

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

April 5, 2022

### MINUTES

**PRESENT:** Shawn Talbot, Chair and Lou Alvarez  
Debbie Deaton, Town Administrator  
Ron Stanley (NITV), Alan Doyle, Matt Wardwell, Cody Vaillancourt (FD), Ashley Saari (Monadnock Ledger), Chief Abel (PD), Chief Lund (FD), Becky Doyle (NITV), Roger Somero (Clerk), Ben Hatcher (FD), Deirdre Daley (Planning Board), Susan Mallett (Land Use), Jim Coffey (Trustees), Bentti Hoiska (Trustees), Bob Zinsmeister (Trustees), Bob Romeril (Moderator), Jim Hill

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

#### 5:05 Fireworks Ordinance:

Chief Lund stated the Fireworks permit was streamlined and she changed the Ordinance to read the permit must be applied for 7 days prior to the event as opposed to 14 days as it is currently and she added the word "warranted" to #4 under Enforcement due to the fact some complaints are not warranted. She double checked the Ordinance with the RSA's to make sure it conformed. This ordinance is for consumer fireworks only. She added a place for email and phone number for the applicant on the permit. The process for getting a Fireworks Permit is the applicant fills out the application, meets with the Fire Chief or designee, the conditions and rules are explained to the applicant. The Fire Chief then signs off and gives it to the Police Chief who signs off then it goes to the Selectboard for sign off. Chief Abel suggested if it comes in with less than 7 days prior to the event, it will not be approved. Everyone was in agreement. Shawn made a motion to accept the revised Ordinance and Permit. It was seconded by Lou and passed unanimously.

#### 5:25 Matt Wardwell-Presentation for New Ipswich Public Safety Complex:

Matt stated he had done this project for school approximately 2 years ago and spoke at length with Chief Lund and Chief Carpenter about their needs and State Code for the complex. He also spoke with a surveyor and an engineer. The goal was to combine the Fire Department, Police Department and Emergency Management all into one building, each with their own space. The design also included a classroom for training which could also be used as Command Central for all of the emergency services as well as people from the State should there be an emergency. Matt stated the building was probably larger than we needed but could be scaled down. The estimated cost at the time was approximately 3 million dollars.

Shawn thanked Matt for the presentation and we will keep the conversation going and try to move in that direction.. Hopefully soon we will be able to have round table discussions over the next few months to a year, inviting all residents to give their opinions. Jason asked Matt if he would be available for future discussions, Matt replied he would. Ashley Saari asked if there was ever talks about a safety complex. Lou responded there were. Ashley also asked if there was an active complex committee. Shawn replied there is not but we're hoping this will be a jumping off point. We need to be pragmatic and take it slow and the goal is to get 75-80% of the Town on board with the idea of a complex.

Jim Hill asked if the Police Department would be willing to give tours again stating they were very eye-opening to the challenges they face in the current location. Chief Abel agreed and will try to set something up for the summer and another one in the fall. Shawn suggested the Fire Department do the same. Mr. Hill stated he thought this would get people interested and behind it again.

**5:55 Old/New Business:**

**Landscaping:** Shawn asked Debbie if she had asked Peter Goewey why there was such an increase in the landscaping contract. Debbie replied Peter said because of the big jump in gas prices and material prices. Shawn asked if Peter knew where the additional monies would be coming from. Debbie said he wasn't sure yet.

**Compost Bins/Rain Barrels:** Shawn asked if there had been any interest in the compost bins and rain barrels. Debbie stated she had orders for 6 of each so far. Sue said there were 25 hits in the first few hours that it was posted.

**Landfill Bond:** Debbie informed the Board the Landfill Bond could not be paid with the money that was coming from the Trustees of the Trust Funds as was voted on last week. Jim Coffey stated because of the way the Warrant Article was written, the money has to go into the General Fund and can't be expended. Debbie said she confirmed this with the DRA and they said if there are enough funds remaining in the operating budget at the end of the year, we could pay the bond off. The money would balance because the \$90k would be going into the General Fund.

**Transfer Station:** Jason stated he has received word people are abusing the Transfer Station by not using the proper bags. Jason suggested having someone at the gate taking money and making sure people are using the correct bags. Shawn said he got feedback from this past weekend also. It appeared the new person seemed overwhelmed and perhaps not trained. Roger said he was at the Transfer Station just before 3 and they were turning people away. It says on the website it is open until 3 so they shouldn't be turning people away. Shawn said if the hours say 3:00, they should let people in until 3:00. Debbie will bring it up at the staff meeting on Wednesday.

**6:00pm Trustees of the Trust Funds:**

Bentti Hoiska stated the Trustees had requests for funds from the Stearns Burton Committee for lectures. Kitty Waitt is currently the only member of the Stearns Burton Committee so there is no quorum to approve any requests. He suggested 2 solutions: one is to appoint 2 people to Stearns Burton and the other is to appoint the Trustees of the Trust Funds as administrators of the Stearns Burton Committee. Jim said it is the responsibility of the Trustees to insure the funds are being used for the intended purpose. Bentti stated they decided as a board years ago to play by the book so nothing can be misconstrued. Dee Daley asked if Kitty wishes to remain on the Stearns Burton Committee. Jason will contact her to find out. A solution will be discussed at the April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**6:15 ARPA Funds-Department Head Wish List Discussion:**

Debbie distributed a spreadsheet with "wish list" items from each department and the totals.

**Police Department:** Chief Abel discussed his list with the Board. If they can get the software requested, it would cut down on time used to take notes in the field, then return to the station to transcribe their notes into the call. There would be less chance of errors and typos because dispatch would already have entered the basics of the call. It would also allow the officers to communicate with other towns getting real time information. He also stated that even at its minimum, this software would be 100% more efficient than what they are using now. Shawn asked Chief Abel to reach out to other towns to see if there are challenges using the software, dispatch, etc. and to find out if there are any additional costs.

Chief Abel also added the radios they currently have will soon be obsolete and unrepairable.

**Fire Department:** Chief Lund stated the base station at the Fire Department failed 6 years ago and the one they currently have has been on loan since then. She also mentioned the Fire Department radios are in the same condition as the Police Department.

**Moderator:** Bob passed out information on a new ballot machine. Jason asked if there are other machines out there not made by Old Dominion. Bob replied there were but most towns use the one he quoted and it is the most similar to the one we currently have (circa 2010).

**Planning Board:** Dee Daley asked for money to do a new Master Plan from scratch as opposed to updating bits and pieces every year. Most of the Master Plan is outdated. According to the 2020 Census, there are approximately 700 senior citizens in town. It would be nice to have a senior center.

No decisions were made and Shawn encouraged Lou and Jason to reach out to the department heads during the week if they had any questions, comments or concerns regarding their respective "wish lists". This will be discussed at the April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting and some decisions to allocate monies will be made.

**Non-Public Session 1:**

At 8:05pm, Shawn made a motion to enter a Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (c) at the request of a taxpayer. The motion was seconded by Jason and passed unanimously.

At 8:30, Shawn made a motion to return to public session. The motion was seconded by Lou and passed unanimously. Shawn made a motion to seal the minutes. Jason seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Non Public Session #2:**

At 8:50 pm, Shawn made a motion to enter a Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a) regarding employee wages. At 9:09 pm, Shawn made a motion to return to public session. The motion was seconded by Lou and passed unanimously. Jason made a motion to seal the minutes, the motion was seconded by Lou and passed unanimously.

At 9:15 pm Shawn made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Lou, all were in favor.

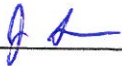
Respectfully submitted,  
Debbie Deaton  
Town Administrator

**Minutes approved by BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Shawn Talbot, Chairman:



Jason Somero:



Lou Alvarez:



