



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
Wednesday, January 3, 2024, 10:00 am
Belmont Mill, Corner Meeting House Room

Present were Chairman Ruth Mooney, Selectman Jon Pike, Selectman Claude "Sonny" Patten, Jr., Selectman Travis O'Hara, Selectman Sharon Ciampi, TA Alicia Jipson, Assessing Admin Colleen Akerman, Town Planner Karen Santoro, DPW Director Craig Clairmont, Fire Chief Deb Black, and Building & Grounds Supervisor Patrick Golden.

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review & Approve Minutes – 12/20/2023:

Selectman Jon Pike moved the minutes of the meeting held on December 20, 2023 as written; seconded by Selectman Sonny Patten. Motion passed unopposed (5-0).

New Business:

Meals & Room Tax Distribution \$697,681.18:

TA Alicia Jipson updated the Board on our state distribution for 2023 of \$697,681.18, which increased about \$50,000 from last year. This is included as revenue in the budget.

Draft 2024 Default Budget, Draft MS 737 and Warrant Article Review and Approval:

NHDRA is currently reviewing our warrant articles and people have until January 9th for petition warrant articles. The 2024 Default Budget and Draft MS 737 were reviewed at last night's Budget Committee Meeting. The first public hearing will be on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 6:30pm at the Belmont Mill. If there are no changes, a second hearing schedule for Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 6:30pm will be unnecessary. Legal is reviewing the warrant articles and the zoning and union articles have already been reviewed for proper wording.

Selectman Pike moved to accept the 2024 default budget and draft MS 737 as presented; seconded by Selectman Travis O'Hara. Motion passed (5-0).

Selectman Sharon Ciampi stepped down from the Board.

Cemetery Trustee Ciampi requested that the Board put forward a warrant article to increase the Cemetery Trustees from 3 full members to 5 full members. She would like to have the Board put it forward instead of it being a petition article. Chairman Mooney thought it would be hard to get new members but Trustee Ciampi said she has people interested in filling the positions. There is a lot of work to be done and she thinks more members would be a benefit. Chairman Mooney stated volunteers do not have to be full voting members of the

Cemetery Trustees. There was discussion about the appointment of the two alternate positions for one year. Trustee Ciampi explained the appointments were only for one year because there was the hope of increasing the Trustees to 5 full members. If a warrant article does not pass to increase the membership, research will be completed to determine the correct staggered terms for reappointment of the alternates moving forward. Selectman Pike and Selectman Patten were not in favor of supporting this, however Selectman O'Hara was in support. Chairman Mooney said if the Trustees would like to increase to 5 full members, they should submit their petition.

Selectman Ciampi returned to the Board.

Other New Business: None

Old Business:

3 Higgins Drive Response from State of NH:

The Board previously mailed a letter to the State requesting that they sell the property at 3 Higgins Drive. The State has responded that they are going to keep the building and it is used for full-time employees and boat storage. Chairman Mooney requested that another letter be sent asking that the State please clean up the property because it is an eyesore compared to other properties in the area. Fire Chief Deb Black confirmed that the building is used for storage of different types of equipment.

Other Old Business:

Mill Update:

Building & Grounds Supervisor Patrick Golden reported on the status of the elevator. Due to the holidays, and parts that needed to be ordered, February 1, 2024 is now the target date to have the final inspection by the State.

Warrant Articles:

January 9, 2024 is the last day to submit petition warrant articles.

Candidacy:

The filing period for elected positions is January 24, 2024 to February 2, 2024. The office is open for filings only until 5 pm on February 2, 2024.

Public Comment: None

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 10:00 am.

Non-Public:

Chairman Mooney moved to enter non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (b) at 10:20 am; seconded by Selectman O'Hara. Roll Call 1: J. Pike – aye, S. Patten – aye, T. O'Hara – aye, S. Ciampi – aye, R. Mooney – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

Those present and voting were Chairman Ruth Mooney and Selectmen Jon Pike, Claude Patten, Jr., Travis O'Hara, and Sharon Ciampi. Also present were TA Alicia Jipson and Assessing Admin Colleen Akerman and Fire Chief Deb Black.

The Board discussed the recent interviews for the Assistant Fire Chief position. Fire Chief Black requested approval to make an offer to one of the candidates.

Selectman Pike moved to accept the proposal to hire one of the Assistant Fire Chief candidates as presented by Chief Black, with a one-year probationary term; seconded by Selectman O'Hara. Roll Call 2: S. Ciampi – aye, T. O'Hara – aye, S. Patten – aye, J. Pike – aye, R. Mooney – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

The Board requested an update in 3-6 months and at that time they may choose to reduce the probationary term.

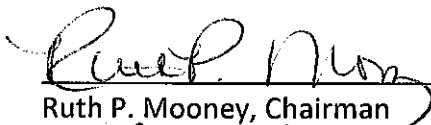
Chief Black left the meeting.

TA Jipson informed the Board of an employment issue and her intended course of action. The Board did not make any decisions with regards to this employment issue.

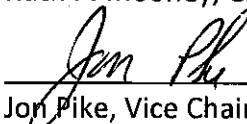
Chairman Mooney moved to exit Non-Public session at 11:00 am; seconded by Selectman O'Hara. Roll Call 3: S. Patten – aye, S. Ciampi – aye, J. Pike – aye, T. O'Hara – aye, R. Mooney – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

Adjournment:


Chairman Mooney moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 am; seconded by Selectman O'Hara. Roll Call 4: T. O'Hara – aye, J. Pike – aye, S. Ciampi – aye, S. Patten – aye, R. Mooney – aye. Motion passed (5-0).



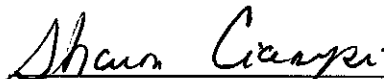
Ruth P. Mooney, Chairman



Jon Pike, Vice Chairman



Claude B. Patten, Jr., Selectman

Travis O'Hara, Selectman


Sharon Ciampi, Selectman