



# 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 17, 2024, 10:00 am  
Belmont Mill, Corner Meeting House Room

Present were Chairman Ruth Mooney, Selectman Jon Pike, Selectman Claude "Sonny" Patten, Jr., Selectman Sharon Ciampi, TA Alicia Jipson, Assessing Admin Colleen Akerman, Police Captain Stephen Akerstrom, Town Planner Karen Santoro, DPW Director Craig Clairmont, Building & Grounds Supervisor Patrick Golden, Parks & Rec Director Danielle St. Onge and General Assistance Director Donna Cilley. Via Zoom were Land Use Clerk Jenn Thomas and Library Director Eileen Gilbert.

Absent: Selectman Travis O'Hara.

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Review & Approve Minutes – 01/03/2024:

Selectman Sonny Patten moved the minutes of the meeting held on January 3, 2024 as written; seconded by Selectman Jon Pike. Motion passed unopposed (4-0).

### New Business:

#### **BPS Quote for Mill Sprinkler Replacement:**

Building & Grounds Supervisor Patrick Golden reported the sprinkler heads are supposed to be changed every 15 years and we are at year 27. There are two options for replacement through Bonnette, Page & Stone: 1st floor only for \$5,141.00, or all three floors for an additional \$14,762.00. B&G Supervisor Golden recommended waiting to complete the 2nd and 3rd floors because of the changes that will need to be made during renovations. The 1<sup>st</sup> floor heads are showing corrosion, but not the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors. He tried to get a price from the company who completes the inspections but they were unresponsive. BPS's company replaced the sprinkler heads on the 4th floor that were painted over during that renovation, which was done at no cost to the Town.

Selectman Pike asked what this does to our insurance liability. The Board discussed the liability concerns and what would happen if there were any incidents. GA Director Donna Cilley asked if the sprinklers are in the right place or if they will need to be moved/lowered once renovations start. We won't know until the plans are finalized, and we don't know how long that will be. The quote is only to replace existing sprinkler heads.

*Selectman Pike moved to proceed with the quoted work as presented for the total package of \$19,903.00 to update the Mill sprinkler system for all three floors; seconded by Selectman Patten. Motion passed unopposed (4-0).*

**Fire Department New Hire – Don Pickowicz:**

TA Alicia Jipson announced that Don Pickowicz has been hired as Belmont’s Assistant Fire Chief starting on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Ruth Mooney said this only leaves one opening at the department for a grant position.

**Annual Report Dedication Recommendations:**

TA Jipson discussed the annual report dedication. There were some ideas for former Town Planner Don McLelland or Diane Marden. Other suggestions were Earl Sweeney, Norma Patten, Bob Stevens and Cynthia DeRoy. TA Jipson asked BOS members to please email their choices to her so that the dedication can remain a surprise.

**2024 Budget/Warrant Update:**

There were no petition warrant articles this year. The warrant is still in the final stages with NHDRA and should be ready for signatures next week. It will need to be posted by January 29<sup>th</sup>. The Budget Committee held their public hearing last week and everything went very smooth. Chairman Mooney noted that we have some people running for Budget Committee next year but there are still some openings. Candidates can file starting January 24<sup>th</sup> through February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Open positions will be posted in the paper on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The Primary will be held on Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>. TA Jipson will verify with TC/TC Jennifer Cashman if all 5 selectmen must be present all day at the Primary.

**Other New Business:**

**PD New Hire:**

Police Captain Stephen Akerstrom reported on a new hire, Travon Durham, starting January 29<sup>th</sup>. This is not the grant position. There was fine print in the grant that all open positions must be filled before the grant positions. There is another candidate in the early stages of a background check, leaving one more position open.

**DPW New Hire:**

DPW Director Craig Clairmont introduced the department’s new full-time seasonal hire, Noel Lopez. The department is now fully staffed. Mr. Lopez commented on the good work atmosphere and said he’d like to come back again next winter. Chairman Mooney said she stopped by the Town Garage last week and it was very neat and clean.

**Old Business:**

**Abandoned Cemetery Public Notice 1/13/2024 for Public Hearing 03/20/2024:**

Board members received a copy of the notice posted in the newspaper. It was printed in the Laconia Daily Sun and the Winnisquam Echo. The Concord Monitor was too expensive. No one has reached out yet, although Selectman Sharon Ciampi did have a call from someone.

**Comcast:**

DPW Director Clairmont asked if there was a time limit when the work would be done in Belmont. Chairman Mooney said no, there was just a franchise agreement. TA Jipson will reach out to see if there is an estimated completion date.

**Other Old Business:**

**Elevator:**

B&G Supervisor Golden said the work should be finished today, and then the state inspector will have to come for the final inspection. After moving things, we may be ready for February 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Mill Lights:**

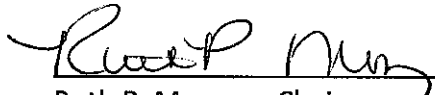
There was a resident request to light the dome on the Mill building. Building & Grounds inspected the dome and found two LED units and a timer had succumbed to the weather. They will get a quote for replacement and then the Board can make a decision.

**Public Comment:** None


**Next Meeting Date:** Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 10:00 am.

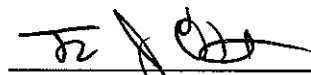
**Adjournment:**

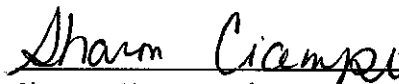
*Selectman Pike moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:28 am; seconded by Selectman Patten. Motion passed unopposed (4-0).*

  
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Ruth P. Mooney, Chairman

  
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Jon Pike, Vice Chairman

  
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Claude B. Patten, Jr., Selectman

  
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Travis O'Hara, Selectman

  
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Sharon Ciampi, Selectman