



Office of Board of Selectmen

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Selectmen's Work Session

Monday, February 1, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

Virtual Zoom Format

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, Laura Owen with Healthy ID, Cynthia Harrington with the State of NH, Jeffrey Allard with Healthy ID, Bridget Beckwith with the State of NH, and Michael Tursi SAU 80.

Chairman Mooney opened with the following statement: We are utilizing the Zoom platform for this electronic meeting. All members of the Board have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through the Zoom platform and the public has access to listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone # 1-929-205-6099, meeting ID 879 2164 3263, password 294459 or by going to the Town's website at www.belmontnh.org. Notice of today's public hearing was publicized in The Daily Sun, noticed on the Town's website, and posted at Town Hall and the Post Office, notice included instructions for accessing the meeting remotely.

Selectman Patten moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 19, 2021 as written; seconded by Selectman Pike and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Pike moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 27, 2021 as written; seconded by Selectman Patten and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Creation of a 2nd ERZ Zone- TA Beaudin discussed that in late fall there had been some discussion and interest in creating a second ERZ Zone.. The purpose for creating that zone is that properties within that zone that are currently under used or not used at all can apply for tax credits with the State of NH for projects that improve infrastructure and creates jobs. The area identified for consideration will be a portion of Laconia Road near Fruite Street and Eastgate Park Road north of Lamprey Road. Selectman Pike motioned to accept the 2nd ERZ and allow TA Beaudin to sign all necessary documents; seconded by Selectman Patten, and the motion passed unanimously.

Atlantic Broadband Cable TV Renewal- TA Beaudin received a letter from Atlantic Broadband notifying us of their intent to renew our cable tv franchise. Our current cable TV contract expires in December 2023. They have asked that we start discussion on renewing our franchise agreement. TA Beaudin had reached out to Scott Dunn, the TA for Gilford. In the past he had been the chair of the last series of discussions relative to the existing franchise agreement. Purpose of today's discussion was to advise the Board of the upcoming renewal discussion and consideration process. During the next renewal we are looking at potentially adding language into the contract that allows another cable company the option to be a carrier in the area. There is potential that Comcast is looking to come into the market. They have recently gone into Laconia and we may see them coming into the area in the near future. Chairman Mooney feels that it is important that some language be put into the contract about allowing competition from other incoming providers.

Old Business

Deliberative Session recap- we had about 33 people in attendance and 7 people watching on Zoom. Unfortunately, we had some sound issues for those listening on Zoom. We are unsure of the what the issues were. We did send the recorded video over to LRPA for review and to see if they can fix any of the sound issues. TA Beaudin would like to thank all of those involved in setting up the gym. All involved did a great job setting it up to meet the needs of social distancing. We had one amendment to article #27 that will be added to the ballot.

Town Hall re-opening- Discussion was had in regard to re-opening up TH. We are seeing the number of Covid-19 cases declining. The Vaccine distribution has begun. Cynthia does not want too re-open and then have to close again. That is what seems to agitate people more. It certainly is not easy on staff being closed. Cynthia suggested putting out a news article letting taxpayers know as to why our decision to stay closed until further notice is, so that hopefully they get a better understanding of our reasons. For the time being TH will remain closed until further notice. We meet again on February 22, and that will be a good time to revisit this topic.

Public Hearing

Chairman Mooney opened the public hearing at 10:30 a.m. She noted that the Public Hearing was being held in accordance with RSA 31:95-b and Emergency Orders 12 and 23 on Monday, February 1, 2021 beginning at 10:30 a.m. to accept the terms of an Emergency Management Performance Grant in the amount of \$123,180 to be used to purchase and install equipment and a generator in the Town's new EOC as part of the Police Department Project. TA Beaudin added that as you know we have been waiting and anticipating this grant for a long time. This is a EMPG grant. Today we are accepting the terms of the grant. We will then submit it to the State of NH by February 17th, in which they will then issue the final grant letter. Grant funds will cover the generator, access into the building and the fire alarm system.

Selectman Mooney opened it up for public comment, there being none; Selectman Patten moved that the Select Board, by a majority vote, accept the terms of the Emergency Management Performance Grant as presented in the amount of \$123,180.00 to purchase and install equipment and a generator in the community's new Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Furthermore, the Board acknowledges that the total cost of the project will be \$246,360.00, in which the town will be responsible for a 50% match (123,180.00); seconded by Selectman Pike, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Mooney closed the Public Hearing at 10:44 am.

Revenue shortfall at the school- Superintendent Michael Tursi joined the meeting at 10:30 and was present to discuss revenue shortfalls from the State. We are looking at \$1.6 million in a loss of state revenue. We have seen a significant decline in enrollment, about 80 students, which has an impact of about \$130,000. We also saw a significant decrease in the free and reduced lunch. We received a state waiver to offer free and reduced lunch to those during the pandemic. We have 100 fewer reduced families that applied, totaling in a loss of about \$276,000 in state revenue. Additional support is needed for new students coming into the district. M. Tursi made negotiations with the bus company to reduce the size of buses used and the number of buses used, reducing the contract cost this upcoming year.

Non-Public

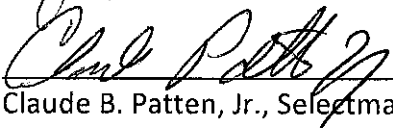
Chairman Mooney moved to enter non-public session in accordance with RSA 91: A:3 II (c) at 11:43 a.m. Those present and voting were Ruth Mooney, Claude Patten, and Jon Pike. Also present were TA Beaudin and Asst. TA Jipson.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Ruth P. Mooney, Chairman



Jon Pike, Vice-Chairman



Claude B. Patten, Jr., Selectman