Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 20, 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, Assistant Town Administrator Alicia Jipson, DPW Director Craig Clairmont, Fire Chief Mike Newhall, Kevin Sturgeon, and Gary Anderson. Remote on Zoom was Rick Ball.

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Abatements, Manifests, Exemptions & Credits

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

Selectman Patten moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on July 6, 2020 as written; seconded by Selectman Pike and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Pike moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on July 15, 2020 as written; seconded by Selectman Patten and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Discussion with Kevin Sturgeon regarding drainage on Dearborn Street- Kevin Sturgeon addressed concerns with the Board. Kevin stated that Rick Ball and Dari Sassan from the Land Use office went out last week and did a site visit to the bottom of Dearborn Street to see the issues firsthand. There are two catch basins at the bottom of the hill. Due to heavy tree cutting on Dearborn street above, the runoff pattern has now changed. The speed in which the rain falls has changed as there are no trees to catch and slow the rain fall. Our biggest issue is that the drainage freezes in the winter. Over this past winter Dearborn Street run off froze over the road and created an accident. Kevin also noted that the quality of water coming down that hill dumps down into the brook. Selectman Pike asked Rick Ball if we have a plan for the drainage on
Dearborn addressing Kevin’s issues for the past 2 years? DPW Director Craig Clairmont added that we did put a camera up the pipe and there is nothing wrong with the pipe, and that the pipe just needs to be cut off. TA Beaudin suggested that Rick and Craig both look at the pipe and the best way to move forward with addressing issues. Gary Anderson stated that he is here to work with the town on any and all issues. Has been transparent in his plans. Open to working with the town and agrees that the runoff is due to his property. Selectman Pike feels that due to a comment made by Mr. Anderson at a Planning Board Meeting, it sent up a red flag alarming the Planning Board. Gary Anderson responded that all waivers submitted were suggested by the ARC and or Land Use, and what he meant was that he could satisfy all that the ARC was asking for. It was not his intention to come off as asking to bypass all the red tape. TA Beaudin noted that each of the staff that had been out to the site noted that Mr. Sturgeon did create 2 rip rap structures at the entrances of his driveway. Although it was agreed that it was a good idea, we will monitor the situation as having that in place to stop the rain and divert onto public property is not legal and cannot happen. If it happens it will need to be removed. Mr. Sturgeon added that the rip rap will allow the rain to go through and will hold the leaves debris back from going into the drainage.

Solid Waste Collection- Last week TA Beaudin and ATA Jipson met with David Allen and Peter Burnham from Casella to discuss our concerns and taxpayer concerns with the facility closure on Saturdays. The Saturday hours being eliminated was due to the COVID-19 crisis and the facility is not set up to run as a retail facility and not set up to adequately be able to accept cash and credit card payments for drop off items, without direct employee/customer contact. They currently do not have a plan to reopen on Saturdays. They also said that the amount of Belmont residents actually visiting the site on Saturdays is so minimal it is not worth being open for the few that come in. Selectman Pike added that they do accept cash, because he has gone on many occasions and they have taken his cash and not given a receipt. TA Beaudin added that there is nothing in the contract that says they need to be open on any specific day for Belmont residents. They have offered Belmont residents to go to the Concord facility. The facility is open 6 days a week with similar fees. Another suggestion they had that other communities are doing is having a pre-scheduled 1-day pickup of items. Residents would call either Jeanne or Alicia state what items they are requesting to be picked up, drop off a check to us at TH and those items in which they paid for will be schedule to be removed and picked up by Casella. Selectman Pike asked what about the program we did in the past where we paid a sticker fee and went to the Laconia site. TA Beaudin responded that we would still need to pay the scale fee on top of the sticker. Laconia ended that program for us and feels that this will be a better option to try. During discussions we also discussed an option moving forward for a toter program. Casella will be discussing with Laconia and Northfield to try and get them on board as well.

LCHIP Incentive- The Town received a check in the amount of $200.00. Every year Jeanne submits a report on the bandstand and every year we receive a check to go to repairs that are needed on the bandstand. We have a line item in general government repairs that we use for general maintenance. If it requires major repairs, we would go to the Heritage Commission and
use these funds. Selectman Pike motioned to accept the check in the amount of $200; seconded by Selectman Patten and the motion passed unanimously.

Other New Business

Primex- We received a notice that we will be receiving a Premium Holiday distribution in the amount of $15, 167.48. TA Beaudin is looking for direction on how we want to receive the funds. In the past we have taken the check as we did not want to under inflate the budget. If we reduce the budget, and we do not receive the check the following year then we hurt ourselves. The Board agreed to receive a check.

Letter of Resignation- Last week TA Beaudin received a letter of resignation from Steve Paquin the Building Inspector /Code Enforcement officer, informing us that he will be ending his employment with the Town in September. Steve is willing to help us through the process and would consider working as a consult to help if need be. TA Beaudin supplied a draft of the ad to go out for advertising the position.

Old Business

DPW Update on Truck- DPW Director Craig Clairmont has spoken with our salesman at McDevitt, if we put in an order now a build time of end of August/September is anticipated and then we are looking at 90 days out from there. We will most likely have the truck in January. Total price for the truck is around $185,000 to $190,000 and we had originally requested to have them look at a lease to own option.

Work Session- After the work session with the Selectmen, Barret Salta sent a letter addressing a question Ruth had about the heating and cooling units having a dehumidifying component. Barret informed us that they will not unless it is an added expense that we want. Ruth replied No, and that it was more of a question and that with the 10% outside air exchange it should be fine. We also received a quote of $7-$8 a sq. ft on the epoxy floor, the LVT was $7,000, we are best to stick with the carpet tiles as it will be easy to change when dirty and will help lessen the noise.

Phones at the Mill- PHD will be coming tomorrow to talk about what is needed for Donna’s office over at the Mill and on the 4th floor. TA Beaudin has been trying for a long time to reach Atlantic Broadband to get quotes on service over at the Mill but has had no luck with calls or emails being returned.

Non-Public

Chairman Mooney moved to enter non-public session in accordance with RSA 91: A:3 II (a), (b) and (c) at 11:00 a.m. Those present and voting were Ruth Mooney, Claude Patten and Jon Pike. Also present was TA Beaudin and ATA Jipson. The non-public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.
TA Beaudin will notify Parks and Recreation Director Breton of their recommendation regarding the status of the department’s future operations and available hours moving forward under the current pandemic environment.

TA Beaudin will place the notice of the vacancy in the Building Inspector’s position and inquire of Steve his willingness to provide future consulting time.

The non-public session concluded at 11:50 a.m.

Ruth P. Mooney, Chairman

Jon Bke, Vice-Chairman

Claude B. Patten, Jr., Selectman