



Office of Board of Selectmen

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Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 6, 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, Town Planner Karen Santoro, Building & Grounds Supervisor Patrick Golden, Police Chief Mark Lewandoski, Police Captain Stephen Akerstrom, Fire Chief Deb Black, General Assistance Director Donna Cilley, Parks & Rec Director Danielle St. Onge, CEO Mark Ekberg, Library Director Eileen Gilbert and Budget Chairman Ron Mitchell. Via ZOOM were TCTC Assistants Leigh Smith and Jenny Place.

Chairman Mooney opened the meeting at 10:05 am and those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the Public Meeting – 08/23/2023:

Selectman Sonny Patten moved the minutes of the public meeting held on August 23, 2023, as written; seconded by Selectman Jon Pike, and the motion passed (5-0).

Minutes of the Non-Public Meeting – 08/23/2023:

Selectman Travis O'Hara moved the minutes of the non-public meeting held on August 23, 2023, as written; seconded by Selectman Pike, and the motion passed (5-0).

CANCELED - Public Hearing:

Office of Highway Safety Grant: Public hearing in accordance with RSA 31:95-b to accept an Office of Highway Safety Grant in the amount of \$15,378.47 from the NH Department of Safety.

TA Jipson reported this is a continuous grant and that a PH was not necessary, but acceptance was. The Police Department applies for this grant every year and signatures are required from TA Jipson and the Chairman of the Board.

It is a reimbursement that will offset revenue and the Board will accept it when the funds come in. This Public Hearing was determined to not be required by State Statute.

The Board consensus was to accept the Highway Safety Grant from the NH Office of Highway Safety in the amount of \$15,378.47.

New Business:

Energy Audit Grant:

TA Jipson said that while applying for CDFA and Rural Development grants for the Mill building, they were often asked for energy audits. Having an audit completed will help secure grant funding to help make the building more efficient. Our matching cost on the audit grant is \$1,300. They will be visiting the Mill on Monday for the assessment.

School Board Meeting Invite:

Superintendent Mike Tursi emailed asking if the Board would like to meet with the School Board in September. Although it has not been done in awhile, it has been done in prior years. The Town Planner and Planning Board were also in attendance in previous meetings. Budget Chairman Ron Mitchell noted there was recently a successful Town community service activity with high school students that the district would like to continue. The meeting is at 6pm on September 26th at Belmont High School. Selectman O'Hara, Chairman Mooney and Selectman Sharon Ciampi plan to attend. Town Planner Karen Santoro will attend and notify the Planning Board.

Other New Business:

Homeowner's Assistance Fund Update:

This program has been successful for Belmont because of our General Assistance Director, Donna Cilley. The revenue does not show in Donna's budget because it is used for payments on taxes, interest and penalties. We recently received a \$17,000 reimbursement on a past due account, which is our third recovery this year, and there should be three more coming. The fund can also help with utilities and mortgages.

MS-434 Revised Estimated Revenues Report:

We are getting closer to setting the tax rate as data is being uploaded to the portal for state review. We are reporting about \$5 million in revenue. The report will be revised again closer to setting the tax rate. Moving funds to the NHPDIP account gave strong returns on our investment. We did not have any large commercial growth in building permit fees, but we are still looking good.

Assessment Update:

KRT has wrapped up informal hearings and everyone with an appeal will get a revised letter with changes that will be mailed out this week. The MS-1 will give the value of the Town less exemptions and credits. There was a 15% increase in value after the sales update and construction. CEO Mark Ekberg reported we are about 15 building permits ahead of where we were at last year but there are no big commercial projects.

Sale of Municipal Property:

The Dearborn Street property was sold, as well as equipment with \$18,000 earmarked for other uses that will not affect the budget. If 4 Leisure Lane can be sold this year that would be another increase. DPW and the Fire Department may have more equipment to sell, as well as the mowers and truck bed that are currently for sale. TA Jipson asked for recommendations for companies to obtain bids for removal of the unit at 4 Leisure Lane.

Old Business:

Reminder of Employee Appreciation Day Event:

This year's event will be held on September 19th from 10am -1pm, with lunch from 12-1. Town Hall will be closed during the lunch hour. We will be hosting a bigger event with some health and wellness vendors, announcing our Employee of the Year, and recognizing Years of Service. More information will be available soon.

Other Old Business:

Code Enforcement Update:

CEO Ekberg reported there is no action at 130 Depot Street. 752 Laconia Road is making progress and filling a dumpster. It is not as noticeable, but it is layers deep. It looks worse as they are pulling things out, but they are doing the work. Selectman Pike was concerned about how many occupants are living on site and if the septic was designed to handle that. CEO Ekberg said we can't dictate how many people can live in the house. Occupants would be told to monitor the septic system and increase their pumping's. Tomorrow there is an initial court hearing for the 194 Gilmanton Road towing situation.

Mill Furnace:

B&G Supervisor Patrick Golden said Rowells opted not to place a bid on the project. Echardt & Johnson quoted \$2,500 for repairs and they will provide a quote for total replacement next week. BPS gave a replacement cost of \$47,450 for an oil furnace and \$90,950 for a gas furnace, not including the tank. The repair will include fixing the liner, a new pump and a new coupling. It already has a new fire burner and the filters have been changed. If it runs like it has in prior years things should be good. Even if a decision was made for a full replacement, there would be a long lead time. B&G Supervisor Golden has confidence in the furnace because it is a good brand and has always worked so well.

Selectman Pike moved to proceed with the quoted furnace repairs; seconded by Selectman O'Hara, and the motion passed (5-0).

Non-Public Meeting with Legal:

The Board of Selectmen will hold a non-public meeting with legal counsel regarding union contracts on September 13th at 11 am.

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting will be **Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 10:00 am.**

Public Comment: None

Non-Public:

Chairman Mooney moved to enter non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (a & e) at 10:35 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 Ruth Mooney, Jon Pike, Claude Patten, Jr., Travis O'Hara and Sharon Ciampi. Also present were TA Alicia Jipson, Assessing Admin Colleen Akerman and Attorney Naomi Butterfield.

Chairman Mooney moved to request Assessing Admin Colleen Akerman attend all non-public session meetings to take minutes; seconded by Selectman Pike. 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 discussed and made decisions with regards to multiple personnel matters.

Selectman O'Hara moved to seal the minutes of the non-public session; seconded by Selectman Ciampi. Roll Call 6: S. Ciampi – aye, J. Pike – aye, S. Patten – aye, T. O'Hara – aye, R. Mooney – aye. Motion passed (5-0).

Adjournment:

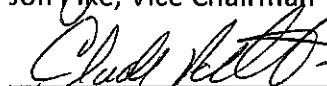
Selectman O'Hara moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:37pm seconded by Selectman Patten. Roll Call 7: T. O'Hara – aye, S. Ciampi – aye, J. Pike – aye, S. Patten – aye, R. Mooney – aye. Motion passed (5-0).




Ruth P. Mooney, Chairman



Jon Pike, Vice Chairman



Claude B. Patten, Jr., Selectman



Travis O'Hara, Selectman



Sharon Ciampi, Selectman