

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
FEBRUARY 25, 2020
MINUTES

PRESENT: David Lage, Chairman; John Veesser; Bert Hamill
Town Administrator Scott Butcher
David Keurulainen
Police Chief Tim Carpenter
Land Use clerk Lori Rautiola

Old Fire Station & Wachusett: Chairman Lage called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM at the Old Fire Station at 36 Main St. The Selectmen toured the building and reviewed the condition of the 1927 Wachusett fire engine and hand pumper in the building. The building is in rough shape with apparent water leaks staining the ceiling. In some parts of the building the ceiling and walls have been stripped to the studs. Resident David Keurulainen was present to discuss the repair work that had been done to the Wachusett and repairs and restoration that still need to be done. He also explained that the old hand pumper was still functional and has been taken to fire equipment shows to demonstrate it. No decisions were made on either the building or the two pieces of fire apparatus.

At 6:00 PM the meeting reconvened at the Town Offices at 661 Turnpike Rd. Chairman Lage led the Pledge of Allegiance and reviewed the meeting agenda.

Police Cruiser Purchase: At 6:05 PM Police Chief Carpenter joined the meeting to discuss the quote he received from MHQ for a 2020 Ford Explorer Interceptor to replace one of the 2013 Ford Explorers that is no longer roadworthy and cannot pass New Hampshire state inspection. Chief Carpenter explained that because of the complete redesign of the new generation Ford Explorer, most of the equipment from the older Explorers will not fit the new one and cannot be transferred. Therefore, the quotation includes a lot of new components that have to be purchased to outfit the 2020 Explorer. That brings the total cost of the purchase to \$51,171.51 less the \$1,500.00 trade-in value of the 2013 Explorer for a net price of \$49,671.51. Chief Carpenter stated that the pricing was obtained off the State of NH contract and was pre-negotiated by the State.

Selectman Veesser made a motion to purchase the police cruiser as quoted. Selectman Hamill seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Chairman Lage instructed the Town Administrator to generate a purchase order for the Selectmen to sign.

Old Peterborough Road Status: This was a resumption of last week's discussion about Old Peterborough Road when Building Inspector Donovan discussed assigning a street number to a house under construction by Jonathan Broc. Chairman Lage reviewed the findings in the case *Caouette v. Town of New Ipswich* which indicated Old Peterborough Road had been discontinued by town vote in 1844 along with Old Rindge Road which it intersects with. In 1985, as a result of the *Caouette v. Town of New Ipswich* suit, Old Rindge road was re-established as a Class IV road, but not Old Peterborough Road. A second suit contended that Old Peterborough Road had been discontinued improperly. That may not have ever been settled. At a later date, the other road that Old Peterborough Road connects to, Chapman Road,

had been discontinued as a public road in 2002 and became a private road maintained by the residents living on it.

Selectman Hamill questioned how that left the status of Old Peterborough Road; is it discontinued, or is it a Class VI road. There was further discussion among the Selectmen, Town Administrator and Land Use Clerk Lori Rautiola about the issuance of the building permit to Jonathan Broc. Also discussed were the other parcels along Old Peterborough and maps were reviewed to determine what other parcels are impacted.

There was also discussion about the E911 requirements when establishing street numbering and the possibility of renaming the north end of Old Peterborough Road if it is, or becomes, a Class VI public road. The previous week Building Inspector Donovan explained that, because of the location of the new home on the north end of Old Peterborough Road, it might be confusing to first responders trying to access it since they would likely come from the southern end where it intersects Old Rindge Road and there is currently no access to the northern end from Old Rindge Road where Jonathan Broc's house is. The only access would be from Chapman Road which is private. Selectman Hamill suggested that the status of the road be discussed with Town Counsel and the other Selectmen agreed. Chairman Lage instructed the Town Administrator provide Town Counsel with the background on the situation and request guidance.

Road Committee Update: The Selectmen discussed the Road Committee applicants to fill the resident-at-large seats and the Planning Board members that volunteered to fill those seats. After some discussion the Selectmen appointed Marcus Rautiola and Walker Farrey to fill two of the resident-at-large seats and Nate Sikkila and John Schaumloffel to fill the Planning Board seats. DPW Director Peter Goewey will fill the fifth seat on the Committee.

Other Business: Selectman Hamill reiterated that both he and Chairman Lage would be out of town on March 17th and suggested that the Town Administrator be authorized to sign the payroll manifest that week. Chairman Lage and Selectman Veaser agreed.

The discussion turned to the wood chips at Warwick Mills being stockpiled and blowing/spreading around the area. Warwick Mills had previously been notified about the issue. They are currently trying to use tarps to contain the wood chips which are used for fuel for their heating system. Selectman Hamill requested that the Town Administrator draft a letter to Warwick Mills to ask how they will address the issue.

Chairman Lage wanted an update on the status of the RFP for LED street lighting. He asked the Town Administrator to prepare a draft of the RFP to be discussed at a future meeting. The Selectmen also discussed the status of the warning light at the fire station. The Town Administrator stated that an electrician had provided a quote to connect power to the fixture but that a specific date to perform the work had not been established.

The Selectmen also requested that the Town Administrator get an update from Steve Lowe on the status of the rehabilitation project at 11 Temple Road.

At 6:45 PM Selectman Veeseer made a motion to adjourn. Selectman Hamill seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Butcher, Town Administrator

Minutes approved by:
BOARD OF SELECTMEN



David S. Lage, Chairman



John Veeseer



Bert Hamill