

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

February 21, 2023

MINUTES

Present: Shawn Talbot (Chair), Jason Somero, Lou Alvarez and Debbie Deaton (Town Administrator)
Shane Sirois (State Representative), Shawn Bator, Andrew Morrill (Sexton), Ryan Fleming

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

5:05 Land Use Position Discussion:

Debbie suggested separating the Land Use Job into 2 part time positions for several reasons:

- Both positions could cross train so they could cover for the other position
- There would be a savings of approximately \$18,117 due to the fact there would be no benefits
- The wages could be increased because of the savings in benefits which would be more attractive to potential applicants

There is a possibility of going over budget for the full time position by \$22,000 if the new hire needed family health and dental coverage. That would be keeping the wage at the current rate.

Shawn made a motion to replace the full time land use position with the suggested 2 part time positions.

Jason seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The positions will be posted tomorrow on the website and Facebook. They will be added to the message board and posted in the Monadnock Ledger.

5:15 Electric Supplier Discussion:

Debbie gave the Board a proposal from Standard Power and another proposal from Logical Communication Services for reduced rates for the supplier portion of the Town electricity bills. The proposals are attached.

After some discussion, Shawn made a motion to sign a 36 month contract with Standard Power utilizing First Point as the supplier. Lou seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Debbie will contact the representative for the contract.

5:25 Old/New Business:

- LED bulbs for the Fire Department and the DPW have been ordered and received. They just need to be installed.
- Debbie spoke to Jim Kofalt on Friday regarding the request to attend a Selectboard meeting on March 21st. Mr. Kofalt stated it would be difficult for the representatives to attend due to House meetings. He suggested April 11th or April 25th. The invitation was rescheduled to April 11th at 7:00pm.
- Jason updated the Board on the Police Department renovation. The detainee section is fully functional and the floor is being installed in the "old" section of the building.
- Jason also asked if the Board was going to make any decision regarding the 25 MPH speed limits in town. Shawn stated the Board should act if there is a specific recommendation by the Police Chief on a case by case basis.
- Lou said he had a discussion with Peter regarding the backhoe which should be here next week and the new dump truck is being fitted with the dump and sander and should be here next month. The lift has not been shipped yet. Jason suggested possibly charging a surcharge for winter burials because of the additional work that would be required.

•Shawn said he was contacted by Tara from CASA regarding the comments that were made at the Deliberative Session. He explained the tone of the comments that were made and told her she should get in touch with Jason.

•Shawn said he was contacted by the Reverend at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church regarding winter burials. Andrew stated winter burials are not permitted the bylaws of the Cemetery Trustees. Andrew will discuss changing the by-laws with the Cemetery Trustees.

•Candidates night is March 7th at 7pm. All but one school board candidate will be attending. Don't forget to vote on March 14th at Mascenic from 7am-7pm.

•Andrew mentioned the New Ipswich House of Pizza has closed its doors and is very disheartened by this because they have been a staple in this town for many, many years.

5:27 Shane Sirois (State Representative):

The House of Representatives has been very busy and a lot of items are up for votes.

•One of the items is to change Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day. Mr. Sirois voted against that and will vote against any other "cancel culture" items brought before the House.

•There is also a bill for early education which will not be mandatory so residents will not be able to use the education freedom accounts. This is for 3-4 year olds. Mr. Sirois said until we can get a handle on what is being taught to our children regarding the indoctrination of sexuality, this bill should never pass. He urged everyone to write to their Senators in opposition to this bill. Mr. Bator added there is no supervision of what the teachers are teaching. Parents don't find out what's going on in the classroom until a child comes home and tells them.

Mr. Sirois said the teachers aren't able to do what they love which is teach the children. They are dealing with kids that have disabilities and behavioral issues in classes with other kids and are spending so much time dealing with the behavioral issues, the other kids are suffering because the teachers can't teach.

Shawn mentioned our BOS, the Greenville BOS and the School Board are going to schedule a meeting in April to try to work together to have better participation and see if we can find where the broken points are. Shawn asked Mr. Sirois to participate in this meeting so there is a representative from the State level.

Shane said unfortunately, there are many grants out there that the big cities and towns are getting because they're applying for them and the smaller towns don't even know about them.

•Another bill is regarding the convention of states. This would give the House and Senate the ability to amend the Constitution. Jason stated the Constitution was created to protect people from a tyrannical government and mob rule. He added we descended into this in 2020 and we need to bring back the Constitution and the law of the land.

The price of liberty is eternal vigilance (Thomas Jefferson).

•There was also a conversation about using the word prayer in the House. The wanted to change it to invocation. This bill didn't pass.

•Shane said he had received communication regarding placing a guardrail on Greenville Road at the sharp curve just after Old Homestead Farm. He asked if the Town had gotten a cost for this. Shawn had replied there hadn't been. The Town has put up yellow arrow signs and there hasn't been any accidents to his knowledge. Lou suggested checking with the Police Chief to see if he can give the Board an idea of how many accidents have been at that location in the past 3 to 5 years. Debbie will email him tomorrow.

Shane wondered if he could raise some funds to put a guardrail in at the location. He added money doesn't always have to come from taxation. There are a lot of residents in town who have deep pockets and would like to help out.

6:15 Non-Public Session RSA 91:A 3, II (a):

At 6:15 Shawn made a motion to go into non-public session. Lou seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. At 6:55pm, Jason made a motion to return to public session. Shawn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Shawn made a motion to seal the minutes. Jason seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

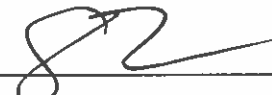
At 6:55, Shawn made a motion to adjourn. Lou seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Deaton
Town Administrator

Minutes approved by BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Shawn Talbot, Chairman:



Jason Somero:



Lou Alvarez:



