Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 15, 2020, 10:00 a.m.
Corner Meeting House

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, Fire Chief Mike Newhall, Police Chief Lewandowski, Public Works Director Craig Clairmont, and Assistant Town Administrator Alicia Jipson.

Chairman Mooney asked those present to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Abatements, Exemptions & Credits

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

Selectman Patten moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 1, 2020 as written; seconded by Selectman Pike and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Pike moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 3, 2020 as written; seconded by Selectman Patten and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Municipal Funding Proposals- Police Department Project- TA Beaudin reported that we sent out 5 requests for proposals and we received 3 back: Northway Bank, Bank of NH, and Franklin Savings Bank. Based on the rates they submitted, TA Beaudin recommends the Town go with Northway Bank. It will be a 20 year note with a fixed interest rate of 2.4% and fixed payments of approximately $220,000 per year. This works out to be .30 affect on the tax rate. They are also offering a draw down, so we do not have to take the whole thing in one lump sum. There will also be no prepayment fees. Selectman Pike motioned to grant TA Beaudin to sign the commitment letter and move forward with Northway Bank as the lender for the Police
Department project; seconded by Selectman Patten and the motion passed unanimously. TA Beaudin also noted that our 1st payment will not be due until August 31, 2021.

WRBP Correspondence- DES- For some time now WRBP Advisory Board has investigating the possibility of becoming an independent utility authority. It has been a great deal of work to get to the point we are at right now, but we have come to an impasse. There are at least two member communities who voted that we need to stop the process and finish the task under the one we are currently working at. DES has sent a letter advising us that we should do our due diligence to stop and do the proper steps. Selectman Pike asked if the Franklin plant needed work. TA Beaudin replied that the plant was actually in good shape, but it is the lines and the infrastructure that needs some work. DES wants to make sure the member communities know what is going on. Selectman Mooney was under the impression it was all for one and one for all and could not force members to pay. If DES is stating that the Towns pay, how are they going to come up with the money? Currently our sewer budget is 70% support of the Winni. TA Beaudin also noted that at the meeting she voted NO on behalf of Belmont until the earlier tasks outlined are complete. DES governs the budget through the state but the communities feel we should have more of a say versus advisory only.

Other New Business

Well Cleaning- DPW Craig Clairmont gave an update on the status of the wells. When we were considering a pre-treatment plant, we considered a possible rebuild of well #1. Well #1 and well #3 were cleaned 3 years ago. Well #1 needs to be cleaned again. Barry Miller is working on a quote for the well #1 repair or replace. Craig recommends that we replace well #1 as it should be. The well is from the 1940’s era, and again the physical incapacity is the issue with well #1. Looking for a motion to have it cleaned and then raise and appropriate the necessary amount of funds needed to do a full repair in a few years. Selectman Pike motioned to accept the quote of $16,320 to have well #1 cleaned, seconded by Selectman Mooney and the motion passed unanimously.

Road Maintenance Program Recommendations- Selectman Mooney noted that due to the recent pandemic we have not moved forward with any major plans that we had anticipated. TA Beaudin noted that per the state they advised that we will be getting the anticipated rooms and meals tax disbursement for 2020. The Highway Block Grant funds are unknown as of now from the state. TA Beaudin ran a report and so far, we are right on track for 2020 tax bills. Some residents are even making payments towards the fall bill. Craig recommends that we focus on Sunshine, Silkwood and Plummer Hill for shim and overlay. Recommends that we get proposals on engineering for Plummer Hill and Solar Village. We are trying to follow the list of recommended roads to be repaired but we just do not have the financing to do it all. Currently we have enough funds to cover the proposed shim and overlay program that Craig has outlined if we want to move forward with completing the whole list. The shim and overlay will help prolong the road life until we have the funds to get them fully finished. As a side note any product, we use now will also get used in the re-claim and used in the new road.
HealthTrust Wellness Funds- This year Alicia as the Wellness Coordinator received a sum of $600.00 from HealthTrust, need a motion to accept those funds. Selectman Pike motioned to accept the grant funds in accordance with RSA 31:95-b in the amount of $600.00 from HealthTrust, seconded by Selectman Patten and the motion passed unanimously.

VFA Funds- The Fire Department received a grant from the Volunteer Fire Association to purchase 20 wildland shirts to wear in the event of a forest fire. Selectman Pike motioned to accept the grant funds in accordance with RSA 31:95-b in the amount of $766.10 from VFA, seconded by Selectman Patten and the motion passed unanimously.

TA Beaudin noted that the library had received grants from the Moose Plate program and LCHIP to complete the repointing on the brick; the Trustees have requested the balance not covered by the grants to come from Capital Reserve. The Board approved this request.

377 Province Road Update- The system did undergo a rejuvenation process by Rowell Septic on April 15th. This process was done as approved by DES. Typically, it will take 3 or 4 months to see if it will work. We have been keeping an eye on it and we are making progress.

Update on Mill- TA Beaudin met with A&B Lock and discussed the camera system in the CMH and moving it to the Mill. Also discussed pricing out security, cameras and door locks. They are working on that proposal and will have it to us shortly. Steve Paquin and TA Beaudin met with Bonnette, Page and Stone on getting the 4th floor up and ready. They looked at the downstairs area of where we wanted to place General Assistance. We received 3 proposals for the hazard removal of the PD and CMH. Police Chief Lewandowski has met with the architect and they have worked through a rough draft from the original plan.

Other Old Business

Fireworks- We have over the weekend received complaints on the Belmont Community page about fireworks. Fire Chief Newhall added that calls need to be made to the FD and not just posted on social media. We do not police social media and can only check on the complaint if they call and ask us. TA Beaudin also noted that we have seen some complaints on the community page about the beach with nonresidents using the beach, trash, and misuse of the beach by visitors. We had chosen not to place a dumpster but starting to rethink having one. We will look into a possible locking dumpster. We will also look at posting signs that use of the beach is for residents and taxpayers only.

Casella- Selectman Pike wishes to voice a complaint about the Casella Facility. When his family went to go to the facility on the scheduled 2nd Saturday of the month it was closed, and they were not taking any cash. Wishes that there were more notice and that they were more flexible to the Belmont residents. TA Beaudin explained that they are a private company and we have no ways to make demands on their business. TA Beaudin has a good working relationship with Casella and will reach out to them again and see if there is more that can be done for the residents. Pike also added that many times residents get frustrated with the facility always being
closed and end up finding a side road and just dumping their garbage right off the side of the road, which in turn our Public Works Department has to go out and pick up and we as a town have to pay to dispose. Selectman Mooney asked if we were still participating in Hazardous Waste Day? TA Beaudin replied that yes, we are, and it is scheduled for end of July. Our contract expires in 2022 for Casella so let us try finding ways we can improve the situation.

Old Business

Enforcement Notice- Building Inspector Steve Paquin had reached out to the Police Chief to see if it was possible for the PD to deliver notices when Steve was unable to have luck with delivery and acceptance. PD is ok with it as long as they have the time, and if it is not time sensitive then that will be better. Will just have to work out a system of noting if and when the letter was delivered and if not getting it to the next shift for them to try.

Public Comment- Charles Gravenhorst of 74 Perkins Road, addressed the Board regarding his concerns with the ongoing Police Department Project. He stated that the AG’s office had reopened the investigation into possible electioneering by town staff and public officials.

Non-Public

Chairman Mooney moved to enter non-public session in accordance with RSA 91: A:3 II (c) at 11:16 a.m. Those present and voting were Ruth Mooney, Claude Patten and Jon Pike. Also present was TA Beaudin and Police Chief Lewandoski.

The non-public session concluded at 11:45 p.m.

Ruth P. Mooney, Chairman

Jon Pike, Vice-Chairman

Claude B. Patten, Jr., Selectman