

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, March 19, 2024
Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by Town Administrator K. Montgomery. **Present:** Diane Beijer (DB), Gary Madden (GM), Robb Ellis (RE), Priscilla Tiede (PT), Edward Tasker (ET), Town Administrator Karen Montgomery (KM) and Recording Secretary MaryJane Dascoli (MJD).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Everyone present participated.

AGENDA REVIEW: The Town Administrator stated the locks for the new Election Trailer were ordered. She added the Auditor will be here next week, Monday, March 25, 2024, and Tuesday, March 26, 2024, to initiate the Year End 2023 audit. Lastly, she said next week the Board shall be reviewing three new applicants for the Police Department.

ACTION ITEMS: The Town Administrator stated first on the Agenda is appointing a Chairman to the Board. Diane Beijer (DB) made a motion to nominate Priscilla Tiede (PT) as Chairman of the Board, seconded by Edward Tasker (ET). The vote followed with DB, yes; GM, no; RE, no; PT, no; ET, yes. **MOTION FAILED.** PT stated she is concerned because she knows GM is interested in the position and GM stated he was. Priscilla Tiede (PT) made a motion to nominate Gary Madden (GM) as Chairman of the Board, seconded by Robb Ellis (RE). The vote followed with DB, no; GM, yes; RE, yes; PT, abstain; ET, no. **MOTION FAILED.** Edward Tasker (ET) stated he feels news travels fast in this Town and he is concerned with Gary Madden (GM) hanging out at the Fire Station and what is being said there. GM retorted that he gets along with people and took exception to ET's comments. ET said he heard GM said the previous Chairman Paula Penney didn't support the Fire Department. ET said it hurts him to hear such things. GM denied he said anything.

Diane Beijer (DB) recommended the Town Administrator (KM) run the meeting. The Town Administrator asked for a motion to enter the scheduled non-public session. ET then stated to the Board to be aware of RSA 91-A:3, Non-Public Sessions, and be mindful that all discussions held or decisions made during nonpublic session remain nonpublic. Violation of this RSA is grounds for removal from office.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: A motion was made by PT to go into non-public session at 5:38pm per RSA 91-A:3 II (c), seconded by RE. The motion passed with the following votes: DB, yes; GM, yes; RE, yes; ET, yes; PT, yes. The Board came out of non-public session at 6:50pm.

Priscilla Tiede (PT) made a motion to nominate Diane Beijer (DB) as Chairman of the Board, seconded by Gary Madden (GM). The vote followed with DB, abstain; GM, yes; RE, yes; PT, yes; ET, yes. **MOTION PASSED.**

Diane Beijer (DB) made a motion to nominate Gary Madden (GM) as Vice Chair of the Board, seconded by Priscilla Tiede (PT) and passing with the following votes: DB, yes; GM, yes; RE, yes; PT, yes; ET, yes. **MOTION PASSED.**

ACTION ITEMS: A motion was made by ET to accept the minutes of March 5, 2024 Meeting, seconded by PT and passing with the following vote: DB, no; GM, yes; RE, no; PT, yes; ET, yes. The payroll & manifest were approved and signed; the MS-232 Report of Voted Appropriations from Town Meeting was pushed out to next week; two Intents to Excavate and four Yield Tax Levies were approved and signed. PT stated she would like to make sure everything discussed by the Board is reflected in the minutes.

NEW BUSINESS: The Committee List was reviewed and it was decided who would represent each committee or board. The Chairman stated she and Priscilla Tiede (PT) would represent the “Negotiating Committee”.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/MISCELLANEOUS: Mr. Whitney of North Road told the Board he was speaking with the Elementary School Principal relative to raising the curriculum and increasing test scores. Then Mr. Whitney said “relative to the Vice Chairman position, he, like GM, is allowed to talk to people in Town and no one is going to shut him up, and Elections have consequences”. DB stated that the Board may battle at times over different topics but at the end of the day, they still work together.

The Town Administrator informed ET that his question of “would the residents of Town wish to start Town Meeting at 1:00pm”; and “would the residents of Town wish to hold Town Meeting on a week night”; were asked at Town Meeting and the answer to both was “No”. There is a Department Head Meeting on April 2, 2024.

PT said she wanted to discuss the Towns’ website and having one person in charge of updating the information. After much discussion, it was agreed that each department would continue to update their own information. Also, the information contained on the website needs to be kept current. The Town Administrator added, if needed, Lisa can do lessons on how to use it. Rick Therrien of Parade Road offered his services to spec out new equipment to record the Board meetings. PT made a motion for Rick Therrien to research new recording equipment and bring his findings back to the Board, seconded by RE and passing with the following votes: DB, yes; GM, yes; RE, yes; ET, yes; PT, yes.

PT said she would like a list of the Board Members’ telephone numbers and e-mail addresses to which the Town Administrator offered to put together. She also feels it is important for the Board to meet each week. A discussion followed and it was pointed out that the meetings for

every other week only occur during May – August. PT made a motion for the Board of Selectmen to meet every week; seconded by RE. The Board voted: DB, no; GM, no; RE, yes; ET, no; PT, yes. **Motion Failed.**

Brush was discussed by the Board and ET reiterated that brush cannot be brought to the dump. You must have someone pick it up or you discard it. The Towns' 300th Celebration was brought up and will be celebrated in 2027. ET asked about the Town Hall expansion and if there are any plans available? Town Administrator stated that Fab has some draft plans and the project was halted due to all the disasters throughout 2023. After some discussion, it was agreed a Building Committee is needed; GM and ET will represent the Board with the Space Needs Committee. PT asked why there is not a picture of the Board on the website. She was reminded that the Town website is not Facebook.

APPOINTMENTS: 6:55pm – The Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief addressed the Board regarding a Boat purchase. The Chief gave a little history of the boat to the Board. This is a Rescue Boat with a 25 Mercury hp motor and comes with the trailer. This boat, at one time, was owned by the Franklin Fire Department but they purchased a new boat and is looking to get rid of this one. A discussion followed. Chief Poulin added that two (2) years ago, they had an old 1986 Ski Boat that was sold for \$4,500.00 and the funds were placed in a separate account for the Fire Department. The Town Administrator stated she looked it up and the \$4,500.00 was placed in the Large Animal Fund as per the minutes a couple years ago. PT made a motion to purchase this Boat for \$4,200.00, the funds coming from the Large Animal Fund, contingent upon someone doing a complete inspection of it, seconded by RE and passing with the following votes: DB, yes; GM, yes; RE, yes; ET, abstain; PT, yes.

The Chief next spoke regarding the garage lights at the Parade Fire Station. He said he received quotes from 4 Independent Contractors and the lights are approximately 15 years old. The last update was done by PSNH. One of the quotes was from Tony Brown, a NH Electrician, who has done work at the Barnstead Country Store. He said he's seen his work and was impressed. More discussion followed. Deputy Chief Will Bartels stated that Brown's proposal replaced the lights where they were as opposed to another proposal that changed the size of the lights and thereby leaving areas that would have to be covered. RE made a motion to accept Electrician Tony Brown's quote for replacement lights at the Parade Station in the amount of \$5,618.00, seconded by PT and passing with the following votes: DB, yes; GM, yes; RE, yes; ET, abstain; PT, yes. This vendor was chosen for this amount because it doesn't involve any extra costs for labor. PT made a motion to fund the LED lights from the Municipal Building Fund, seconded by GM and passing with the following votes: DB, yes; GM, yes; RE, yes; ET, yes; PT, yes.

The Town Administrator spoke with the Fire Chief relative to turning the Smoke Trailer back over to the Fire Association. The title was located and the proper documents were prepared. PT made a motion for the Chairman to sign the title for the Smoke Trailer, seconded by ET and passing with the following votes: DB, yes; GM, yes; RE, yes; ET, yes; PT, yes.

The Fire Chief expressed his disappointment to the Board relative to the Planning Board and a recent case involving sprinklers. Lastly, the Fire Chief said the Ladder Truck will be delivered in December and he and the Deputy Chief are looking to start a new Program in Town. He mentioned there is a St. Patrick's Day Parade in Manchester coming up but has no one to take the truck. PT made a motion to send a Fire Truck to the Parade in Manchester if he has a driver to volunteer and with no compensation, seconded by GM and passing with the following votes: DB, yes; GM, yes; RE, yes; ET, abstain; PT, yes.

PUBLIC INPUT: Public Input was opened at 7:44pm. Deputy Fire Chief Wellington P. Bartels inquired to the Board about the school warrants and why all said no impact. It was mentioned that the increase to the tax rate is estimated at \$1.79. DB responded that it all comes from their budget. Some is for the Teacher's Contract; less than 10% is discretionary; they have a slide with the Health Insurance costs broken down, totals approximately \$500,000; the Teachers are plugged into a wage matrix, not a step and track; Special Ed has a huge impact on the budget. DB then added, she has looked over the School budget and it appears solid. Public Input was closed at 7:53pm.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: A motion was made by PT to go into non-public session at 7:58pm per RSA 91-A:3 II (c), seconded by GM and passing with the following votes: DB, yes; GM, yes; RE, yes; ET, yes; PT, yes. The Board came out of non-public session at 8:12pm and on a motion by PT, seconded by GM, the Board voted to seal the minutes of both non-public sessions with the following vote: DB, yes; GM, yes; RE, yes; ET, yes; PT, yes.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by PT to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm, seconded by RE and passing with the following votes: DB, yes; GM, yes; RE, yes; ET, yes; PT, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

MaryJane Dascoli
Recording Secretary

Chairman Diane Beijer

Vice-Chair Gary Madden

Robb Ellis

Edward Tasker

Priscilla Tiede

March 19, 2024