

**MINUTES  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
Thursday, July 25, 2024**

**SELECTMEN PRESENT:** Mark Avery (MA), Tim Burt (TB), Susan Ossoff (SO)

**OTHERS:** Eric Fiegenbaum (EF), Deb Ahlstrom (DA), Colin Lentz (SRPC), and Gordon Davenport (*Recreation Commission*).

**Correspondence:**

- A notice from NH DES granting a Forestry Statutory Permit by Notification for the property at Map 3 Lot 50, Tana Properties Limited Partnership was noted.
- There was a request from Community Action Partnership of Strafford County to support their initiative to operate "Home for Now" year round. EF will forward the request letter and proposed budget to the Select Board for further consideration.

**SIGN:** accounts payable, payroll checks. MA moved and TB seconded a motion to sign the intent to cut for Tana Properties Limited Partnership, Map 3-50. Motion passed. There was consensus to sign the Town Hall use *request* by Mattson. After submission by CMA Engineers, review and comment by Madbury, review and signing by NHDOT, SO moved and TB seconded a motion to have the Select Board Chair sign the 2nd amendment for the Freshet Road Bridge scope and fees. Motion passed.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

**GUEST:** Colin Lentz, Senior Transportation Planner from the Strafford Regional Planning Commission, came to discuss BETA's (*contracted engineering firm*) proposals for improving safety at the Madbury Rd-Town Hall Rd-Route 155 and the Old Stage-Route 9 intersections. The intention is to seek funding outside the State's 10-year plan process, while still staying in the 10-year plan. Having a defined project with some preliminary engineering could put the Town in position to seek Federal funding such as the Safe Streets for All program, perhaps in 2025. The Select Board provided some suggestions and indicated some preferences regarding options and combinations of options for more detailed design proposals.

On other matters, MA noted that Tom Falk has indicated he is willing to be a Madbury representative to SRPC. *Colin* Lentz was asked to keep an eye out for grants that could help with Madbury's Department of Public Works.

Gordon Davenport, Chair of the Recreation Commission, met with the Select Board about the revised trail extension. The new proposal was for just a gravel trail extension and did not include work in the woods, and was supported by the Commission. It included \$3,000 in donated value for the placement of two culverts. There was agreement to increase the Wentworth Gift Grant proposal by \$1,000 to meet the Grant's minimum required distribution for the year. SO moved and TB seconded a motion to increase the Wentworth Gift Grant proposal by \$1,000. Motion passed. SO moved and TB seconded a motion to release \$24,000 from the Recreational Facilities Capital Reserve Fund to fund the trail expansion. Motion passed. TB moved and SO seconded a motion to authorize the Recreation Commission Chair to execute the trail expansion contract for \$30,000 including the \$3,000 discounted donation as presented. Motion passed. There was discussion on how to solicit members for the Commission as well as volunteer workers. The division of maintenance responsibilities ~~on~~ for the Tibbetts ~~Field~~ *property* was accepted by *the Recreation Commission*.

### NEW BUSINESS:

- EF related the Town Clerk's interest in having a pre-budget meeting with the Select Board to discuss office hours and future staffing. The Select Board was agreeable to a meeting in August. There was a ~~suggestion~~ *recommendation* that the *Employee Handbook* could use a *review and update*.

### OLD BUSINESS:

- There was a review of the budget meeting calendar. The Select Board indicated a willingness to hold extra meeting's if necessary to accommodate department and board availability. Gordon Davenport was the only one to attend the Zoom *budget* help session held by DA.
- A proposal from the Lawson Group for environmental monitoring at the Safety Complex was reviewed. EF will ask if asbestos testing is necessary based on the age of the building, what water contaminants would be tested for, if the proposal *can* be itemized, and if the testing *can* be completed and billed before the end of the year. MA will liaison with the Police Chief. There was an interest in developing a master list of maintenance tasks and assignments *for all Town properties*. EF will ask Jim Davis about the osmosis water filter at the Safety Complex.

### BOARD and DEPARTMENT UPDATES

- MA reported that the Planning Board, after a final review, adopted the Housing and Demographics Chapter of the Master Plan. He related that Martin of 3 Cherry Ln did not stay for his discussion with the Planning Board, presumably because the chapter review ran beyond the agenda's outline. He noted that he has asked EF to bring the town attorney up-to-date and to ask for advice if Martin did not set up another visit with the Planning Board.
- The Road Agent has reported that the vacuum truck work had gone very well, but would require a second day of use due to the volume of material being removed. EF was asked to let the Road Agent know that the culvert at the pond on Evans Road should be looked at. EF will provide the BETA intersection reports to the Road Agent.

### OTHER

- EF noted that he had seen a status report on the Bunker Lane Condominium Association Water Supply Improvement project. The Association was continuing to assemble funds by applying for a Rural Development grant.
- EF reported that Portsmouth had repaired a leak in their water supply line in the vicinity of Freshet Road before the water treatment plant. It was noted that a couple years ago Portsmouth expressed an intention to do vegetation management along the pipeline from the Reservoir to maintain access.
- On a question from a resident on any setback requirement for a driveway gate, MA will take the question to the next Planning Board meeting.
- EF provided a diagram of the FEMA disaster relief process noting that the Governor must first declare a disaster, which may include a minimum loss requirement.
- EF noted that the Secretary of State has indicated that there may be up to \$3,500 available to towns that are replacing their vote tabulating machines. ~~So far only one new machine has been certified.~~ A request for assistance must be before June 30, 2026.
- EF reported on a conversation he had with John Davis regarding ~~tension~~ concerns with a neighbor over a fence and *possible* business expansion.
- EF will inquire about costs to do a post card or flyer to residents on the Public Works Planning Committee and other volunteer opportunities.

Meeting ended at 10:00pm

Submitted by: *Eric Fegenbaum*

Approved: 8-8-2024

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