

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
JUNE 1, 2021
MINUTES**

PRESENT: John Veaser (acting) Chairman; Jason Somero Selectman
Scott Butcher, Town Administrator

Chairman Talbot is absent this evening.

Non-public session: Motion to go into non 91-A:3 II(a) by Selectman Veaser, **second** by Selectman Somero, all in favor.

Return from non-public session: Motion to come out of non-public was made by Selectman Somero, and seconded by Selectman Veaser, all were in favor.

Return from non-public session: Selectman Veaser made a **motion** to seal the minutes of the non-public session, Selectman Somero **seconded**, all in favor. Veaser noted no decisions were made.

Continuation of Police Chief Recruitment discussion: Due to Selectman Talbot's absence, no official decisions will be made this evening, will wait until all Selectmen are in attendance.

Selectman Veaser also noted that the Police Chief Administrator has announced her retirement. This position will be posted as well. This will be tabled until next week.

Emergency Management Director/Deputy Director positions: Selectman Veaser noted Shawn Talbot had a discussion with Mr. Jim Hicks. Also an employee of the fire department, Eric Maxwell, would like to be considered and is ready to step in right away. Mr. Veaser felt that it would be nice to have new people in the position being mentored by Jim Hicks who has a wealth of information to share; and BOS can discuss further at the next meeting when all Selectmen are present.

Comcast Cable Franchise Agreement renewal: Mr. Butcher, along with Craig Smeeth and Lou Alvarez from the Broadband Committee, and Brian Christenson from Comcast will have a Zoom meeting tomorrow June 2. Will take a look at what items need to be modified in the contract, for instance they promised 2 channels and we currently only have one in operation, a High Definition channel to take advantage of some options. This also allows the Town to broadcast live, and provide a video bulletin board. The franchise fee could also be increased by 1 or 2 percentage points, this could partially cover some of the new video upgrades. Mr. Veaser noted he was in favor of the fee increase. The Broadband committee is also in hopes that this will help expand broadband availability to sections of town that need it.

Annett State Forest Timber Harvest: Town got notice that the state is planning on harvesting timber from 77 acres of Annett State forest in Rindge. They will be using some of our town roads, including Hubbard Pond Road, and there is a concern regarding the overhead wires and wear on the roads. Mr. Butcher and Peter Goewey had a discussion regarding this. It was decided to put off work on Hubbard

Pond road, in the event the trucking damaged anything. Roads over by the playground could be worked on in place of Hubbard Pond Road. Mr. Butcher talked with DPW Director regarding Collins road, and put off base until next year. It was also discussed to get the Road Committee involved in the discussion.

Motion was made to put off Hubbard Pond second coat until next year by Selectman Veaser, and **seconded** by Selectman Somero.

Motion to let Collins Road winter over as a gravel road and move the base coat until 2022 by Selectman Veaser. It was seconded by Selectman Somero, all were in favor.

OLD NEW BUSINESS:

670 Turnpike: Mr. Butcher owes the owner a phone call, to discuss the process. He will shoot out an email after this call.

Emergency Order ending: The order that allowed online meetings is ending June 11th, it was discussed whether that means one person in the office or a quorum. This will be investigated further.

RC Club: This is a liability issue and needed to go to insurance company. Mr. Butcher indicated the DPW director felt the DES would be opposed, and the closed landfill could have methane gas leaking out. More discussions to occur.

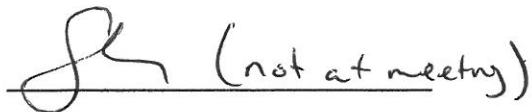
Energy Audit: Will be on the agenda for next week and then we will solicit bids.

Discussion on roads that were affected by rain: Can we get DPW director to check it out and see how it can be mitigated.

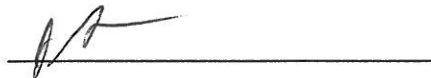
Motion to adjourn was made by Selectman Somero, Selectman Veaser **seconded**. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Mallett, Land Admin

**Minutes approved by
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

 (not at meeting)

Shawn Talbot, Chairman



Jason Somero

John Veaser