

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Sept 7, 2021

MINUTES

PRESENT: Shawn Talbot Chairman; Jason Somero and Bert Hamill Selectmen
Jim Coffey, Town Administrator, Susan Mallett

Open Meeting in the Town Office with the Pledge of Allegiance at 5:00

NON-PUBLIC SESSION 1:

Motion to go into non 91-A:3 II(a&b) by Selectman Talbot, seconded by Selectman Hamill, all in favor.

Motion to come out of non-public was made by Selectman Hamill and seconded by Selectman Somero, all were in favor.

Return from non-public session: Selectman Hamill made a motion to seal the minutes of the non-public session, Selectman Talbot seconded, all in favor. There was one decision reached, the authorization of hiring an Administrative Assistant candidate, Acting Chief Abel was authorized to make offer to the top candidate.

Beards for Bucks Campaign:

Acting Chief of Police, Mike Abel, shared with the Board of Selectmen, a program called Razorless for a Reason, Beards for Bucks, a campaign that lets law enforcement show their support, raise awareness and support the Child Advocacy Center (CAC). The CAC helps child victims of physical and sexual abuse and their families with a coordinated services approach that help to reduce the stress that might otherwise occur during the investigation process. Mike and the NIPD would like to participate in this. He explained that each officer will pay to grow their beard during the month of October, they can also get friends and family to sponsor them and make donations. Selectman Talbot made a MOTION to approve officers growing facial hair for this event, and Selectman Somero SECONDED it, all were in approval. So if you see your local PD wearing beards, now you know why!

OLD NEW BUSINESS:

2021 Personnel Policy – each Selectman needs to review the current handbook and submit their edits. Have the edits ready for the September 28th meeting so that we can go over the suggestions and update the handbook.

Jim Coffey handed out the expenses report showing we are doing well with spending at 45% left. Reviewed some expenses.

Maps came up in the discussion and Selectman Hamill noted he thinks the Conservation Commission may be willing to fund new updated maps. This will be discussed Wednesday evening at the Conservation Commission meeting. More discussion back and forth regarding how to fund and the process to get the maps updates as well as the future maintenance. The Boards position is Conservation Commission purchasing it is ok. Jim asks that the Conservation Commission work with the assessors if they go ahead with it.

Jim Coffey distributed a letter that claims to be from MA DUA, while it had logos and other information that made it look legitimate, there were some red flags that he felt were signs of a scam.

A list of 2020 calls for the town's ambulance service were distributed to the Selectmen for their awareness. Jim noted that 'nice to know' items like this he will email as well as put in the distribution folder.

Jim also asked if the Selectmen would like him to write up the article for the Comcast Franchise Fee usage. The board agreed that he should.

Scenic Roads, the town has 5 scenic roads, some towns put their Planning Boards in charge, and other towns use various other boards. Here in New Ipswich, it seems the Conservation has control of 4 of the 5 roads which causes some confusion over who to notify when something like tree trimming on electrical wires needs to be done. A warrant article would need to put the remaining scenic road in the Conservation Commissions charge so that they have all 5 roads.

Property auction, Jim will meet with the auctioneer to go out and review potential properties on Thursday. He will also provide the Board of Selectmen with the list and any information from the meeting so that they can review and determine if the list is complete and if there are any properties the town would not sell. The town clerk gave Jim some information on properties that are making an attempt to pay up their overdue balances.

Upcoming events run by the NHMA were discussed, Selectman Hamill would like to attend the Budget and Financial seminar. He will get the information to Susan to sign him up.

The loader lease/purchase agreement has the required escape clauses and is for municipal purchases. The Board reviewed the terms and funding. Selectman Hamill made a MOTION to approve the lease to own of \$149,300 (after trade-in) with 6 years payments with a final \$1.00 payment and a yield of 2.99% purchase CAT 930M EQ19572 Front End Loader from Milton Caterpillar. SECONDED by Shawn Talbot. Selectman Somero was a NAY vote. The Motion passes.

Selectman Somero asked about the Building 2 lease, Sue noted it is on the agenda for Sept 21, 2021

Selectman Hamill gave his update next. He has had many requests asking if we can move non-public sessions to the end of the meeting as people find it disruptive to login and logout then log in again. He also asked how many boards are still using Zoom and noted in other places there were inappropriate access. Sue noted we have our Zoom account locked down, so that access is granted by the person running the meeting and they can also kick people out if they are disruptive or don't identify themselves.

Selectman Talbot made a motion to end the regular use of Zoom for the Board of Selectmen meetings, Selectman Somero seconded the motion, and all were in agreement.

Other boards can make their own decisions whether they will keep running Zoom meeting, however, they must follow the rules that a quorum must be physically present.

Selectman Talbot reviewed the list of To-Do items. He also noted that we need to hire Deputy Treasurer and Deputy Town Clerk. He shared the document from Shawna showing potential income if they ran certain programs.

- Invite Shawna to discuss Parks and Rec and do a review.


Closed out the meeting with document review and signing.

A Motion to adjourn was made by Selectman Hamill, Selectman Somero seconded. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Mallett, Land Admin

Minutes approved by BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Shawn Talbot, Chairman:

A blue ink signature of Shawn Talbot, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a horizontal line.

Jason Somero:

A blue ink signature of Jason Somero, appearing as a stylized 'JS' followed by a horizontal line.

Bert Hamill:

A blue ink signature of Bert Hamill, written in a cursive style followed by a horizontal line.