Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 3, 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 and Police Chief Mark Lewandowski.

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 July 20, 2020 as written; seconded by Selectman Pike and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Travel & Quarantine Policy- TA Beaudin has drafted a policy to address some issues that have arisen regarding travel outside of the New England states, this policy will cover all employees. The policy has been reviewed by the Union and Council. The policy will be revisited in the event DHHS or the CDC changes their guidelines. Employees who do travel outside the area will need to quarantine the 14 days or obtain a test and wait for the results at home. Employees are currently covered under the Cares Act. A draft of the policy has been distributed to staff to review. Selectman Mooney added that she has no issues with the policy. Police Chief Lewandowski asked what about children of employees living out of state coming to NH to visit their parents who are employees. What about cold n flu season with young children displaying flu symptoms? Selectman Pike motioned to adopt the Travel and Quarantine Policy; seconded by Selectman Patten and the motion passed unanimously. TA Beaudin to update the Board if any policy changes arise.
Engineering RFP’s- The Town received three responses back. TA Beaudin supplied the Board with a summary of the three proposals from Underwood Engineering, DuBois and King and HEB. All three firms have worked with the Town in the past. Selectman Pike asked DPW Craig Clairmont if we really need an engineered road? Craig replied that yes, we do, there is extensive work to be done and when looking at the two projects, he thinks this is a bargain. Plummer Hill is a mess and needs a lot of work. These firms are designed to do and know how to take care of all the special needs. Craig recommends that we stick with Underwood Engineering based on his experience with working with them in the past. Selectman Mooney is not sold on Underwood Engineering due to pricing. Selectman Mooney would like to digest the information more and table the decision. Selectman Pike motioned to table the decision and discussion till next meeting, seconded by Selectman Patten and the motion passed unanimously.

Conservation Commission Appointment- The Town has received a letter of resignation from Laurel Day. We have one individual who put their name forward, Mr. Ed Stephenson of 26 Nancy Drive. Selectman Pike motioned to appoint Ed Stephenson as a member to the Conservation Commission; seconded by Selectman Patten and the motion passed unanimously.

Water Main Break- DPW Director Clairmont and TA Beaudin were incredibly pleased with the quality of the work on the water line repair in the Church Street area. The cost was very reasonable at $2,900 we got an exceptional value. This is the 3rd break in that general area in the past 8 or 9 years. Which had made us question that at some point in time we need to look at replacing that line. Craig recommends that we get some help designing a gate replacement program. The issue is not fixing the problem it is controlling the water when there is a break. We need to make up some type of plan to look at the gate valves to control the water. Selectman Mooney asked if we have a good set of plans to show where the lines and gates are? Craig recommends that we survey the gates and choose 3 or 4 to exercise and see if they need replacing and fix as we go. We can look at grants for funding options, the State has the Asset Management Program which we used previously to review the sewer.

Election Workers- TA Beaudin noted that here has been some discussion recently with the upcoming risk to those working the election polls. We have been notified that the State will provide all the PPE. We submitted a collection site information form last week and we will be picking up all our supplies in mid-August and have been advised they will be providing enough PPE for both elections. The Supervisors of the Checklist have requested that we increase the wages for the poll workers this year. It is TA Beaudin’s recommendation that we increase the hourly rate for the poll workers and supervisors. Currently the Supervisors are receiving $12.00 per hour; the proposed adjustment would increase their hourly rate by $18.00 to the proposed $30.00 per hour. Ballot clerks are currently paid $10.00 per hour, so the proposed adjustment would increase their hourly rate by $20.00 to the proposed $30.00. I also recommend that we add $15.00 per hour hazard pay stipend to each of the elected officials; moderator, Town Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Clerk for each hour they spend at the polls. Selectman Pike motioned to accept the poll rate increase proposal; seconded by Selectman Patten and the motion passed unanimously.
Old Business

Dearborn Drainage- TA Beaudin, DPW Director Craig Clairmont and Land Use tech Richard Ball met with Underwood Engineering in regard to the drainage issues on Dearborn street. We are looking at the issues and responding accordingly. One of the things that we asked was to confirm the pipe size.

Curbside Bulky Waste Collection- We have had a significant amount of discussion with Casella about the lack of collection available to Belmont residents at their facility. They have come forward with a proposal of curbside pickup on the 1st Wednesday of the month. Residents will contact Alicia or Jeanne letting us know of the items they wish to be collected. They will then come to Town Hall and pay the associated fee and we will then let Casella know what items are to be picked up and that it has been paid. TA Beaudin recommends that we try it out and see how it goes. Implementation date of September 1st.

Parks & Rec- At our last meeting we had a discussion on the Parks n Rec program. TA Beaudin has reached out to the director, and she has agreed to come back starting September 1st for 10 hours a week and will take on more of an oversight roll on certain programs that due to current conditions now are ever changing.

Other Old Business

Letter to Governor- The Town had sent a letter in regard to the ongoing issues on Route 106. It is slated to begin in 2025. Selectman Mooney asked if we could resend a friendly reminder that each month where it goes unaddressed only adds to the deterioration of the intersection. DPW Director Craig Clairmont has spoken with District 3’s Bill Rollins, also adding the DPW can assist if need be. District 3 will go and take a look at it and see what they can do.

Non-Public

Chairman Mooney moved to enter non-public session in accordance with RSA 91: A:3 II (b) at 11:02 a.m. Those present and voting were Ruth Mooney, Claude Patten, and Jon Pike. Also present was TA Beaudin, ATA Jipson, and DPW Director Craig Clairmont. Discussion was had about the new employee hires in the Water and Sewer Department and Building and Grounds. Alicia and Craig left the meeting after.

Chairman Mooney opened the non-meeting with legal counsel at 11:30 a.m.
The non-meeting concluded at 12:20 p.m.

The Board will hold a non-meeting with counsel on Wednesday, August 5th beginning at 9 a.m.
Ruth P. Mooney, Chairman

Jon Pike, Vice-Chairman

Claude B. Patten, Jr., Selectman