

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

June 14, 2022

MINUTES

Present: Shawn Talbot (Chair), Jason Somero, Lou Alvarez and Debbie Deaton (Town Administrator)
Jennifer Minckler, Josh Muhonen, Dee Daley, Craig Smeeth

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

5:05 Welfare Discussion: Postponed to Jun 21, 2022 at 5:00pm

Old/New Business:

- Debbie informed the Board 2 out of 3 applicants for the Interim Building Inspector position have scheduled interviews for Tuesday, June 21st. She is waiting on a response for the 3rd applicant.
- Debbie said she received a call from a resident on River Road stating the flag is still at half-mast and should be fixed. The resident also stated the One Way sign on Turnpike Road to Lower River Road isn't visible at the correct angle and should be either moved or fixed. The Stop sign is also. People are going up Lower River Road from Turnpike and this could cause a serious injury. Debbie will speak to the road agent on duty (Gary Johnson). Lou added the sign on Thayer Road is blocked by vegetation and needs to be remedied.
- Shawn had asked Debbie to look into ways to fund additional premiums. She spoke to Peter, he said he budgeted for a person who had quit so he can cover the additional \$10,000. The PD also has additional funding in the Health Insurance line item. Shawn asked Debbie to get a full picture of the financial numbers. Debbie informed the Board all employees who attended the presentation would definitely like to switch to this plan even though it will cost them more weekly for the higher premium. Jason asked if they would be willing to absorb more than that, for example, if the Town paid 80% and the employee paid 20%.
- Debbie told the Board she spoke to the DES and Monadnock Environmental regarding the high PFAS results from the well testing at Wilder Village. They both suggested since we have a high test result, they recommend testing approximately 12-15 abutting wells now (approximately \$8,000-\$10,000) so we can add the cost of remediation of a percentage of those wells to the PFAS Grant application. The DES stated once there is a high test, they will most likely mandate this testing within the next 2 years and they are surprised we were only required to test 1 well. This grant is a one-time only grant so if we found we had to remediate any other wells due to high PFAS tests, we would have to pay "out-of-pocket" (depending on how many wells, the cost could be well over \$500,000) if the funds aren't applied for now. Shawn stated it's a tough call but he would rather take a long term approach to things instead of waiting until the State mandates the testing and we can't add further funds to the grant once we applied for it. He wants to be proactive rather than reactive down the road. Jason said he is hesitant to go above and beyond what the State is requiring now versus what they "may" require in the future. Lou suggested calling Amherst because he heard they had high test results also. Dee asked why we weren't informed of this when the landfill was capped. Debbie replied this testing is fairly new within the last couple of years and our well was capped in 2007. Shawn made a motion to approve the testing of the additional wells at a cost of up to \$10,000 in order to test the 12-15 abutters' wells near the landfill. Lou seconded the motion and it passed 2-1.

- Dee stated it has been 12+ years since Building 2 has had the mold remediation. She feels there should be some tell-tale signs if there is still a problem in the building.

Lou & Jason mentioned a resident does mold remediation (Pat O'Malley). Jason will coordinate this with the Planning Board walk-through. Dee suggested we power up the HVAC a week prior to the walk-through to see what the typical air ventilation would be. Shawn suggested the HVAC should probably be cleaned prior to turning it on since it hasn't been used in 12+ years.

The Planning Board has a thought process regarding owning versus renting for the Police Department. Jason said he has the same thought, based on ideas, not on numbers. We have to sharpen the pencils. It was brought up that the Warwick Mills lease has expired and has not been renewed as of yet. It states in the lease, the Town needs to give Warwick Mills "reasonable notice" if we are going in to Building 2. A tentative walk-through will be scheduled for July 6th. Dee will get back to us on a time.

- SWRPC is requesting feedback regarding any transportation projects. Dee stated she asked Jen to contact SWRPC regarding transportation services to and from doctor's appointments, etc. Debbie suggested Carrie may be discussing this next Tuesday.

- Debbie informed the Board the DPW has a new hire and asked if he needed to have a background check on this person because he worked for the State. Jason stated we do background checks on every employee and this shouldn't be different. Shawn agreed.

- Lou spoke to Peter regarding the purchase of the F550 Dump Truck and the CAT. He stated the dealership can't give a delivery date for the F550 and suggests we make the repairs on the current one so we have a working truck until the new one arrives, then put it up for sale in the spring. Debbie mentioned the repairs were approximately \$10,000. Lou stated it was but thinks we can keep the repairs down to approximately \$4,000.

Lou made a motion to approve the purchase of the F550 at a cost of \$130,625 from Capital Reserve.

Jason seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Debbie asked if they are approving the repair of the old truck. Shawn replied that is up to Peter.

Lou informed the Board, Peter was able to repair the existing grader. Peter stated the existing 14' blade is too wide and when he purchases a new grader in the next couple of years, he will purchase one with a 12' blade.

He will not be making a motion on the backhoe because he's trying to get more information. There is a \$10,000 discrepancy in the quote.

- Debbie is still waiting on the tags for the Fire Department (State filling station in Greenville).

- Jason said he is making progress on the PD renovation discussion. He is waiting on costs so it can be discussed with the landlord. He stated this should be a public hearing when the decision is made.

- Jason stated Facebook and YouTube have come out on the opposite end of the beliefs of the majority of the residents in New Ipswich. They stifle freedom of speech. He asked if we should support this practice. Shawn stated he thought it was a good question and is still considering it, partially because it is a great resource to get the word out if we need to because most people are on Facebook. Jason suggested the Town look into alternatives. Dee suggested the Town utilize a "suite" of social media like a lot of businesses do. The Town chooses how they want to push the information out. Shawn suggested creating an app for the Town. Dee said she doesn't think it would be expensive to do that. Debbie will look into it.

There was much discussion regarding social media, its uses and beliefs.

•Jason mentioned there are residents who are not utilizing blue bags at the transfer station and are not paying for this. It was suggested Peter hire an extra person to work on Saturdays so they could charge people upon entering the transfer station (budget for next year).

•Shawn mentioned the Appreciation Luncheon which will be held on Tuesday, June 21st from 11:30-1:30 for employees, boards, volunteers and committees and encouraged all to attend. He will check with the church to borrow tables and chairs.

At 7:00pm Shawn made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Jason, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Deaton
Town Administrator

Minutes approved by BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Shawn Talbot, Chairman:



Jason Somero:



Lou Alvarez:


