Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 6, 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, Fire Chief Mike Newhall, 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 15, 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 18, 2020 as written; seconded by Selectman Patten and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Patten moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 24, 2020 as written; seconded by Selectman Pike and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Save Our Gale School Request for Tax Exemption- The Save our Gale School Committee submitted a letter requesting a tax exemption on donated property where the Gale School is to sit in the future. They were unable to file the necessary paperwork on time after the deed of donated land was transferred as it transferred after April 15, 2020. Selectman Pike motioned to deny the request, seconded by Selectman Patten and the motion passed unanimously.
Public Hearing

Chairman Mooney opened the Public Hearing at 10:15 a.m., Selectman Mooney read the following statement: Community Development Block Grants are awarded by the New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority (NHCDFA). Up to $500,000 annually is available on a competitive basis for housing and public facilities, economic development and emergency activities that directly benefit low- and moderate-income persons. Up to $25,000 is available for feasibility study grants.

A public information handout was made available to any attendees with more information on the grant and the Residential Anti-displacement and Relocation Plan.

This is a proposed application to the Community Development Finance Authority for up to $25,000 in Community Development Block Grant feasibility funds. The funds will be used to examine the renovation of the historic Gale School Building into a daycare center that will serve the regional workforce. A majority of the clientele of the daycare center will be of low- and moderate-income so the future implementation of the project will provide a majority of services to low- and moderate-income households. This project conforms with Belmont’s Housing and Community Development Plan’s Goals. Funding request: up to $25,000. Selectman Mooney opened the floor to take public comments, there being no public comments Selectman Mooney closed the Public Hearing at 10:19.

Public Hearing

Chairman Mooney opened the Public Hearing at 10:20 a.m., Selectman Mooney read the following statement: Residential Anti-displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan. Although this project does not involve any displacement or relocation of persons (or businesses), if the Town were to undertake a CDBG project which involved displacement or relocation they would follow this plan. The plan outlines the measures they would take to find comparable, suitable housing for persons (or businesses) displaced or relocated. Selectman Mooney opened the floor to take public comments, there being no public comments Selectman Mooney closed the Public Hearing at 10:21.

Selectmen Pike motioned to adopt the Residential Anti-displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan, seconded by Selectman Patten and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectmen Patten motioned to approve the submittal of the feasibility application and vote to authorize the Chairman to sign and submit the feasibility application, and upon approval of the CDBG feasibility application, authorize the Chairman to execute any documents which may be necessary to effectuate the CDBG contract; seconded by Selectman Pike and the motion passed unanimously.
**Old Business**

Household Hazardous Waste Correspondence- The Town has received correspondence from the HHW coordinators. A few communities have dropped out of hosting the event due to concerns with COVID-19, and the coordinators are currently negotiating revisions to the existing contract so that prices to communities and the dates of collection will not change. It is currently scheduled for July 25th in Belmont and August 1st for surrounding areas. Information will be posted on the Town web page as soon as we can get notice from the committee.

**Other Old Business**

Enforcement Notices- Selectman Patten and Selectman Pike both want to thank Building Inspector Steve Paquin for his efforts in resolving ongoing code enforcement matters.

Casella- Selectman Pike would like to hear feedback from Casella as to when the Transfer Station will be open to Belmont residents on Saturdays again.

Road update- At our last meeting we had tabled discussion on what roads needed shim and overlay to keep them maintained. The Board would like to schedule a work session before their next scheduled meeting to finish discussions, as they feel that the longer we wait the chances are that we can lose our spot for obtaining asphalt.

Ambulance- Fire Chief Mike Newhall updated the Board that the new ambulance that we ordered has been delivered and has been operational since last Wednesday. In six days, the department has put on 2,000 miles responding to calls and transports. The company that we purchased the ambulance from has been very responsive to our needs and have come down on two occasions to fix issues that arose. The old ambulance was used as a trade.

Beach Barrier- Selectman Pike commented that over the weekend there were numerous complaints on Facebook about a boat stopped and anchored at the beach in the swimming area. Selectman Pike asked if it is possible to get the swim barriers back up to deter boats from visiting the beach area. Fire Chief Newhall responded that he would look into it and see what he can do to assist.

Nascar Race- Fire Chief Newhall also commented that the racetrack in Loudon will only be holding a 2-day race in August. They have prohibited overnight camping and limited the number of seats available, therefore we anticipate the traffic to be a smaller than normal.

Sargent Park- Selectman Patten commented that he has received a few inquiries about when the Town will re-open up the parks and basketball courts. At this time, it is an issue with not having enough staff to properly clean the equipment after each use and we are unable to clean and open the bathrooms. Selectman Pike commented that other surrounding cities and Town have re-opened and they do not have staff cleaning. ATA Jipson suggested that we can place signs up that inform those using the facilities that use of equipment is at your own risk. The
Board agreed that was a good idea and would like to move forward with re-opening when we have had signs made and when Building & Grounds can re-open the gates.

The meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

Ruth P. Mooney, Chairman

Jon Pike, Vice-Chairman

Claude B. Patten, Jr., Selectman