

# Office of Board of Selectmen

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## Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 10, 2022, 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 Jon Pike, Selectman Claude Patten, Jr., TA Jeanne Beaudin, and Assistant TA Alicia Jipson. Present via Zoom was DPW Director Craig Clairmont, Fire Chief Mike Newhall, Water & Sewer Tech Tim Ellis, and Finance Director Katherine Davis.

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Minutes

Selectman Claude Patten, Jr., moved the minutes of the meeting held on January 3, 2022 as written; seconded by Selectman Jon Pike. The motion passed unanimously.

### Public Hearing

Chairman Mooney opened the Public Hearing at 10:00 a.m. in accordance with RSA 33:8-a. The purpose of the public hearing is to take comment on the proposed municipal bond issue/note in the amount of \$2,553,600 for the purpose of constructing an Iron and Manganese Treatment Plant. The Town of Belmont is anticipated to receive a grant from the DES appropriation of American Rescue Plan Act 2021 Funds in the amount of \$638,400. The total cost of the project is anticipated to be \$3,192,000.

TA Beaudin commented that the proposed bond schedule is an estimate as we can't get a confirmed rate as the bond has not yet been given. TA Beaudin also attached the rules for the Manganese Levels. The state of NH is adopting these revisions. Pennichuck provided results over the last 5 years of data that showed during the first few years we would have been over our limits. DPW Director Craig Clairmont has been exercising the other tanks and that seems to be helping lower the manganese levels and keep us out of the risk zones. Selectman Mooney asked Ruth DPW Director Clairmont, if we had a dry season are we more apt to have higher levels? Clairmont responded that in the past we have had some dry spells and it really hasn't affected us, we have enough quantity. We are trying to be proactive before we are going to be mandated to do this. The cost will also rise. TA Beaudin added that we have as of last Friday submitted for a grant that would provide us assistance in planning for a treatment facility. This would be a full grant on the engineering and planning. We are anticipated to receive a grant for the cost of the project as well. We will also continue to keep applying for other grants as they come along. Selectman Pike commented that he feels that there will be pushback from the non-water users and what will be the cost to them be and the fact that they maintain their own systems, so they won't feel they need to pay for the usage of this.

With no further public comment Selectman Mooney closed the Public Hearing at 10:11 a.m.

### New Business

Interim Assessment Update Proposal- TA Beaudin noted that in 2019 we had planned on moving forward with a statistical update, but we were unable to move forward due to lack of funds and a vote by the voters. TA Beaudin has reached back out to KRT and has asked them for an updated quote on providing that. The cost has not gone up in cost by much. We have it on the warrant to raise the funds, but we really need to push to show the need. We want to capture the recent high sales of the past 2 years.

Hurricane Road Landfill- TA Beaudin commented that she has been approached by a company about our closed landfill site and the potential for a solar farm. We would have many solar panels that would provide electricity to our municipal buildings saving us money. TA Beaudin checked with land use and our environmental group and there are no restrictions on this use for that property. TA Beaudin has gathered all our electrical use for the town properties as well as the school per their request. The reason for it on the agenda is to see if the Board would like to entertain this idea to save money on municipal electricity. This company has done similar projects in other towns since the old closed landfills have no other use, this has been an allowable use used by many. The company will come out and see the site in January. We would be the leasee and gain benefit from the lease and the electricity. Selectman Ruth expressed that she felt it is a good use of the property and if we can benefit as a town from it then that is good. DPW Director Craig Clairmont mentioned that we are required to mow the grass, would we continue to do that or would this company? TA Beaudin also reached out to Stonecipher & Clark and they had no issues with this use on the site.

RFP- solid waste collection- TA Beaudin explained that our existing contract with Casella expires December 2022. The intent of the proposal would be for a contract to start in January 2023 and it would move to an automated process. The ongoing costs of labor for these companies is excessive and they are finding it hard to hire. We are currently not paying for the disposal of our recycling under the current contract. In the proposed contract we would be looking at a cost to dispose trash at \$62 per ton to get rid of recycling. It will be an annual increase of just over \$200,000. We only received 1 bid by Casella. No other company could take on more clients. Laconia is continuing on with discussions with moving forward. We will continue to receive host fees from Casella for all trash collected in Belmont that is not from Belmont. We have received in 2021 \$41,000 so we can expect to receive about that same amount in 2022. We are also looking at a grant to help cover the costs of the carts. This is a huge increase to the budget but we do not see that there are any other options. We need to get rid of the trash. There is a significantly large lead time in getting the trucks. If they are not ready yet they will work with us as they are currently our contractor. When this happens, we will want to encourage more to recycle as it is cheaper to dispose of recycling vs standard trash. Selectman Mooney commented that it seems we have no choice but to move forward and make the switch and there seems like there is no one else willing to take this on and in next year's budget we will need to increase the trash budget. TA Beaudin remarked that she will look into seeing if we can earmark the funds we receive in host fees to go directly to offset the costs, also adding that the contract is proposed to be for 5 years. Casella will distribute the carts, they will replace the carts if they become damaged. Laconia is going to purchase the carts and distributing them and store them on their own. TA Beaudin did not think that was going to be a reasonable task for our small town. We have had an extremely good contract in the past and we have been very fortunate in what we pay. DPW Director Craig Clairmont commented that he has seen a decrease in curbside trash since having the curbside pickup 1x a month. Selectman Mooney motioned to

move forward with Casella and negotiate a new contract beginning in January 2023 under an automated process; seconded by Selectman Pike and the motion passed unanimously.

752 Laconia Road- FYI the State is moving forward with the no parking signs.

Conservation Commission- TA Beaudin commented that the CC will turn any of their remaining budget back to the general fund vs back to the CC fund and have asked that a warrant article be placed on the Town Meeting Warrant to effect this change.

### **Public Hearing**

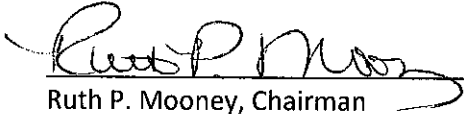
Chairman Mooney opened the 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing at 10:30 a.m. in accordance with RSA 33:8-a. to take public comment on the proposed municipal bond issue/note in the amount of \$1,000,000 for improvements to the Town's Wastewater Pumping Stations. TA Beaudin noted that this is aimed at the Coons Point pumping station as well as a new generator replacement at the Shaker Road pumping station. We anticipate this will be funded by sewer users. We have put in all the pre planning applications. DES cannot guarantee that there will be SRF funds available due to where we scored on the approval process. With no further public comment Selectman Mooney closed the Public Hearing at 10:51 a.m.

### **Non-Public**

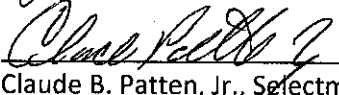
Chairman Mooney moved to enter non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (c) at 10:54 a.m.; roll call was taken and those present and voting were Jon Pike, Ruth Mooney and Claude Patten. TA Beaudin and ATA Jipson were also present.

Chairman Mooney closed the non-public session at 11:20 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

  
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Ruth P. Mooney, Chairman

  
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Jon Pike, Vice-Chairman

  
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Claude B. Patten, Jr., Selectman