

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, July 19, 2022
Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Chairman Therrien

Present: Chairman Therrien; Vice Chair Beijer; Board Members Gary Madden, Paula Penney & Edward Tasker; Town Administrator Karen Montgomery; Recording Secretary Mary Jane Dascoli; IT Technician A. Horohov.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Everyone present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance. (Throughout the meeting, a message kept coming up stating “Internet connection is unstable”).

APPOINTMENTS: Chairman Therrien made a motion to go into Non-Public Session at 5:05 pm, per RSA 91-A:3,II, (a) seconded by P. Penney and passing with the following vote: Rick Therrien, yes; Diane Beijer, yes; Gary Madden, yes; Paula Penney, yes; and Ed Tasker, yes. The Board came out of non-public session at 5:25 p.m. and on a motion to seal the minutes made by D. Beijer and seconded by G. Madden, the Board voted: Rick Therrien, yes; Diane Beijer, yes; Gary Madden, yes; Paula Penney, yes; and Ed Tasker, yes.

AGENDA REVIEW:

Fire Chief Al Poulin and Deputy Chief Wellington Bartels addressed the Board and spoke relative to: the services for the passing of the former Fire Chief Shawn Mulcahy; status of the Ladder/Pumper truck grant; apparatus fuel costs and conserving fuel on scenes by not running the trucks the whole time; replacing some of the lights in the apparatus bays with LED to save costs on electricity; and replacing the boilers at both Stations. Chief Poulin asked to meet with the Board as his contract will be running out and for a copy of the pay matrix.

Deputy Chief Bartels requested approval for a Forest & Lands VFA Grant. He said it is a simple grant worth \$2,500.00 of matching funds; however he didn’t feel the department needed \$5,000.00 worth of equipment – maybe some hose replacement and \$1,000.00 worth of safety goggles. Vice Chair D. Beijer made a motion for the Fire Department to go forward with the grant, spending up to \$2,000.00 for Forest & Lands equipment. The motion was seconded by P. Penney and passed with the following vote: Rick Therrien, yes; Diane Beijer, yes; Gary Madden, yes; Paula Penney, yes; and Ed Tasker, yes. Fire Chief Poulin added the Fire Department just received a grant through “CHAD” for 10 life jackets of different sizes. They left at 5:30 p.m.

The Town Administrator informed the group that the paving is moving forward at this time, and the company is hoping to be on Province Road next week.

ACTION ITEMS: The Board reviewed and approved the following items: the Minutes of the July 5, 2022 meeting; Payroll & Manifest; Dog Warrant; and a letter to the Electric Co-Op. Vice Chair D. Beijer made a motion for the Chairman to sign for the truck, seconded by P. Penney and passing with the following vote: Rick Therrien, yes; Diane Beijer, yes; Gary Madden, yes; Paula Penney, yes; Ed Tasker - abstain.

The Town Administrator spoke about designating a certain area, in the lobby, as a “Public Area”. P. Penney said that at the State, individuals insisting on public viewing are able to be within ear shot of whatever business is being conducted; however, not close enough to see personal information. More discussion followed and it was decided to designate an area in the lobby. Vice Chair D. Beijer made a motion to designate an area for public viewing in the corner of the lobby, 6’ away from any customer, seconded by P. Penney and passing with the following vote: Rick Therrien, yes; Diane Beijer, yes; Gary Madden, yes; Paula Penney, yes; Ed Tasker - yes. The Police Chief stated concerns and felt town council should be contacted.

NEW BUSINESS: The Chairman read aloud the ad for the 2008 Humvee (with a minimum of \$5,000) and stated that there was only one bid received. The bid was for \$7,733.33 from Vincent Lupoli, who asked that the \$2,733.33 over the \$5,000 bid be deposited in the Police Department Ice Cream Truck fund. The question was referred to the Town Administrator to speak with the Town Attorney. Vice Chair D. Beijer made a motion to accept this bid, seconded by P. Penney and passing with the following vote: Rick Therrien, yes; Diane Beijer, yes; Gary Madden, yes; Paula Penney, yes; Ed Tasker - yes.

The Town Administrator stated she received notification from Primex, that the Town would be receiving refunds in the amount of \$17,393.52 to offset the tax rate.

Chairman Therrien stated he has reviewed the various special purpose small fund accounts for the Town and found nothing wrong, but expressed concern because the Board does not see all the activity for these and feels that information should be part of their review. More discussion continued and Vice Chair D. Beijer stated there can be no co-mingling of funds. The Chairman added that he feels strongly about this and the Board should see everything; including who donates what. It was noted that the Treasurer is responsible for accounts opened by the Treasurer; the Board is responsible for the Budget accounts. The Town Administrator explained that some accounts are per town meeting vote, but all deposits/expenditures are accompanied by the proper invoices and verified before action is taken. The Chairman stated he is concerned if we reimburse a department head for an expense and they do not pay the vendor, the Town is on the hook for that; the payment should go directly to the vendor. K. Montgomery stated that some vendor will only accept credit cards and the town does not have any, so the department head has to use their personal one and is then reimbursed for approved items. Vice Chair D. Beijer asked if the Town had a full audit done after the previous Treasurer, Marjorie Terry, left in March, 2022; the Town Administrator stated yes. The Town Administrator added that all accounts are audited every year.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: G. Madden spoke relative to Parks and Recreation Commission. He said they are gearing up for swim lessons; they have started a new group working as a Garden Club; they are continuing to work on the “Playscape” area located behind the Oscar Foss Memorial Library; and the Summer Concerts are well attended each week.

The Town Administrator stated Jen Blair inquired about Old Home Day. A discussion continued and it was decided that maybe next year a new Old Home Day Committee could be formed to bring back Old Home Days.

PUBLIC INPUT: Public input was opened at 6:18 p.m. G. Madden spoke regarding the Bandstand in the Parade. Rick Therrien looked at it and yes, it needs work. It was noted that the Church in the Parade is still doing outdoor church services on Sundays. E. Tasker stated he would like to see a list of items needed, from Rick, for the Bandstand. The roof is the biggest concern and perhaps it could be replaced in September, after the concerts end in August.

Ms. Kelley stated the audio is terrible. You cannot hear anyone in the audience unless they step up to the microphone. She added that regarding the donated funds – she felt it sounded like micro-managing. Margaret Cipriano addressed the Board relative to donated funds for the Town. She stated that she has made various donations in the Town, some she didn’t mind being public, others were made anonymous and some people do not want their names out there. Priscilla Tiede stated that she understood the recent increases in money regarding the hiring and retention of police officers, but felt the other employees should receive Longevity bonuses. Vice-Chair Beijer stated that the Board is looking at that and re-reviewing the pay matrix.

Wayne Whitney of North Road spoke to the Board regarding homes being broken into and belongings stolen and people feel they are not getting enough information from the police. He felt that the Police Department is not doing their job and added that people will take matters into their own hands and “sooner or later, someone’s going to get shot”. Chief Poirier asked if there was a report made for what he was referring to. Chairman Therrien commented that things should be easier as most people have video cameras now. Kris Furtney stated that Therrien’s response is a response from 30 years ago from the city of Manchester. K. Furtney was adamant that “We, as a Town, need to keep drugs and theft from running rampant here; we are not Exeter”. He added that unless we want Barnstead to be known for stealing and drugs, “we need to nip it in the bud” because it’s coming here. Liz Kelley commented that as a lifetime resident, this town has had drug issues here for the past 30 years. Chief Poirier stated that he can’t discuss active investigations but spoke relative to the department. He said they just indicted 8 people which involves a lot of additional work, they are short staffed, and have been prioritizing the caseloads to maximizing productivity. They are out every night patrolling but cannot be informing the residents daily of their progress on cases – some take longer and others it may jeopardize the outcome of the case to put the information out there for the public. He urged people to take pictures and write down serial numbers in case anything is stolen.

Brett Tiede spoke to the Chief relative to an incident on Bow Lake Road where there were individuals trespassing on the property and taking equipment. The Chief said he was well aware of the call and it was a family dispute over equipment between themselves; a civil issue. Mr. Tiede stated the Chief should have run a check on one of the individuals as he has outstanding warrants; the Chief replied he ran a record check and none came back for him. Mr. Tiede spoke to the Board and added “the Selectmen are responsible for the safety of the residents of this Town and you should notify the Sheriff’s Office and State Police for assistance”. The Police Chief stated neither department has jurisdiction here. E. Tasker stated that they have checked other towns and a number of departments have lost staff; it’s an issue all over including other states. Chief Poirier added that the State Police alone are down 90 people. Chairman Therrien closed Public Input at 6:57pm.

Town Administrator Montgomery asked the Board to address the invoices from Chief Poirier for reimbursement. Chief Poirier explained that the new bikes and racks are in. He had to pay for them and submit a slip to be reimbursed as the Town doesn’t have a credit card. G. Madden stated he didn’t know anything about the bike racks and wondered when the Chief had talked to them about it. G. Madden was reminded that it was through a Grant that the Police Department acquired these bikes and racks. R. Therrien commented that it’s a line item in the budget now and D. Beijer corrected him, stating that it was part of a grant and not in the budget. D. Beijer made a motion to reimburse Chief Poirier for the funds spent on the bikes and racks, seconded by P. Penney and passing with the following vote: Chairman Therrien - yes; Vice Chair Beijer – yes; G. Madden – yes; P. Penney – yes; and E. Tasker – yes. G. Madden commented that he was not in favor of the bikes or the ice cream truck. Chief Poirier stated the Livespan Fingerprint system is scheduled to come in August 11, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT: P. Penney motioned to adjourn the meeting as 7:07 pm, seconded by D. Beijer and passing with the following vote: Chairman Therrien - yes; Vice Chair Beijer – yes; G. Madden – yes; P. Penney – yes; E. Tasker – yes; meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

MaryJane Dascoli
Recording Secretary

Chairman R. Therrien

Vice-Chair D. Beijer

G. Madden

P. Penney

E. Tasker