

**MINUTES  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
Friday, June 02, 2023**

**SELECTMEN PRESENT:** Janet Wall (JW), Mark Avery (MA), Tim Burt (TB)

**OTHERS:** Eric Fiegenbaum (EF), Deborah Ahlstrom (DA), Chad Roberge from Avitar, and Jeannette Fones.

**Correspondence:**

- A letter from the Town of Strafford noted a public hearing for two proposed cell towers, both are west of Nippo Lake.
- A flyer from the State on funding opportunities for energy projects was noted. TB is signed up for a webinar about grant funding for towns.

**Sign:** accounts payable

**NEW BUSINESS**

- TB moved and MA seconded a motion to approve the use of Town trails by acidotic Racing on July 29, 2023 with provisions that they coordinate with the school, police and clean up after themselves. Motion passed.
- There was a discussion about Community Power *Coalition* opportunities. It was thought that the rates were not that attractive at present, but the idea may have merit in the future.
- MA moved and TB second a motion to abate 2023 P01 taxes in the amount of \$203 on a registered camper and patio (M3 L44-A26) that were not at the campground until after April 1, 2023. Motion passed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- EF explained a possible wetland violation where the ZBA had approved filling in wetlands, but it appears the boundaries were not respected. EF was granted permission to ~~attend~~ *help* the Building Inspector if he can arrange a site visit. If two other members of the Conservation Commission attend, public meeting rules need to be followed. The Selectmen support the BI's investigation.
- In response to an inquiry about possible funding for winter storm damage to trees, EF reported that the State had not declared Strafford County a disaster zone. Disaster funding often only covers the opening highways and not general cleanup.
- EF will ask the town attorney to contact Portsmouth to check on the status of potential legal action on the Schwartz property at 14 Huckins Rd.
- Chad Roberge, from Avitar was in attendance and was able to address the question raised by the DRA about the median ratio being at 65.6 percent. He explained the statistics of the issue and noted that Madbury's COD and PRD were favorable in indicating that our housing stock apportionments are equal. While the assessments are off from the market value, the assessments are proportionate among the properties in town. This is partly due to Madbury's small commercial base and the homogeneity of the residential housing stock. Properties are equally below the valuation in 2020. He thought the assessment model being used by Avitar is accurately assessing the property values.
- On a question of a special exception running with the land, the Selectmen were in agreement with research by EF that a special exception *and conditions imposed* does run with the land.

## BOARD UPDATES:

- There was a discussion on the Police Chief's visit on Monday night to discuss the purchase of a new cruiser. The CIP and Capital Reserve were reviewed, as well as the departmental budget. The request for new budget line for cleaning uniforms will also be reviewed.
- EF reported for the Road Agent that Freshet road ditching was still underway and shoulder work was being scheduled. Cold patching was also scheduled for next week. MA noted that the road culvert at the pond on Evans Rd. was partially blocked. EF noted that the Dube Brook culvert also had a blockage, due to beaver activity. Previously reported leaning trees on Evans would be evaluated by the road agent and Eversource.

## OTHER:

- *For research on 3 Cherry Lane*, EF reported that septic systems do not necessarily have to be ~~installed~~ *upgraded* where the load had been increased, but an approved design must be in place.
- EF reported that the Road Agent was in favor of the continued spraying of knotweed on certain areas of the town road shoulders. The Conservation Commission was hoping to do a survey to focus treatment areas. EF will inquire as to whether the State might also spray State roads.  
JW expressed an interest in spraying for poison ivy as it is a nuisance to residents using the shoulders for walking. EF will inquire about cost with the company doing the knotweed spraying.
- EF reported that the City of Dover had purchased the Dickerson property on the north side of the Reservoir.
- The Selectmen were agreeable to the church using some town tables for their yard sale - an activity that is usually associated with Madbury Day. Only older tables would be loaned.
- EF is continues helping a welfare applicant with an application with the State.
- TB suggested that an action item table be added to the agenda.
- So far, no one had responded to the Musings notice on board vacancies. TB will contact his neighbor who has expressed an interest in representing the town on the Lamprey Regional Cooperative. EF will contact the resident who has expressed an interest in being a cemetery trustee. Both will try for a for Friday visits.
- TB suggested picking Friday's before a Monday meeting to conduct workshops on particular projects. EF will add a discussion on "rules of procedures" for the Selectmen meetings. Another topic would be the websites.

Meeting ended at 10:45am.

Submitted by: *Eric Fugerebaum*

Approved: *6-9-2023*

*On approved minutes, proof changes are noted through italics for additions and strikethroughs for deletions.*