

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

**March 25, 2025**

### **MINUTES**

**Present:** Shawn Talbot (Chair), Jason Somero, Lou Alvarez, Debbie Deaton (Town Administrator),  
Also present: John Schaumlöffel

#### **5:00 Open Meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance**

Below is the link to view the meeting on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/oZknM22X5Ys?list=PLzGryVtWOBk8maGiwV0C7-1OgfwrdljQ>

#### **5:05 Radio Study-Fire, Police, DPW, EMD:**

Present: Ben Hatcher (Fire Chief), Cody Vaillancourt (Assistant Fire Chief), Matt Hatcher (Fire Dept.), Michael Abel (Police Chief), Wes Vollheim (Police Lieutenant), Eric Maxwell (Emergency Management Director), Peter Somero (DPW Director)

Cody said the 4 departments are looking to have a study done to give them an idea where radio coverage is good, not so good and bad around town. The Fire dispatch in Keene is having significant problems and their system is failing. The town is looking to go to a different dispatch which would cover the 4 departments instead of each department having their own dispatch.

Chief Abel said the portable radios have a lot of connection issues and this poses a safety issue for the officers and the public, particularly if they have to go back to the cruiser to send a communication. Part of the problem is the geography of the Town.

Eric said we don't know what we don't know and having this study done would highlight what we don't know and offer solutions to those issues.

Chief Hatcher said the biggest challenge is if the radio doesn't work and there's no cell service, they have to leave the site to communicate which is a huge safety issue.

There was more discussion regarding the radio and cell service in Town.

The cost of the study is \$5,000 and would be performed by Beltronics. There was discussion regarding where the funds should come from. Eric stated he still has the ARPA funds from Phase 2 of the radio project. If that doesn't happen or the project comes in under budget, those funds would be available. There was also discussion about each of the 4 departments pitching in together to raise the funds.

☞ Shawn made a motion to approve the radio study in the amount of \$5,000 with the funding to come from Fire, Police, DPW and EMD departments. Jason seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Shawn thanked the departments for working together.

#### **5:37 Planning Board and ZBA Liaison:**

☞ Shawn made a motion to appoint Lou as the Planning Board Liaison. Jason seconded the motion. Lou will resign from the ZBA effective immediately. Debbie will send an email to the ZBA admin.

☞ Shawn made a motion to appoint Jason as the ZBA liaison. Lou seconded the motion.

**5:49 Round Table Discussion:**

- Shawn suggested we should look into plans for Building 2. Jason suggested we go through the old building committee binder and re-establish a committee. The binder contains information from 2002-2012. Shawn said the Board will be looking for volunteers to re-establish a building committee. Debbie will ask Jenny to put this on the website and Facebook.
- Shawn reminded everyone the Chili Cookoff is this Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> from 11-2 at the Congregational Church, 156 Main Street. All proceeds will go to the 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events.

**6:00 Brian Somero:**

Brian stated town government is out of control. The town budget has gone up 25% over the last few years. The school budget has gone up 13% over the same period of time. He added the Police department has been recklessly spending. We don't need 24 hour coverage. The DPW has \$35,000 less for their Capital Reserve accounts than the Fire Department. He also said the DPW is trying to be conservative with their budget. Shawn agreed he would like less government involvement. Jason said the Police have been working with a skeleton crew for the last few years. Shawn added that because of that, the money that was budgeted for employees that we didn't have went back to the taxpayers to lower the tax rate. He also said the BOS has a policy to keep 10% in the unreserved fund balance and anything over that is used to lower the tax rate. Jason said the budget didn't pass by much this year so they are taking a hard look at that for next year. Shawn extended an invitation to Brian to attend budget meetings for next year.

**6:14 Round Table Discussion continued:**

- Jason said that Peter, Keegan, Debbie and himself met with UNH at the intersection of Timbertop Road and Hubbard Pond Road to discuss reconfiguring that intersection to make it safer. Peter added that Keegan staked out measurements for the potential reconfiguration based on the plans from years ago. Peter will get quotes for removing trees, etc. The Town will need to discontinue a portion of Hubbard Pond Road once the intersection is reconfigured. This will need to be a warrant article. Jason added we will need to re-do deeds to give that portion of land back to the abutting property owners.
- Jason informed the Board that Seven to Save has created a banner for the Old Town Hall.
- He added he has made contact with the current owner of "Friendship Manor" and is hoping to speak to them regarding using their well and septic when events are held at the Old Town Hall.
- Shawn asked Debbie to schedule a CIP discussion with the Planning Board for April 8<sup>th</sup>.

**6:28 Non-public RSA 91-A:3, II (a)-** Shawn made a motion to go into Non-Public under RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Lou seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. At 6:42, Shawn made a motion to return to public session. Lou seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Shawn made a motion to seal the minutes. Jason seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**6:43 Non-public RSA 91-A:3, II (c)-** Shawn made a motion to go into Non-Public under RSA 91-A:3, II (c). Jason seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. At 6:49, Jason made a motion to return to public session. Shawn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**6:54 Non-public RSA 91-A:3, II (I)-** Jason made a motion to go into Non-Public under RSA 91-A:3, II (I). Shawn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. At 7:01, Jason made a motion to return to public session. Shawn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

At 7:15, Jason made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Shawn 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: \_\_\_\_\_

