DPW Director Craig Clairmont commented that there are solar options, Laconia has been experimenting with the signs and determining the maintenance and that they do need to be hard wired into the light and Eversource will need to hook it up. Police Captain Steve Akerstrom add comment that there are many cross walks in town and if you start adding these safety lights, then they will want them all done. Fire Chief Mike Newhall also added commented that he's not sure it's something we should or should not do but he doesn't think it will stop the accidents. Selectman Mooney commented that she feels the that the state would hold some sort of public hearing on the intersection of 140 and Main Street and their proposals. TA Beaudin commented that she knows that they sent out notices to abutters that they were in the area doing engineering work but is unsure if they set a future meeting date, but would like to think that they will.

Route 140 Casella- TA Beaudin has received a number of phone calls from residents seeking to drop off materials at Casella. TA Beaudin called Casella to inquire and they responded that they are no longer receiving 3rd party trash, they have run out of "air space". They will accept waste if it was generated in Belmont. The capacity for waste disposal is reaching scary capacity limits. They are trying to get the site in Dalton permitted but they have no idea how long that will take. Wheelabrator in Concord is facing the same issues. TA Beaudin ask that this change was not affecting the outside garbage coming in for which we receive a host fee. They TA Beaudin that they are still accepting garbage just not other outside garbage.

Old Business

Budget Follow Ups- TA Beaudin discussed the Boards concerns regarding the Library budget as presented. The Library Trustees are very similar as the BOS, and they do make decisions. They typically do reach out and see what we are going to give for raises. The new employee was hired at \$36,000 due to having a higher skill set. TA Beaudin had suggested to Library Director Eileen Gilbert when they met that the Library employees be brought in on the town nonunion wage scale for ease. What they did was go in and review the surrounding library to see what other wages were and made their wage increases based on that. If the Board is not in agreement with the budget, they can move it along as not recommend and the budget committee still has the ability to have say. The Trustees took a look at what they spent to date and determined that with the increase that they had enough money in their budget to increase the wages. Selectman Mooney asked what if both BOS and Budget Committee did not recommend the Library budget what happens then? TA Beaudin responded that the BOS can make the changes that they want and bring that forth to the Budget Committee, the Budget Committee can keep those suggestions and or go with the Trustees. In the end the Trustees can still bring forward their intended budget and spend out of other lines. Selectman Pike motioned to give a 2% increase to the Library Directors position and recommend that we ask them to convert to the Town's wage scale; seconded by Selectman Patten and the motion passed unanimously.

General Assistance- Selectman Pike motioned to accept the General Assistance budget as presented, seconded by Selectman Patten and the motion passed unanimously.

Capital Outlay & Reserves- TA Beaudin stated that the Planning Board held there Public Hearing relative to the CIP at their last meeting. The Board had previously discussed with the Fire Chief his request for a 2nd Command Vehicle. The Board had recommended that the repairs for the FD roof come from the Municipal Facilities Capital Reserve. We are proposing \$20,000 into the environmental contingency line. A portion of work at the Police station came from that line, work at the FD is being addressed this week in regards to an underground tank. We are increasing the accrued liability account. We have a number of eligible retirements. We currently do not have enough money in the funds to cover the retirements. Every year we budget a certain number at the end of the year whatever is not spend goes into unexpended fund balance. We would fund this line item from the unexpended fund balance. Heavy equipment request is at \$60,000, IT \$10,000, \$25,000 into bridge repair, the Cemetery Trustees have requested \$60,000 to fix fencing. We increased the municipal facilities line, and the Library has requested to set aside money for future expansion. \$750,000 for highway repair. The town will be doing another revaluation in 2024. We are mandated by law to do that revaluation every 5 years. \$2,500 into the dry hydrants, \$5,000 Durrell Mountain Road coming from fund balance coming from the contractor. We have completed the traffic counts on Durrell Mountain Road that info has been sent to our Engineer for review. Selectman Patten asked what is the accrued liability account? TA Beaudin replied, that is an account for when an employee retires and the amounts that they are paid out for, such as vacation, sick and longevity. We established this a number of years ago.

Fire Chief Mike Newhall addressed the Board in regard to his budget requests stating that the request for the boat had been denied during earlier discussions. Since that discussion Mike has since learned that next year there will be no boat on the lake. The City of Laconia has informed us that they will not be putting it back in due to costly maintenance repairs needed. There are 200 properties located on Winnisquam as well as marina, and an island. Selectman Pike asked why don't we ask Tilton and Sanbornton to participate and share the cost of the boat as well. Fire Chief Mike Newhall responded that he has no problem looking for funding from other sources, but is not looking to purchase a boat for

use of other communities, and feels he was charged with supplying Belmont with one. In years past Winnisquam Marina has lent us a boat if we needed it, but then we are on the hook for damages and liability. Selectman Pike asked if we can do the same sort of college agreement for Firefighters as we do for the Police officers going into the academy. Fire Chief Mike Newhall responded that the Fire Academy is not set up for that. Mike also discussed that the utility vehicle is also up for consideration on the CIP. Selectman Mooney asked Selectman Pike if he had gone up and looked at the condition of the utility vehicle, and Selectman Pike responded with a yes. Selectman Pike asked what happens with the utility vehicle and if it will be used as the forestry vehicle. Mike responded that it could but the utility also picks up the hoses. We have always had 2 forestry vehicles and he believe it's the best for the dept is to have 2 commands vehicles, a forestry and utility. Selectman Pike commented that he doesn't think the utility vehicle needs to be new and wishes to remain conservative.

Jason Griffin of 8 Oak Drive- last year there were 2 drownings on the lake, next year there is going to be no boat on the lake, it is our job to protect the properties and people in this community. Having a boat ready and on the lake will increase response time. Lieutenant FF Thomas Murphy added that he thought that a few years ago that the town put on the warrant to purchase a command vehicle. Mike responded yes it was but Chief Erickson choose not to move forward with the purchase, in 2016.

Fire Chief Mike Newhall commented that he again wants to bring attention to the fact there will be no boat on the lake next year. Selectman Patten asked why should we support the whole lake. Why are we not asking the other communities to chip in? Selectman Mooney added that the \$200,000 request is for a new boat? And can we find a used boat? does it have to be brand new? Fire Chief Mike Newhall responded that we typically like to buy new as it comes with warranties, training and it is ready and we have to worry about it less. Selectman Mooney commented that we have become more of an ambulance town and worries that when it's a time to replace the older ambulance the cost is going to be higher than expected, and we don't want to get into a situation where we can't purchase the ambulance. Selectman Mooney expressed that she is on the fence with the boat and understands that we have to think about safety. Selectman Pike expressed that he would like to do purchase the utility truck next year. Selectman Mooney expressed that she would like us to have the conversations with the other towns who will use it. Fire Chief Mike Newhall commented that in recent weeks social media has gotten away with recent discussions. Mike commented that the departments mission statement has not changed, adding that what he said at the meeting was that our response time may change. The professionalism of the BFD has not changed. Calls will continue no matter what it is. Adding to Selectman Mooney's comment that times have changed. The calls are increasing we the department is already approaching 2,000 calls. 60% are medical calls. Out of the calls 40% are at night between 7pm and 7am and it seems that we get a lot of back to backs, or simultaneous calls, and those are some of the reason that Mike has requested 2 additional employees. Mike stated that everyone who works at the BFD is professional, and some are career. Selectman Mooney inquired to Mike about hiring per diem, and understands that is becoming used at our surrounding communities. Fire Chief Mike Newhall responded that per diems in the area are usually trained at the minimum. They usually have a set schedule and a set pay. Statewide openings for full time position within Fire Departments are 10 pages long and 8 pages for per diem. They cannot work full time, the pool is a tough one to come by, since everyone is using them. TA Beaudin commented that the Board is not scheduled to meet again before the next Budget Committee meeting. Selectman Mooney commented that she was not in support of 2 new hires, that she can be in support of possibly 1 new hire and then adding 1 in the next year to come.

TA Beaudin commented that she looked back at the old warrants and in 2016 they did raise and appropriate \$40,000 for a command vehicle. TA Beaudin will look into it to see if the funds are still encumbered and in there, and will have to look at that by the nature of its meaning.

Jason Griffin of 8 Oak Drive- stated that he works for the City of Laconia and they are having issues hiring people. His concern as a taxpayer is why are we needing to hire new employees. From what he has heard we lost employees to other departments and not retirement, we need to keep the employees that we have and ask that we keep that in mind. Fire Chief Mike Newhall responded that the Board is in full support of retaining the employees that we have. Selectman Mooney commented that we are all in the same boat and everyone is burnt out. Lieutenant FF Thomas Murphy commented that the calls in 1 year have gone up 100%, and that the department has not hired any extra personnel. He understands that the Board needs to look at the tax bill, but Lt. Murphy is looking out for the safety of the town.

TA Beaudin commented that the school budget has been apportioned this morning the increase is \$1.28 per thousand to go to \$14.98. The town's anticipated increase is .20 which was less than what we anticipated.

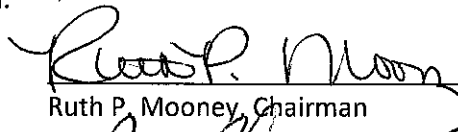
Non-Public Session

Chairman Ruth Mooney moved to enter non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (a &c) at 12:12 am. Roll call was taken and those present and voting were Ruth Mooney, Jon Pike and Claude Patten. Also, present were TA Beaudin, Assistant Town Administrator Alicia Jipson.

The Board of selectman left non-public to go into public session at 12:55. Selectman Pike motioned to accept the Library Trustees budget as amended; seconded by Selectman Patten and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board asked TA Beaudin to review the Fire Department budget with the two added personnel and speak with Chief Newhall about any adjustments he could make to his operating budget to at least offset one of the new hires. The information will be brought forward to the Selectmen before the first budget meeting if possible.

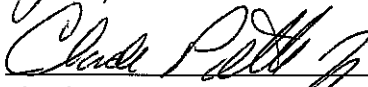
The meeting adjourned at 12:56 a.m.



Ruth P. Mooney, Chairman



Jon Pike, Vice-Chairman



Claude B. Patten, Jr., Selectman