



Office of Board of Selectmen

143 Main Street, P.O. Box 310, Belmont, New Hampshire 03220-0310
Telephone: (603) 267-8300 Fax: (603) 267-8327

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 21, 2022, 10:00 a.m.
Belmont Mill
Tioga Meeting Room

Present were Chairman Ruth Mooney, Selectman Jon Pike, Selectman Claude Patten, Jr., TA Alicia Jipson, Assessing Admin Colleen Akerman, DPW Director Craig Clairmont, Assistant DPW Director Brian Jackes, Building & Grounds Supervisor Patrick Golden, Police Chief Mark Lewandoski, Assistant Fire Chief Deb Black, CEO Mark Ekberg, General Assistance Director Donna Cilley, Heritage Commission Chair Vicki Donovan, Heritage Commission Secretary Priscilla Annis, Cemetery Trustee Sharon Ciampi, Planning Board Member Kevin Sturgeon, Former TA Jeanne Beaudin, and BPS representatives Barrett Salta and Barry Beauregard. Via Zoom were Finance Director Katherine Davis and Trust Fund Trustee Dave Caron.

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Selectman Claude Patten moved the minutes of the public meeting held on November 7, 2022 as written; seconded by Selectman Jon Pike and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Hearing – Recycling Partnership Grant \$40,000

Chairman Ruth Mooney opened the public hearing at 10:01 am in accordance with RSA 31:95-b to accept a grant in the amount of \$40,000 from the Recycling Partnership. The grant will be used for community education and outreach as well as an offset for the purchase of new recycling carts.

Selectman Pike asked if residents will be able to purchase extra trash carts. TA Alicia Jipson said we are waiting for confirmation from Casella about that because there has been conflicting information. The Town won't be happy if there is garbage around yards. Selectman Pike said an answer is needed before this goes into effect. TA Jipson stated there will be comprehensive education packets delivered directly to each residence with instructions on how to recycle, what can be recycled and the recycling schedule. There will be hiccups. Some residents don't want to recycle. Franklin has stopped recycling and the city had to purchase extra trash carts. There is a lot of education going out about our new program. Vicki Donovan asked if the extra blue recycling bins can be used if residents have additional recycling. Unfortunately, the new automated system requires special carts be used. TA Jipson noted the standard carts are 95-gallons but there are smaller ones available for those who are unable to

manage a large cart. Former TA Jeanne Beaudin recalled that she was not made aware of any restrictions on the number of trash/carts as the Town pays by the ton to dispose of all trash. Selectman Pike reiterated the need for education. Trash is expensive to dispose of.

The public hearing was closed at 10:15am.

Selectman Pike moved to accept a grant in the amount of \$40,000 from the Recycling Partnership in accordance with RSA 31:95-b. The grant will be used for community education and outreach as well as an offset for the purchase of new recycling carts. The motion was seconded by Selectman Patten and passed unanimously.

New Business

Heritage Community Awards

Heritage Commission Chairman Vicki Donovan presented the 2022 Heritage Community Awards with Heritage Commission Secretary Priscilla Annis.

“Victoria Ribeiro is receiving the Youth Leadership Award but is unable to be here this morning as she is away attending classes at Southern New Hampshire University. I would still like to share a little bit about Victoria. The Heritage Commission’s goal was to have a Student Representative attend and participate in monthly meetings. For two years Victoria held this position for the Commission. Victoria was a huge help with the Senior Citizens Soup Bags project created last winter. She also eagerly worked on projects to prepare for Old Home Day. Victoria’s involvement with the Heritage Commission proved to be insightful for its members as well. She brought an exciting energy and a younger perspective in discussions about the Town’s history and heritage. I will be meeting with her later this week to present the Youth Leadership award to her and will send along all of our congratulations.

The next award has the word exceptional in it and it fits this person to a tee. The Exceptional Commitment to Community Award was overwhelmingly chosen to be given to Jeanne Beaudin. As most of you here know, Jeanne retired last Spring from the Town Administrator’s role in Belmont after a long tenure. Jeanne’s professionalism and eagerness provided a great teamwork environment. Her assistance to the Heritage Commission especially was invaluable. She consistently went above and beyond to assist its new members and especially to help me in my role as a new chairperson. Jeanne’s many years as the Town Administrator was always held in high regard. She provided experience beyond compare and was proven time and time again to be immeasurable to the Town of Belmont. The Heritage Commission was greatly enhanced by her guidance and counted on Jeanne’s support, confidence, and expertise. Her knowledge and persistence to help them in every way possible could not be overlooked. This award is given to Jeanne Beaudin with a grateful thank you attached. Her exceptional commitment to the community will be felt for many years to come for all that she accomplished and gave to the Town of Belmont.

Wende Richter from Smith's Apple Orchard is also receiving an award for giving to the Town community and to its heritage. Many Belmont townspeople visit yearly to Smith's Orchard and needless to say Smith Orchard has an astounding following of patrons every year both near and far. Smith's Orchard has been a mainstay for many, many years and the Preservation and Agricultural Traditions Award easily fits the orchard's long-standing role in what it has given to the Town. The words tradition and preservation in the award give credit to Wende Richter and her family for their dedication to continuing the deep heritage and history of farming and the harvesting of various types of apples in Belmont. Smith Orchard has been owned and operated by Rob and Wende Richter since December of 1985. The Richters bought the farm from Charlie Smith who planted 80 trees in 1929. Wende and her son Chad continued the operations of the farm after Rob's passing in 2018. The orchard has also been recognized as a Farm of Distinction by the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food. The Heritage Commission was honored to acknowledge Smith Orchard for their contributions to the Town. The Town of Belmont truly appreciates the Richter family for their true gift of giving to their community and creating happy traditions to many families."

CEO Mark Ekberg entered the meeting at 10:20 am.

From Old Business - Penstock Update

Heritage Chair Vicki Donovan reported that prior to the pandemic, former Land Use Technician Rick Ball asked them to look into issues with the Penstock falling into the river. The Preservation Alliance gave the Heritage Commission a structural engineer at no cost, however, the repair estimate is far too expensive for the Commission to undertake. They would like to address and provide financing to correct the safety concerns. At a previous Selectboard meeting it was agreed that the safety issues need to be addressed. The Board asked DPW Director Craig Clairmont to look at things and come up with a plan.

General Assistance Director Donna Cilley entered the meeting at 10:24am.

POW Flag Donation

TA Jipson was approached by a visitor to Town Hall about a POW flag to place next to the chair in the hallway at Town Hall. She is a member of the New Hampshire chapter of Rolling Thunder and offered to donate the flag if the Town would get a pole and stand for it. It is about \$60-\$90 for the set. The Board agreed to accept the donation and get the pole and stand.

Snow Ordinance Change

DPW Director Clairmont explained the last update to the ordinance was in 2017. He is recommending a wording change be made to clarify that snow cannot be plowed across the traveling portion of any road in Belmont. Salt is expensive. Homeowners and contractors should not be pushing snow across any roads. The Board agreed to hold a public hearing about making the proposed change to the ordinance. Police Chief Mark Lewandoski said they send out warning letters about this issue and generally have good compliance. It is dangerous.

Other New Business None

Old Business

Cemetery Trustees Update:

Trustee of the Trust Funds Dave Caron was available to help answer questions about how perpetual care funds can be used for cemeteries. TA Jipson spoke with Town Counsel about how the warrant article for the Capital Reserve Fund was created and if the funds can be used for attorney fees. It clearly states that it can only be used for cemetery maintenance. Trustee Dave Caron said the Attorney General's website is clear that unless directed by a judge, funds can only be used for the maintenance of individual lots. Cemetery Trustee Ciampi explained they requested \$5,000 additional for their general budget because they can't use the Capital Reserve Fund for attorney fees. The issue is that the perpetual funds either need to be returned for those who aren't buried in the cemetery, or permission needs to be obtained to use the funds for other plots. That will require petitioning the court. There was discussion about recommendations from Town Counsel, the Attorney General's office and the Department of Justice. The Board instructed the Cemetery Trustees to go back to the new Attorney General and get a recommendation documented in writing with a copy to TA Jipson. Chairman Ruth Mooney said there may still be time to adjust the budget before the numbers are finalized.

Selectman Patten asked about the status of the Lawrence Fencing deposit/work. The company has been unresponsive to letters and calls. It was suggested they file with small claims court. Trustee Ciampi said it was also suggested that Town Counsel send a letter directly, which may have better results. Chairman Mooney noted that phone calls and letters with Town Counsel could be expensive. The Trustees will decide how to proceed at their December meeting.

Solid Waste Ordinance Discussion

The ordinance has been reviewed to make modifications for the new automated curbside program. Recycling has not been mandatory, but it will no longer be an option. Chairman Mooney asked how it will be mandatory if someone only uses the trash and not recycling. Casella will see it as a violation, and they will address it. It will not fall on the Town to enforce. Recycling costs less per ton than trash. It is less of a burden on taxpayers. There was discussion about leaving the ordinance as is, however there is a contract with Casella and it is no longer option. Former TA Beaudin mentioned recycling is part of the grant that was just accepted. Town Counsel and Casella still need to complete a final review of the proposed ordinance. TA Jipson stated the grant helps push education about recycling with mandated press releases, newsletters, postcards, etc. The Board agreed to hold a public hearing on the ordinance change.

Water & Sewer Service Extension for Mountain Lake Village Agreement Update

Selectman Pike explained this property is near the bypass and Mile Hill Road. Mr. Brouillard wants to develop some large house lots and the Belmont Planning Board has already

approved the subdivision pending an agreement for water and sewer with Laconia. TA Jipson said Town Counsel and former TA Beaudin have reviewed the agreement. Chairman Mooney may need to sign the document. TA Jipson said the language refers to "exhibit 3" however it is blank. It says the City of Laconia has the capacity to meet the needs, it will create no adverse effect on the existing water supply system or their current customers, and it will be in the best interests of the potential customers in the area. Chairman Mooney asked if the City is turning the lines over or if they have full responsibility. Selectman Pike said Laconia will not turn the lines over to the Town of Belmont. Former TA Beaudin explained the Town will only be responsible for the hydrant fees for the Belmont side of the subdivision, which will be billed out the developer. It was important that this agreement did not change the agreement the Town and City have in place on Route 3. TA Jipson will get an updated copy of the agreement with the missing exhibit ready for signatures.

Other Old Business

School Resource Officer (SRO)

Superintendent Tursi contacted TA Jipson about the estimate for the SRO. The quote was more than they are able to budget for. It is now proposed to hire two retired part-timers who are unbenefited. This will save on costs for the school because there are no extra benefits. There was discussion about transportation. If the department does not have a vehicle available, officers would need to use their personal vehicle. TA Jipson said they are still in discussions and an MOU is needed.

Mill Building

Mr. Barrett Salta and Mr. Barry Beaugard discussed the Mill proposal. Chairman Mooney asked about the elevator. The building would not be very useful without an elevator and there would be an ADA problem. Mr. Barry Beaugard said they have a quote from Otis for the elevator with an overall cost of \$101,460.00. That includes everything except the shell and shaft. It is a 20-page quote. Other companies are also working on quotes. The current elevator is from 1998. TA Jipson said we can chug along with the current elevator but if it needs to be fixed down the road, parts are many months out so that would be a problem.

Mr. Beaugard did a walk-through with TA Jipson to come up with a list and then had a second meeting to discuss reusing as much as possible to reduce the costs. The costs in the current proposal are for an "all in" package with new finishes and based on the same standards as the Police Department. Chairman Mooney stated to move everyone today, the total cost is \$2,566,114.10. That is the price today, but it doesn't mean it would be the same price next year. Mr. Beaugard stated this is not a bid price. Mr. Salta said this is a starting point and it can be pared down. Mechanically and electrically the building is set up so that it could be phased in floor by floor. Chairman Mooney indicated previous discussions determined there would be difficulty doing that, particularly because of the records. Mr. Salta said the Town would need to figure out how to work out of two buildings if things were phased in. TA Jipson proposed the work could be phased in, but the move could wait until all phases were completed. So many people visit multiple departments on their trips to Town Hall that it would

not be a good idea to separate them. Mr. Salta suggested upgrading the mechanical and electrical before a move and then tackle finishes later, but it is more expensive to upgrade an occupied building. It is more efficient to upgrade an unoccupied building. Chairman Mooney asked if the first floor would be the most expensive and Mr. Beauregard replied that it would be, because that is where the most infrastructure is and where the "heart" of the systems will live.

TC/TC Cynthia DeRoy entered the meeting at 11:15 am.

There was discussion about some of the cost breakdowns. The heating and cooling and the elevator are estimated to cost almost \$1,000,000.00. Mr. Salta observed this proposal is way above code and can be pared down. The system could use 50% fresh air instead of 100% fresh air. There are many different things to look at. Selectman Pike commented there is a lot to digest and he is not prepared to make any decisions. There was more discussion about doing the work in phases and the logistics of different options. The Board can continue to piecemeal the project together, increase the Capital Reserve for municipal facilities, or bond it out. Chairman Mooney maintained that department heads do not think it is feasible to separate departments into two buildings. TA Jipson will look for grants and funding opportunities for ADA for the elevator or heating and cooling. Cemetery Trustee Sharon Ciampi asked if the elevator can be addressed first because it is scary. TA Jipson assured her there is no safety issue with the elevator. It has been inspected recently.

Next Meeting The next regular meeting date will be December 5, 2022, at 10:00am.


Non-Public

Chairman Mooney moved to enter non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (c) at 11:25 am. Selectman Pike seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Roll call was taken and those present, and voting were Jon Pike, Ruth Mooney and Claude Patten, Jr. Also present were TA Alicia Jipson and TC/TC DeRoy and Mr. Walker, Mark Ekberg. TC/TC Cynthia Deroy discussed a matter of allowing for an abatement of interest in the amount of \$6,300 in order for the owner to come current with back taxes. The BOS approved the TC/TC issuing an abatement that will come under separate cover for approval. TC/TC Deroy left mtg. Mr. Walker was in front of the BOS asking for an extension on issuing his Junkyard Approval. Selectmen Pike asked that Mr. Walker come with a plan to the next BOS mtg on December 5th. The plan will outline his game plan on getting the yard cleaned up and how he is going to come into compliance. The Board returned to public session at 12:00 pm.

CEO/BI Mark Ekberg asked if the Board would consider rescinding the property line adjustment offer that was given to 22 Mill Street as they have failed to complete the survey and put up a fence.

Selectman Mooney motioned to rescind the property line adjustment for 22 Mill Street; seconded by Selectmen Pike and the motion passed unanimously.

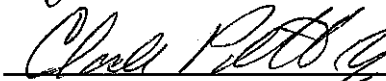
The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.



Ruth P. Mooney, Chairman



Jon Pike, Vice Chairman



Claude B. Patten, Jr., Selectman