

**MINUTES
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Friday, October 06, 2023**

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

OTHERS: Eric Fiegenbaum (EF), Deb Ahlstrom (DA), Jay Moriarty (JM), Madbury Fire Chief Tom Perley, PWEC members John Steele, John Bickford and Susan Ossoff, and Jeannette Fones.

CORRESPONDANCE

- None

GUEST: Fire Chief Tom Perley came before the Selectmen to discuss his budget request and capital reserves and improvement items. There were two larger increases in the budget. Incident pay which is based on a number of calls estimate, and an increase in the association dues to the Seacoast Chief Fire Officer Mutual Aid District. They coordinate regional hazmat responses and have been underfunded. Equipment is in good condition. Some late invoices are being paid. Half of the expenses for forest fires are reimbursed by the state. Most of the recent calls have been for medical aid. Recently, we have accepted mutual aid more times than we have given. There was a short review of the capital items. There will likely be a need for living quarters and future planning for engine replacement even with the fire needs assessment, which could pair Madbury with another town. Breathing apparatus *will* requires updating. There has been an uptick in membership, with four taking training. Availability is still an issue. There may be some federal grants regarding the provision for living quarters. TB noted that the compensation for the fire chiefs is low. Chief Perley is hoping to arrange for steadier clerical help and is researching phone systems to reduce costs.

NEW BUSINESS

- Members of the Public Works Exploratory Committee joined a discussion on their report submission. It was noted that the previous Selectmen's acceptance of the report did not include dissolving the committee. The resident members were thanked for their hard work in providing decision paths for the town. There was a review of the process the committee went through. On the options, a pure contractor model would always require finding the contractor and still would require town facilities of some type. MA wondered if an RFP would confirm the difficulty of the contractor model. A timeline of potential tasks illustrated the need for prompt action. Cooperation with other towns was problematic and not likely, except perhaps for equipment maintenance. The skill set of employees is very important. There was a discussion of the *necessity of extending the timeline with contractors, some of which need testing. There is a lot of planning to be done. The Transfer Station is a good candidate for a site, but other options should be explored but confirming work needs to be done.* Any facility would need to meet minimum design requirements for equipment and employees. Further planning would need more experienced input. *The Selectmen will review and consider further actions.* The Selectmen will discuss the committee's status at their next meeting. The next PWEC meeting will be canceled. The PWEC members were commended on an outstanding job.

OLD BUSINESS

- EF explained the discrepancies in culvert sizes for two lots being developed on Huckins Rd.
- EF shared the response from ORYA regarding trash pickup.

BOARD UPDATES

- JM, as Road Agent, spoke to the Selectmen about AJ Hartford's draft snow contract extension proposal. There had were modifications to the locations to be plowed and

equipment required. JM noted that arrangements had been made to have a third driver available. An increase in the number of trucks to three ~~gave~~ would give more of a cushion and should result in a better level of service. There was a discussion on the structure of the costs for the contract extending through the 2026-27 season, whether it be a base increase or just percentage increases. A comparison with what other towns are paying for contract drivers with trucks was offered. JM thought the proposal was fair, citing large increases in costs and wages. Some counter offers were discussed and there was the desire to negotiate with Hartford. As EF assists with the word processing, he will remove historical references to the draft contract which had been confusing.

- TB explained a procedural issue with a recent Planning Board vote where a 2/3 majority was required for a waiver. LandCare had been given a four-month extension as they wait for a response from NH DOT on their driveway application. There may be a request for an appointment to the Planning Board, as a resident on Hayes Rd had attended meetings and showed an interest.

OTHER:

- EF reported that the Martin's lawyer is likely headed to the Planning Board for home occupation at *3 Cherry Lane*.
- The noise at the Eversource substation is temporary equipment for work that should be completed by October 20, 2023.
- George Maglaras, Chairman of the Strafford County Commissioners, will be invited to a future meeting, next year, to discuss regional fire assistance.
- *There is ongoing investigation to the damage at town hall and repair options.*
- *There was a short discussion on resolving probate at 65 Cherry Lane.*

Meeting ended at 12:45pm.

Submitted by: *Eric Trappenburg*

Approved: *10-13-2023*

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