

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**February 8, 2021**

**MEMORIAL BUILDING**

**4:00 P.M.**

*The following are to be considered draft minutes only until approved by the Board at their next meeting.*

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Selectmen present: Tamara Butcher, Chairwoman and Dick Hendl

Others: White Smit, Sgt. Michael Beaulieu, Mike and Joni Boucher, Bill Waddell

Zoom: B. Manning and SueAnn Kazenas

Scheduled Appointments:

Mike Boucher stated he and his partners were looking through the minutes from the selectmen's meeting on January 11<sup>th</sup>. On page six just above the last sentence it stated that George visited Hoptimystic along with some comments about his visit. Mike and his partners felt there was a lot left to interpretation in their eyes. They are here to clarify things in case something comes up later under a different board. First, George did mention that it was all out of state people there, which was not the case. There were actually two residents that asked them who George was when he left the building because they didn't know him. There were probably more local visitors, those two stuck out because they asked the question. Mike stated they have also met a lot of people from out of town that have recently moved here, so they still have some out of state plates, but he's not going to speculate whether they were there or not. Another comment George had made was that the only people wearing masks were the owner and his wife. First, there are two owners and two wives, and he promises they always have their masks on, and they also follow the restaurant guidelines. When you are coming or going you must have a mask on, when you are sitting down you can take your mask off. Mike stated that George felt comfortable enough not to have a mask on when he sat down. Mike assures the board that they are strictly following guidelines. Bill Waddell added that George stated no one inside had their mask on, that is because all the people inside were seated. Dick asked what the seating arrangement is. Mike said they have a bar. If you come in as a group you can sit together. If it's a separate group, they have pulled chairs out from the middle of the bar so that you can always sit on one side and the other. If a group of more than two people come in, they will add a chair for that group. There is also a round table in the back. Customers are welcome to sit outside, or they can wait outside until seats are available. Joni stated they are serving at half capacity, based on restaurant guidelines. Mike said they can wait outside in their car and they will go get them when seats are available. Mike said they have been fortunate, a lot of people will sit outside for them, and they will do some fires for them. Bill said they are at ten maximum with Covid, and maximum group size of six. Mike is not sure why George brought up that everyone was from out of state, it doesn't matter if they are. Mike thanked the board for their time.

## Zoning Permits

REPORT from ZONING COORDINATOR. -- Board of Selectmen - Monday, February 8, 2021.

Here is a summary of permit applications and Zoning Coordinator activity.

Application for Permit – Acted Upon, APPROVED

1. Almas Juntas Trust, 2251 George Hill Rd. Mr. Albrecht/Ms. Wentworth would like to tear down an old shed and place a new garage with side lean-to storage area in a spot adjacent to where the old shed was located. Zoning Coordinator has been to the site and discussed the project with Mr. Albrecht. There are no setback or wetlands issues, and the structure is planned to be less than 35' tall. Applicant has represented on the application no Home Business or Commercial/Industrial activity. Permit application approved per delegation of authority.

2. Accepted modified Zoning Permit application from Rylee Preston, 112 Philbrick Hill Rd, for deck being constructed on house – plan for deck was not included in the original Zoning Permit application. After-the-fact fee received, and modified zoning permit application approved per delegation of authority.

Open Applications - In Hand, But NOT Acted Upon.

3. David and Elizabeth Erickson, cabin off Morrill Road. No further action pending final plan from applicant. Applicant has been advised accordingly.

Other Matters.

A. Advise resident property owner regarding application to the Zoning Board for Special Exception to convert “shed” (formerly a commercial catering kitchen) into a one bed-room apartment following consultation with the Planning Board. (McGraw)

B. Advise resident property owner regarding application to the Zoning Board for Variance to allow build of a garage less than 35' from side property line. (Valela)

C. Inquiry from out-of-town person looking to purchase property off Four Corners Road. Wanted information regarding Zoning Ordinance, set-back requirements, Class VI road requirements, well and septic, etc. (Ford)

<< February 7, 2021 >>

Whit read through his report. He brought attention to item C, Mr. Ford. Mr. Ford is looking at buying the second property on the right heading up King's Highway from Four Corners road. He is doing a lot of due diligence because this property that has not been attended to for quite

some time. He's got plans to rebuild and straiten the place out. He has not decided to purchase the property yet.

Dick asked Whit if the topics on the BITS agenda will be expanded on at the meeting. Whit has written multiple page summaries, they are available to the public, they have been reviewed by Consolidated, in an effort to reduce the amount of misinformation that's largely being created by chatter on the community Facebook page. Whit has instructed people to contact him at [permits@springfieldnh.org](mailto:permits@springfieldnh.org) if they want additional information. This way we are not cluttering the Facebook page. Whit stated the community information page serves a very useful purpose, and it should not become the sounding board for internet information or for complaining about internet stuff. The word is slowly getting out. Dick asked for written copies of what Whit has written. There is a summary on copper phone lines and internet tv. Whit is currently writing a piece on what to expect during your install. Whit said for the most part things seem to be going very well. Whit stated the list of five or six things seen on the agenda was to let Consolidated know what they would be discussing, and to set the stage that this should probably be their last meeting. A few will stay involved, but they don't feel the need to have a committee meeting once a month anymore.

Whit said that Consolidated is bending over backwards to show good customer service and in conclusion, they are going to be rolling out a number of upgrades and additional opportunities that will be offered to the town of Springfield as part of the overall deal. The reason for this is that we are on the bleeding edge of what Consolidated is doing nationally. Consolidated is doing thirty towns this year in NH, and they are using NH as the model for what they want to do nationally. And we are one of the lead towns in NH, so we are in a very special position.

Whit said if George was here, he had a piece that he was going to read into the record. Tamara thought it might be good to have in the minutes. Whit said what this individual wrote was, "Sure, one could say we were lucky the governor chose to make federal funds available, but it would not have happened without some real perseverance. And I think that includes this board of selectmen. The high-speed internet service will be transformational for all residents, but especially for our kids in school. They will no longer be missing remote classes, or just trying to follow along on their phones." Whit thinks this speaks volumes of the town moving into a very good position, without really changing the fundamental basics of who we are. Dick said Whit deserves a lot of the credit, because without his leadership and willingness to take it on he doesn't think we'd be this far. Whit appreciates the compliment but said he'd be less than honest if he didn't say there were times he was ready to give up. People like Kevin Lee, Dan Saulnier and even Dick Petrin kept them in the game. It was a group effort. Tamara said the board appreciates all of them.

Minutes of January 25, 2021:

Dick moved to approve the minutes of January 25<sup>th</sup> as written. The motion was seconded by Tamara and unanimously approved.

## Unfinished Business:

## Finalize budget recommendations:

Tamara stated that initially she had wanted to put Gove Brook into the budget. Now she is thinking more about taking it out of the budget, trying to keep the highway department a little more level with what it has been in the past. Tamara suggested taking Gove Brook out of the budget and using unreserved fund balance that we turned back in, we had about \$89,000, which would cover the \$86,340 that we have as a quote from Mike Hansen. Janet said that would leave \$1,000 in the budget for culverts. This would bring the highway budget total would be \$276,207.

Tamara asked the opinion on purchasing a new truck or continue to look for a used one and use that \$75,000. Dick's preference would be to keep looking for a used truck but is unsure if that is the better alternative. B made some good arguments about putting us back on track for replacements and that required him to buy a new truck this year. Tamara said if we buy a new truck and used the \$75,000 to offset the cost, then we are only looking to borrow \$95,000. Janet said the rates are favorable right now. Dick has no problem agreeing to a new truck and borrowing \$95,000 as long as we can arrange for the loan without paying a huge cost of paperwork fees. Tamara and Dick are supporting the purchase of a new truck.

Article 2 – Sand Shed Site Preparation – Last year we voted to raise and appropriate \$100,000 for preparation of the lot behind the highway garage. Due to unforeseen circumstances that did not happen and that amount of money went back into the general fund. Article 2 is basically redoing what we did last year. Tamara moves that we accept article 2, sand shed site preparation. The motion was seconded by Dick and unanimously approved.

Article 3 – Highway Truck – See if the town will vote to raise the sum of \$95,000 to purchase and equip a truck for the highway department. That \$95,000 will be in the form of a loan, the additional \$75,000 came from a non-lapsing article. B asked if the \$75,000 is in a fund that the town has already approved, you as the board of selectmen have the ability to spend that money, why does that need to be in the warrant article. Janet said is showing the total you are raising and appropriating for the truck. B said it looks like you are asking the town for permission to spend the \$75,000, but you already have that permission. B says if you are going to include that in there, then it should say appropriate the \$170,000; \$95,000 raised by taxes and \$75,000 from the non-lapsing article. It would make it cleaner. Janet said she could make that change easily. Janet will also need to add to that article to raise and appropriate \$5950 for the first year's payments. Tamara made a motion to recommend the article for the highway truck. The motion is seconded by Dick and unanimously approved.

Article 4 – Gove Brook Culvert - \$86,340 will come from the unreserved fund balance. Tamara made a motion to recommend article four, Gove Brook Culvert, \$86,340. The motion was seconded by Dick and unanimously approved.

Dick said we never came to a conclusion about the agricultural commission. Tamara received an email requesting \$500; \$400 for four individual programs they want to hold this year and \$100 for miscellaneous expenses. Dick asked if they said what kind of programs they had in mind. Tamara said no, those are apparently speaker fees they anticipate having. Dick said we run a test case here, give them the \$500 and see how they spend it, what kind of programs they have. If it turns out it doesn't work, we can reduce the line item next year. Dick feels it's fair to give them a chance. Tamara did read that a lot of times agricultural commissions apply for grants to fund their programs. Lines need to be created for this \$500, under the planning board. The total Janet has come up with for the operating budget is \$1,503,186. We will need to add two months' worth of loan payments, if we get the truck in November, which is \$5950. This brings the total operating budget to \$1,509,136.

Article 5 – General Municipal Operations – Tamara made a motion to recommend article five, about \$1,509,136. The motion was seconded by Dick and unanimously approved.

Dick stated when we were doing the request for reimbursement for the GOFER'S programs we had to provide evidence that we had complied with either RSA 31:95B or RSA 21-P:43, in a sense to give the selectboard the authority to accept money they didn't expect. Dick spoke with Darrin and he said there used to be a warrant article. Janet said he was correct, and it was adopted a while back and believes it is still in effect, because it is in effect until rescinded. Dick will go back and find out when that came into effect so we can have it as a reference if this comes up again. Dick said the question that came up was that there are two RSA's that give you this authority. One is referring to something that took place at town meeting in the past. The other was to have the selectboard make a motion to essentially allow the board to accept gifts. Janet said you can still do that. Even though you are given the town meeting approval to accept gifts, there is then a process that the selectmen have to follow, depending on the size of the gift. Janet is wondering if the RSA 43 isn't just the second step that you would follow. You don't have to go to town meeting approval to accept gifts, which you might have to do otherwise. You have that blanket authority, and without seeing the other RSA Janet wonders if that's the one that talks about how you go about accepting the gifts once they are given.

Janet asked if the board wanted to look at the revenue. Janet usually needs to break it down even further because the way the treasurer does it does not fit with what the state of NH requires her to do on the budget worksheet which has to be signed. Janet will include some of this information on the revenue side of the budget worksheets. The budget that gets sent into the state has to have the selectmen's recommended revenue and the budget committees recommended revenue. There is still work to be done on the budget worksheets.

New Business:

Dick sat in on the court hearing on Wednesday. The briefs are due by February 18<sup>th</sup>.

Tamara was notified by the snowmobile club about an area that they found a snowbank, and someone went over and cleaned it up so that there were no accidents.

**Board and Department Updates:**

Dick announced that the library is going to try something new. In the past they have bought specific museum passes, for example VINS and The Fells. In conversations with other librarians the idea was discussed that maybe we shouldn't use specific passes. Dick said they will continue to have the VINS passes because that is very popular. The rest of the money will be put into a pool and if someone goes to a museum, they can bring back their receipt and get a refund of a certain dollar amount per admission, up to a certain amount per family per year. This way you are not limited to the museums you visit. The details are still being worked out, but this is the general idea. They have put \$1000 aside for this and we'll see how it works. Tamara asked if the Library has a list of museums. Dick said they are trying to build one.

**Correspondence/Signatures:**

Janet read Pixies letter which stated the treasurer's position was overlooked when creating the list of town elected positions. Janet explained the scenario to the board. The solution is to have the board appoint Angela MacCreighton, after town meeting, as treasurer for another year. Angela will be added to the ballot in the Spring of 2022.

Janet stated there is an email from Esquire Paul Peter Nikolai. He is contesting the idea that current legal structures require that Grantham, Springfield and Enfield boards of selectmen to impose property tax bills to the properties within the geographic limitations of the Village District of Eastman. The letter is in the box for the board to read. Janet is unsure if there is a response needed.

Vacation request for the road agent, weather permitting.

**Miscellaneous Business:**

Whit asked if he could make an appointment to discuss a training opportunity. It does not need to be in the form of a selectboard meeting, just an in-service training. Whit would like it to include the selectboard as well as Janet and Jill. Whit would like to share an experience he had in potential problem analysis and decision making. Tamara suggested April 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:30.

At 5:09 p.m. Tamara made a motion to enter into non-public session to discuss legal per RSA 91-A:3, seconded by Dick and unanimously approved.

The Board moved back into public session at 5:16 p.m. The board of selectmen have agreed to follow up on the right to know request and will forward the request to town counsel.

A motion was made by Tamara to seal the non-public minutes, seconded by Dick. Tamara and Dick voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Jill Hastings

Deputy Administrative Assistant