

**MINUTES
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Friday, November 10, 2023**

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Mark Avery (MA), Tim Burt (TB), Janet Wall (JW) until 9:30am
OTHERS: Eric Fiegenbaum (EF), Deb Ahlstrom (DA), Bruce Hodsdon

CORRESPONDANCE

- A letter from SRPC explained their dues for their FY 2025 in the amount of \$2,528.48.

SIGN: payroll

MINUTES: MA moved and TB seconded a motion to approve the minutes of 11/3 as amended. Motion passed.

GUEST: Bruce Hodsdon, Welfare Officer, came before the Selectmen to discuss the welfare budget. There is a legal requirement to provide a certain amount of assistance to qualifying resident. Those requesting assistance are required to submit an application. There are guidelines and a worksheet to follow when providing assistance. When appropriate, applicants are referred to other welfare agencies for additional support. Some recent examples of assistance were reviewed. Predicting the need is very difficult. He recommended keeping the budget at its current amount.

NEW BUSINESS

- On a complaint regarding a property owner, *at 54 Evans Rd*, who might be using the property to rent parking to UNH students, EF will draft a letter questioning the use and direct the owner to the Planning Board or a discussion with the Selectmen.
- There was a short discussion on the possibility of *grant* funding to implement ordinances to address housing needs. The information will be passed along to the Planning Board.
- TB will draft and send a letter to the Madbury residents ~~of~~ *on* the Oyster River School District Board to note the town's interest in seeing the Mutualink system functioning in an effective manner. *MA moved and TB seconded the approval and sending of the letter due to time constraints.*

OLD BUSINESS

- After a review of the options and recommendations from CMA engineers, MA and TB were in agreement with the choices chosen by CMA. The final decision will be taken when ~~Selectmen JW is in attendance~~ the full board is in attendance. The Planning Board should be consulted for a conditional use permit, where appropriate.
- MA moved and TB seconded a motion to support the SRPC initiative to try to accelerate the NH DOT's projects to improve safety at the Rt. 155 - Madbury Road - Town Hall Rd. intersection and the Rt. 9 - Old Stage Rd - French Cross Rd in that order of priority. Motion passed.
- Selectmen were agreeable to Chief McGann's proposal to use the police department line item for equipment and machinery to purchase new firearms.
- TB moved and MA seconded to take off the table a request for a transfer of funds *for uniform cleaning* within the police department budget, because the transfer was no longer needed. Motion passed
- MA moved and TB seconded a motion to request an additional \$1,665.50 in funding from the Wentworth Family Trust Gift to cover additional material and curtain rod for windows in the

old part of town hall. Motion passed.

Additionally, TB moved and MA seconded a motion to find the additional \$1,650.50 from town funds, if the Wentworth Family Trust Gift denies the funding request for additional material and curtain rod for windows in the old part of town hall. Motion passed.

- On the recommendation of the Road Agent, the Selectmen were in agreement to remove the Road Closed sign on Long Hill Rd, where the road is partially a Class V and Class VI road. A Class VI road sign will be placed at the beginning of the Class VI section.
- The draft letter inquiring on plans to comply with Madbury and NH DES wetland rules was approved for sending to the property owner at 50 Huckins Rd.

BOARD UPDATES

- It was agreed to have MA reach out to Mike Wenrich of Brookline to see if he might provide consulting services during the next phases of the public works issue. EF will add a discussion of the Public Works Exploratory Committee recommendations for an upcoming Selectmen's meeting.

OTHER:

- EF reported that the leaking window sashes at town hall had been replaced, and that electrical work to replace and modify lighting at town hall is nearly complete.
- *A discussion on reviewing the Elderly Exemption criteria was deferred to a future agenda.*

Meeting ended at 11:00am.

Submitted by: *Eric Feigenbaum*

Approved: 12-4-2023

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