

# 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, May 15, 2023, 10:00 am  
Belmont Mill, 14 Mill Street  
Tioga Meeting Room**

Present were Chairman Ruth Mooney, Selectman Jon Pike, Selectman Claude (Sonny) Patten, Jr., Selectman Sharon Ciampi, TA Alicia Jipson, Assessing Admin Colleen Akerman, DPW Director Craig Clairmont, Building & Grounds Supervisor Patrick Golden, Parks & Recreation Director Danielle St. Onge, Police Chief Mark Lewandoski, Lieutenant Evan Boulanger, Patrol Sergeant Christopher Rideout, Captain Stephen Akerstrom, General Assistance Director Donna Cilley, Acting Fire Chief Deb Black, Librarian Eileen Gilbert, Library Trustee Shela Cunningham, Hilary Ciampi-Horn, and Planning Board Member Kevin Sturgeon. Via ZOOM were Finance Director Katherine Davis and Town Clerk/Tax Collector Assistant Leigh Smith. Also present via ZOOM were Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Kim Haley and Brenda Duggan.

Absent: Selectman Travis O'Hara.

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes – 05/01/2023:**

*Selectman Jon Pike moved the minutes of the meeting held on May 1, 2023, as written; seconded by Selectman Sharon Ciampi, and the motion passed. (4-0)*

**Public Hearing – Libraries Transforming Communities (LTC) Grant:**

Chairman Ruth Mooney opened the public hearing at 10:02 am and announced that this public hearing is held in accordance with RSA 31:95-b to accept a grant in the amount of \$10,000 from the Libraries Transforming Communities (LTC): Accessible Small and Rural Communities Grant. This is an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) that provides community engagement and accessibility resources to small and rural libraries to help them better serve people with disabilities.

Library Director Eileen Gilbert said she is available to answer any questions. TA Jipson provided a portion of the application to the Board that identified the uses such as modifications to the door, mobile shelving, and light fixtures.

The Chairman closed the public hearing at 10:04 am.

*Selectman Sonny Patten moved to accept a grant in the amount of \$10,000 in accordance with RSA 31:95-b from the Libraries Transforming Communities (LTC): Accessible Small and Rural Communities Grant. This is an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) that provides*

community engagement and accessibility resources to small and rural libraries to help them better serve people with disabilities. The motion was seconded by Selectman Pike. Roll Call 1: J. Pike – aye, S. Patten – aye, S. Ciampi – aye, R. Mooney – aye. Motion passed (4-0).

### **New Business**

#### **Heritage Commission Re-Appointments – Jillian Rolfe and Ben Rolfe:**

Selectman Ciampi moved to approve the Heritage Commission's request to appoint Jillian Rolfe and Ben Rolfe as full Heritage Commission Members with terms to expire March 2026; seconded by Selectman Mooney. Roll Call 2: S. Ciampi – aye, S. Patten – aye, J. Pike – aye, R. Mooney – aye. Motion passed (4-0).

#### **TC/TC Office New Hire – Jennifer A. Place:**

Interviews were conducted for a new clerk in the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office and Jennifer Place is the recommended candidate.

Selectman Mooney moved to approve the hiring of Jennifer "Jenny" Place as a full-time clerk in the Town Clerk's Office with a start date of May 22, 2023; seconded by Selectman Patten. Roll Call 3: S. Patten – aye, S. Ciampi – aye, J. Pike – aye, R. Mooney – aye. Motion passed (4-0).

### **Other New Business**

#### **Old Equipment Auction:**

The Fire Department, Police Department and DPW have collected old unused equipment to go to the state auction. The equipment includes an old police cruiser, the old Argo utility from the Fire Department, a Ford Explorer, a generator and a plate compactor. TA Jipson will keep the Board updated with what we are able to get for the items.

#### **Police Department – New Hire:**

Police Chief Mark Lewandoski introduced new hire Christopher Rideout, who was sworn in as the new Patrol Sergeant this morning. He is replacing Matt Terry.

#### **DPW Update on Well 3:**

DPW Director Craig Clairmont reported there was an alarm on well 3 on Tuesday morning. It is about 15 years old and had a ground fault code. The electrician diagnosed an issue with the pump or the motor in the well. Barrie Miller's Wells & Pump was able to get here quickly and determined the submersible pump had failed. They found a replacement motor within one day and by Friday at 2 pm well 3 was back online. There was concern it could take a month for a replacement and water restrictions would have been needed. Chairman Mooney asked about blending the wells. DPW Director Clairmont explained wells 1 and 3 are blended. We get 225gpm with well 3, and 115gpm on well 1. We use 90-120gpm. Relying on the older well as a sole source would be difficult. Work is in the process for a new well. They are working with Fred Bickford at Hydrosource and have recently been monitoring wells close by. When well 1 is replaced, it will be started from scratch and in the same vicinity as the existing well. We are fortunate that Barrie

Miller and their crew were able to provide service on such short notice. It was an emergency, but it went smoothly.

### **Old Business**

#### **65 Dearborn Street Public Auction Update:**

TA Jipson provided the Board with the auction sheet in their packets. Handouts are available to the public and the sheet is available on our website as well. The auction is set for Thursday June 8<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm at the site. There has already been a lot of interest. There was discussion about water service at the site and DPW Director Clairmont noted there were multiple service locations including at the front and rear of the property. DPW knows where they are located.

#### **Belmont Beautification:**

There was discussion about the recent work done on trash cleanup. Selectman Ciampi thinks efforts are working because she reported they only collected 10 bags this year compared to 38 bags last year, in the Dutile Road/Jamestown Road areas. On Wednesday evening the Rotary Club will be cleaning up on Route 106 around the TAP and will work their way down to Leavitt Road. There was a report of trash along the WOW trail. Lieutenant Evan Boulanger reported a lot of that is from the homeless population and they will charge people for it. DPW has garbage pickers and bags for anyone who wants to help work on cleanup. Everyone expressed their appreciation for "The Can Guy" who regularly cleans up cans along Belmont roads and DPW would like to hire him for cleanup.

#### **Fire Chief Update:**

TA Jipson informed everyone that oral board interviews were held on Friday and more information will be brought to the Board in non-public session.

#### **Community Power:**

The Town has been contacted again by a representative about this program for reduced electric rates for residents. We did not have a five-member Board when this was originally presented. The newspaper has been reporting on other communities who have joined the program. Chairman Mooney noted that Canterbury participates in the program, but it does not include NH Electric Co-op customers because they can't compete with the rate. A committee of community members is needed to work with the Community Power group to provide information and help with advertising efforts. TA Jipson will contact them to do another presentation at the next meeting for the full Board. If people are interested in the program, we can collect names for a committee.

#### **NHPDIP Update:**

This is the special savings account with the great interest rate. The current interest rate is 5.02% and has been increasing since we opened our account. April interest was \$13,491.99 and year-to-date is \$44,935. All of last year we only earned \$12,000 in interest. Funds are transferred as necessary and right now we are at our lowest cash flow point. \$1.2 million is

transferred for the school each month. The current account balance is just under \$1.2 million but TC/TC Cynthia DeRoy is about to execute tax liens and tax bills are going out in the next week or so. More funds will be transferred to the account soon.

**Other Old Business:**

**BOS Committee Appointments:**

The Board discussed changes to representation on different committees. Selectman Travis O'Hara would like to stay on as the representative for the Canterbury Withdrawal Committee but asked that Selectman Ciampi take his spot on the Conservation Commission. Selectman Ciampi reported the Withdrawal Committee's other Belmont member will remain, so they do not need two representatives. TA Jipson will clarify the representation with the Superintendent to be sure there is equal representation for Belmont and Canterbury. Selectman Patten would also like to resign his appointment to the Heritage Commission.

*Chairman Mooney moved to appoint Selectman Ciampi as the Board of Selectmen's Representative to the Conservation Commission and to the Heritage Commission; seconded by Selectman Patten. Roll Call 4: J. Pike – aye, S. Ciampi – aye, S. Patten – aye, R. Mooney – aye. Motion passed (4-0).*

**Next Meeting:** The next regular meeting will be **Monday, June 5, 2023, at 10:00 am.**

**Non-Public:**

*Chairman Mooney moved to enter non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (a) at 10:29 am; seconded by Selectman Pike. Roll Call 5: S. Patten – aye, J. Pike – aye, S. Ciampi – aye, R. Mooney – aye. Motion passed (4-0).*

Those present and voting were Ruth Mooney, Jon Pike, Claude Patten, Jr., and Sharon Ciampi. Also present were TA Alicia Jipson, Chief Lewandoski, Captain S. Akerstrom.

Discussion was had in relation to addressing the needs in the Police Department with regard to employees leaving employment and the steps we need to consider in attraction and retention in the Town.

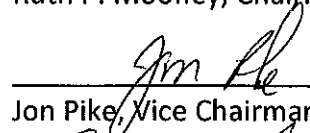
PD employees left. Discussion continued on the results of the 1<sup>st</sup> round of Fire Chief Interviews. The Board agreed to move 3 applicants on to the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of interviews.

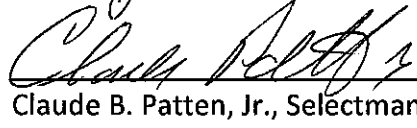
The Board returned to public session at 11:30 am.

**Adjournment:**

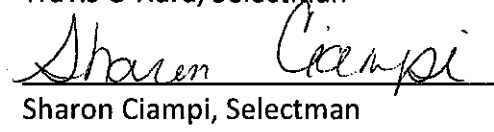
*Selectman Pike moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:32 seconded by Chairman Mooney; motion passed unanimously (4-0).*

  
Ruth P. Mooney, Chairman

  
Jon Pike, Vice Chairman

  
Claude B. Patten, Jr., Selectman

Travis O'Hara, Selectman

  
Sharon Ciampi, Selectman