Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 17, 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, Police Chief Mark Lewandowski, Fire Chief Mike Newhall and Tim Bartlett.

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 August 3, 2020 as written; seconded by Selectman Pike and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Pike moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on August 5, 2020 as written; seconded by Selectman Patten and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Acceptance of CARES Act Funding for Election- The State of NH sent a letter advising the TC/TC office that there was an opportunity to participate in a grant program for election related expenses based on the number of 2016 total votes cast. Cynthia is keeping track of the time it takes to process the absentee ballots and then we will submit the expenses and receive the grant funds to help offset those expenses. Reimbursements will be made in September and November. Selectman Pike motioned to accept in accordance with RSA 21-P:43 a sub-grant from the State of New Hampshire Secretary of State and the CARES Act in the amount of $15,050.72 to be used for the purpose of processing absentee ballots in excess of those cast in 2016 in the Town of Belmont and further to designate Town Clerk Cynthia DeRoy or Deputy
Town Clerk Jennifer Cashman as authorized agents to sign the reimbursement request form on behalf of the Town; seconded by Selectman Patten and the motion passed unanimously.

Conservation Commission Appointment- The Town has received a letter of interest from Terry Threlfall of 115 Gardner’s grove Road Commission to change from an alternate member to a full member due to a current vacancy. Selectman Pike motioned to appoint Terry Threlfall as a full member to the Conservation Commission; seconded by Selectman Patten and the motion passed unanimously.

Main Street and Route 140- Mr. Bush on Gail Street phoned the NH DOT requesting they consider putting a stop sign in at Main Street and 140. His reason being that northbound traffic on NH 106 heading toward Tilton cut through Concord Street and Main Street to avoid the traffic signals at NH 140. He says that this traffic then backs up NH 140 in the afternoon. It is the Town wish to hold steady with the current plan that is in place with the State and their 10-year plan. We agree that it needs to be addressed but we also want to maintain our status on the 10-year plan.

Other New Business

Highway Block Grants- TA Beaudin received a letter from the State indicating we will receive the grant funds in the amount of $191,686, which is down about $8,000 from last year.

State Retirement rates- TA Beaudin received notice that the retirement rates will be increasing. Police Department will go from 30% to 33.88%, Fire Department will go from 28% to 32.99%, and all other employees will go from 11.27% to 14.06%.

Taxes- TA Beaudin has received numerous emails and letters from Joseph Haas. He writes a lot of articles and letters on taxes. He has contacted numerous Towns throughout the State, today TA Beaudin is publicly acknowledging that we have received correspondence from Mr. Haas.

SAU 80- The School Board is seeking community members to serve on their Advisory Budget Committee. Alicia will put it in the September Newsletter.

Other Old Business

Johnson Street- Selectman Pike inquired about the ditch on Johnson Street. DPW Director Craig Clairmont replied that the department has put up some silk sock and other than that we do not know what else they have done with it.

Speeding Issues- Selectman Mooney commented about the increase of speeding on the Town roads and the total disregard for the speed limits and is wondering what can be done about it. Police Chief Lewandowski responded that this is not an issue isolated just to Belmont, and that
this is a common occurrence around the country. Chief asked that residents must call the PD if they want them to look into the matters and they cannot just post on social media and expect them to look into it. Selectman Mooney inquired about having guys do more road patrol. Chief said that is an option but with the department down an officer it is difficult at this time.

Engineering RFP- TA Beaudin is seeking the Board’s decision on the bids that were submitted for road engineering projects. Selectman Mooney is still having reservations related to the cost as well as all the unknowns with Solar Village and what is beneath the road. She feels that we do a section at a time, just in case we run into larger issues. The Engineering RFP was tabled again until further discussion can be had.

Mile Hill- Tim Bartlett of 163 Mile Hill Road spoke to the Board voicing his concern with the Town’s decision not to continue with the shim and overlay past the fairgrounds. Tim asked if there will be money budgeted in the future to continue to the existing pavement? DPW Director Craig Clairmont replied that the decision was based on the fact that he felt that portion of the road did not warrant the repair. Selectman Mooney asked Craig if he could measure and get a price on the cost to continue on with the repair on the section of road Mr. Bartlett is speaking of.

Non-Public

Chairman Mooney moved to enter non-public session in accordance with RSA 91: A:3 II (b) at 11:14 a.m. Those present and voting were Ruth Mooney, Claude Patten, and Jon Pike. Also present was TA Beaudin and ATA Jipson.

Ruth P. Mooney, Chairman

Jon Pike, Vice-Chairman

Claude B. Patten, Jr., Selectman