

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, March 26, 2024
Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:32pm by Chairman Beijer.

Present: Chairman Diane Beijer, Vice Chair Gary Madden, Board Members Robb Ellis, Edward Tasker, and Priscilla Tiede; Town Administrator Karen Montgomery and Recording Secretary MaryJane Dascoli.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Everyone present participated.

AGENDA REVIEW: It was agreed the Board will review the Rules and Procedures.

ACTION ITEMS: P. Tiede made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2024 meeting, seconded by E. Tasker, and approved by the following votes: Chair Beijer, yes; Vice Chair Madden, yes; R. Ellis, yes; E. Tasker, yes; P. Tiede, yes. The Payroll and Manifest, the MS-232 Report of Voted Appropriations, and two (2) Yield Tax Levies were approved and signed. The Road Excavation Bond was discussed relative to a project on Colony Drive being completed by Fay Enterprises; Vice Chair Madden made a motion for the Chairman to sign the documentation with Fay Enterprises, seconded by P. Tiede and approved by the following votes: Chair Beijer, yes; Vice Chair Madden, yes; R. Ellis, yes; E. Tasker, yes; P. Tiede, yes.

The Board discussed the Rules and Regulations relative to procedures that the Board is allowed to engage in and ones that they are not. P. Tiede made a motion that the Board ratify the rules and regulations, seconded by R. Ellis, and approved by the following votes: Chair Beijer, yes; Vice Chair Madden, yes; R. Ellis, yes; E. Tasker, yes; P. Tiede, yes.

NEW BUSINESS: An upcoming EMD Workshop was discussed with the Board requested by EM Director Tim Robbins. There is no cost for this. R. Ellis made a motion for EM Director Robbins to attend, seconded by P. Tiede and passing with the following votes: Chair Beijer, yes; Vice Chair Madden, yes; R. Ellis, yes; E. Tasker, yes; P. Tiede, yes.

An upcoming Selectmen's Class in April was discussed; the class is full but can be done on line. Members P. Tiede and R. Ellis stated they will do that one on line. Another Class for May 7th was discussed.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: The generator for the Highway Department has been installed and is working. The Town Administrator stated that AA bought a new rug for our entry way at Town Hall. P. Tiede brought up meeting dates for May through August and the Board agreed that it would be the second and fourth Tuesday of those months – resuming weekly meetings on September 10th, 2024.

R. Ellis mentioned there is a “Half Moon Festival” coming up in May at Adams Pond. R. Ellis inquired about the Library and was informed the Library’s status was reviewed by an attorney many years ago and determined that Library is their own separate entity. The workers are not employees of the Town, but we process their payroll for them. They have their own budget and can hire and fire their own employees. The building, however, is owned by the Town and Select Board and Library Trustees have a mutual agreement that states who is responsible for what. It was noted that they do not have access to the Town Attorney.

The Town Administrator stated that hearing people ask for more open information, she discussed with staff and there is a Calendar on the Website that can be used for meetings, events, and/or other important items. It can also be linked to the Parks & Rec and Library calendars. Town Hall will review and hopefully have it working soon. The Town Administrator informed the Board that the Tahoe, dog vehicle, has rotted floor boards that will cost at least \$12,000 to fix it. The Police Chief will get estimates and have more information for next weeks’ meeting; however, they are down one vehicle.

APPOINTMENTS: 5:45pm – Fire Warden George “Rusty” Krause came in to speak with the Board relative to a few concerns. His first concern is with the Deputy Warden appointments through the State of NH; due to Covid, appointment forms were lost. He has the forms and needs the Boards’ signatures for approval on them but the list they are signing off on is not complete. He will forward any additions or changes. His next concern is with the potential for fires. The Fire Towers are not manned anymore plus there are no planes to fly over. There is snow cover now and the woods are damp but add a little sun and the temperature can change quickly. He said the Forestry equipment is ready to go and with the Boards’ generous support, he has been able to upgrade and replace whatever Forestry tools are needed. Of course you need Firefighters and people to work Forestry incidents and they are becoming more and more scarce. When you have a lightning strike out in the middle of nowhere, it’s hard to fight something like that when you don’t have access to it; then additionally, have no manpower. It is a delicate balance to manage Call, Volunteer, Combo and/or Career Firefighters.

Mr. Krause then said his position is appointed by the State and his job description (provided to the Board), for Fire Warden, is available for anyone interested in reviewing it. The State pay rates were discussed next. The difference in pay between the State rates and the Firefighters’ rate of pay is hugely different – with the State’s rates much lower. Changes are needed in the policies and Mr. Krause urged everyone to contact their State Rep.’s to get this done. Years ago, they were all considered volunteers but not anymore. R. Ellis asked him if there are Fire Prevention Programs or classes out there. Mr. Krause responded and said he would look into it and let R. Ellis know what is available. Lastly, the topic of Explorers/Interns within the Department was discussed. Ideally, if you have the proper accommodations, i.e., living quarters for the Interns, and a commitment with department members to mentor these individuals and lead by example, you could foster this program and create valuable Firefighters.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: On a motion by P. Tiede, seconded by R. Ellis, the Board voted to go into non-public session at 6:08pm per RSA 91-A:3, II(b): D. Beijer, yes; G. Madden, yes; R. Ellis, yes; E. Tasker, yes; P. Tiede, yes. The Board came out of non-public session at 7:42pm.

PUBLIC INPUT: The Chairman opened public input at 7:44pm; there was no one in attendance but it was mentioned that the Board will look into possible grants for the AED's. Public input was closed at 7:46pm.

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by P. Tiede, seconded by G. Madden, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,

MaryJane Dascoli
Recording Secretary

Chairman Diane Beijer

Vice-Chair Gary Madden

Robb Ellis

Edward Tasker

Priscilla Tiede