

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
AUGUST 11, 2020
MINUTES

PRESENT: David Lage, Chairman; John Veeseer, Shawn Talbot
Town Administrator Scott Butcher
Moderator Bob Romeril
Parks & Rec Director Shawna Kutyla

Chairman Lage called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm at the Town Office.

ELECTIONS DISCUSSION

Moderator Bob Romeril discussed the Personal Protective Equipment that the Secretary of State's office is funding for the upcoming Primary and Election due to COVID-19 concerns. He described how the plexiglass dividers would be used to separate election workers from the public while voting. Chairman Lage asked about the voting booths themselves and the Moderator stated they haven't received guidance on how to keep them properly sanitized between voters. The Moderator expects the number of people showing up at the polls will be lower because of more requests for absentee ballots. The Selectmen thanked the Moderator for the information. No action was required.

TLR BIG TENT REVIVAL EVENT

The Town Administrator provided an update on the upcoming event and the press release that went out to advise the public and businesses to take extra precautions to protect themselves and their patrons while this out of state group was in town.. Also discussed was Governor Sununu's emergency order requiring all groups of 100 people or more to wear masks and social distance to prevent the spread of COVID-19. There have been ongoing discussions with the Attorney General's office regarding the Governor's emergency orders and enforcement. Chairman Lage and Selectman Veeseer requested that the latest emergency orders be sent to the attorney representing the TLR group as well as the local property owners hosting the group.

Chairman Lage asked about the status of the electronic message boards the State of NH was going to be providing. The Town Administrator stated that they will be installed along Turnpike Road at Windblown and the old DPW garage. State Police and Hillsborough County will be providing additional patrols during the week of the event as well.

The Town Administrator informed the Selectmen that the TLR group was planning to sponsor a Q&A event to address public concerns about their upcoming event. The concern was that with all the controversy that angry members of the public might disrupt such an event. The request was to use a town facility for the Q&A event. The Selectmen were against using town property at all.

JIM COFFEY RTK & WILSON HILL RD DISCUSSION

Mr. Coffey started the conversation in his role as Chairman of the Board of Assessors regarding the way other communities handle the assessment and possible exemption of solar panel arrays. In discussion with other towns he has come to the conclusion that not all of them are treating solar panels the same with some essentially undervaluing them, thus reducing the total assessed value of their community's property.

That gives them an unfair advantage on the amount of county tax because their MS-1 form is not a true reflection of the total assessed value including solar panels. Mr. Coffey feels that the issue should be pursued with the DRA and other towns that may feel the same way he does about the tax implications.

Mr. Coffey then stated his right-to-know (RTK) request had not been addressed. He is concerned about how the Road Committee was formed. He believes they were never properly sworn in. He also stated that even as an advisory committee they are required to post their meetings and provide minutes. He would like the Selectmen to address his concerns. The Town Administrator stated Mr. Coffey would have to talk to the Town Clerk about whether the Road Committee members were properly sworn in. The Committee only had one meeting and the minutes from that meeting became to Committee's recommendations to the Selectmen for a road paving plan for 2020. Mr. Coffey isn't questioning what the Road Committee did, he is questioning the process by which the Road Committee was formed and operated.

The remaining part of his RTK request had to do with how the decision is made on whether to use Zoom for Selectmen's meeting or not. He also pointed out that there are two Deputy Town Clerk-Tax Collectors listed in the Town Report and he believes there should be only one per the RSA. He went on to state that only the Town Clerk-Tax Collector can remove their Deputy for their position. Selectman Veaser stated that those rules were followed per Town Counsel. Mr. Coffey stated that is not the way it appeared.

FALL SOCCER

Parks & Rec Director Shawna Kutyla discussed the Governor's guidance on playing sports during the COVID-19 pandemic and the steps being taken to play Fall soccer safely. She plans on providing a specific plan as was provided for Little League baseball.

Selectman Veaser MOTIONED to approve Fall soccer pending receiving a copy of the final plan. Selectman Talbot SECONDED the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

There was also discussion about the Farmers Market operating during the TLR event. The decision was made to close the Farmers Market for the upcoming two weekends until the TLR group leaves town to reduce the change of spreading COVID-19 to Farmers Market vendors and customers.

L.E.D. STREET LIGHT BID AWARD

The L.E.D. Street Light issue was tabled awaiting additional information.

BUILDERS LAND, LLC BOND RELEASE – GREEN FARM RD/JACQUELINE DR

Chairman Lage asked if there was a sign-off from the Town Engineer. The Town Administrator stated that the Planning Board has reviewed the as-builts for the two roads and are satisfied with the conditions of the roads and that everything is complete. Chairman Lage wants to have a copy of the Town Engineer's sign-off attached to the document.

Chairman Lage MOTIONED to release the road bonds pending the Town Engineer's sign-off. Selectman Veaser SECONDED the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

The Town Administrator reviewed the changes requested from the Souhegan Valley Ambulance Service (SVAS) to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the town. SVAS would like to reduce the requirements for information in the quarterly reports and prevent the Selectmen from sharing any of the information contained in the reports with other town departments/personnel. After some discussion, the Selectmen decided not to make any changes to the MOU until having a discussion with the SVAS staff at the next quarterly meeting.

Chairman Lage turned the discussion to having the Town Administrator keep a rolling list of action items on future agendas so things don't fall through the cracks like the Police Station project, tax deeded properties, Old Peterborough Rd. layout, etc.

The Town Administrator reviewed the private road sign ordinance being proposed by the Planning Board to ensure private roads are signed in such a way they are easily recognizable to first responders. Chairman Lage was concerned about the blue background color being proposed because it is the same as the signs the Conservation Commission uses to identify rivers and streams. He was also concerned about the size being recommended. He would like the ordinance to be further refined and the color of the signs to be something other than blue.

Chairman Lage asked if DPW Director Goewey had provided a culvert cleaning plan yet. Absent a plan, the Selectmen asked for Director Goewey to have one done by August 25th.

The Town Administrator informed the Selectmen that CAI Technologies has proposed GIS mapping services to provide more accurate maps and overlays, such as wetlands, of properties in town. He stated that the Conservation Commission has voted to pay up to half of the estimated \$150,000 cost out of their land fund balance. There was some discussion about how it would be more beneficial than the maps provided by the Southwest Regional Planning Commission. CAI Technologies is scheduled to present to the Selectmen and all Land Use boards on September 22nd.

The Town Administrator updated the Selectmen on the year-to-date expenditures and revenues. While overall spending is down year over year, there is a \$200,000 revenue shortfall to date according to Treasurer Carlene Wardwell. There was discussion about how the school payments are scheduled and the impact to the town's cashflow. The Selectmen want the school payments to each equal one-twelfth of the amount approved at Town Meeting.

The discussion turned to the need for a new Police Station. Selectman Veaser asked if there should be some events in the near future to promote the need for one. He feels the informational flyer that was sent out was a start, but that more communication with the public is needed. He suggested starting something in September and use the six months leading up to Town Meeting to keep in the forefront of the public's mind. Chairman Lage suggested coming up with a list of bullet points to emphasize the message.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

At 8:27 pm Selectmen Veerer MOTIONED to enter a non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II(1). Selectmen Talbot SECONDED the motion. The vote was unanimous.

At 8:52 pm Selectmen Veerer MOTIONED to leave the non-public session. Selectmen Talbot SECONDED the motion. The vote was unanimous. Selectman Veerer MOTIONED to seal the minutes. Selectman Talbot SECONDED the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

At 9:04 pm, Chairman Lage entertained a motion to adjourn. Selectman Veerer MOTIONED to adjourn. The motion was SECONDED by Selectmen Talbot and the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Butcher, Town Administrator

Minutes approved by:

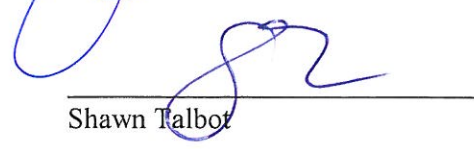
BOARD OF SELECTMEN



David S. Lage, Chairman



John Veerer



Shawn Talbot