

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

January 11, 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, Dick Hendl and George McCusker
Others: Pixie Hill, B. Manning, Pete Abair, Sgt. Michael Beaulieu and Whit Smith
Zoom: Janet Hendl and Keith Cutting

Scheduled Appointments:

Town Elections/Town Meeting:

B. has reached out to the moderators in the district, one of the issues we have is the potential postponement of town meeting in a cooperative school district. With budget involved and the school district the moderators must have a majority vote to decide what they are going to do.

B. has spoken with Bracket Scheffy, who is the moderator of the school board and the Bradford moderator. B. has also spoken with Mike Todd in New London. B. is hoping there will be some conversations between the moderators as to what their intentions are.

B. stated one of the other issues is Executive order 74, which requires masks in public buildings, is expiring on January 15th. With the pandemic being what it is right now, nobody knows what the Governor will do. Now we are all waiting to see what happens with that, which could influence what happens. House Bill 1129 is an option they have to run a virtual town meeting. B. does not feel it makes sense for the town to do that.

In regard to the voting on Tuesday, B. feels we have proved we can run an election with a lot of people, relatively safely. B. feels we should move ahead and plan on having the official balloting session done on the Tuesday. B. thinks the traditional town meeting on Saturday could be considered irresponsible if we attempt to do that, he also thinks it would be difficult to provide the same experience for non-masked individuals that wanted to be there. Janet stated at the meetinghouse there is now two floors available, you could set up zoom from downstairs to upstairs. B. thinks the first thing to plan on is that technology often fails. Another possibility is to postpone the business section of town meeting until May when we could do it outside. B. said you then have to focus on the ramifications of that. RSA32-13 has factored in this situation and says the expenditures that the town makes, as long as they are reasonable in light of the prior years expenditures you can do it. The town could then function with the budget. If we did the voting on Tuesday, you'd have all the elections and people in place.

B. and Pixie have had conversations about the use of the voting machine for town voting. B. feels we should try to not use it this year, so we don't have to get everything together, get all the ballots because this is all on our own. We would have to submit all the information to LHS so

they could create the ballots. B. said if we postpone the business meeting (Saturday), we can only postpone for 72 hours, then 72 hours after that you must do it again and so on.

B. feels for now we move forward, progressing everything just like we are going to proceed on the town meeting, both the voting and the business session.

Pixie asked Whit how many people attended the internet meeting at the fire department. Whit believes about 50 people were in the building, which left plenty of available free space. Tamara doesn't see us filling the fire station or both levels of the meetinghouse during the business session on Saturday. Pixie said we must provide a space for anyone that doesn't wear a mask. She thinks we could stream the meeting to the meeting room in the fire station for those people. Tamara said we proved in November that we can hold an election with a record number of Springfield voters, and new voters, without any issues. Dick shared that the Kearsarge Regional School District ran their meeting on Saturday and they required people to wear masks and social distance, not knowing about arrangements for unmasked people, but according to this you had to be there in person to participate and you had to wear a mask. Dick said if the school district can get away with requiring a mask then why can't we. There is already a town policy that was passed back in March or April that you had to wear a mask. B. said the issue is with the voting, it was clear that you had to give the people the opportunity to vote. Citizens' may not be offered that same luxury at the business section of the meeting. The moderators are trying to get clear answers from the state. Pixie asked if there is a way to find out if anyone was turned away. B. will have a conversation with Bracket to try to find the information. B. will attend the next selectmen's meeting with any updates he might have.

Highway Budget – Truck Discussion:

A quote has been submitted by Hansen Bridge for repairs on the culvert that has been red flagged for many years. This year is the town's cheapest solution. Hansen feels the repairs will last at least another fifty years if not more. Dick suggests adding it to the budget. Tamara said this will be presented tomorrow night to the budget committee.

The quote for the paving on Hogg Hill came in at \$160,000. The road is about one and a half miles long with roughly 35 houses. Dick asked Pete how decisions are made on which roads to pave, is there a set criteria, time lapse or condition of the road. Pete said this road is mostly the condition. Pete said Hogg Hill is the only planned paving for 2021, it's all we can afford to do. The Mill Road, Sanborn Hill and Coniston Road could all be paved. Tamara asked Pete to contact the company to see about adding Coniston Road, which is about ¼ mile, to the Hogg Hill paving and what the cost would be. Pete said they may be able to trim the price, since it was just a high number he threw out there.

Pete has received a quote for the purchase of a new truck, which is about \$188,000. The price includes the cost of an extended warranty, which covers up to seven years. Dick asked what the extended warranty covers. Pete said the truck comes with a 5-year drive-train warranty, 1 year on a lot of the other stuff. The extended coverage would extend it all to 7 years. Pete said if we order the truck now, we wouldn't get it for about a year. The dealer is encouraging towns to buy these trucks and roll them over every seven years, when they are still worth something. Pete was

also told they could probably get \$15,000 for the 2006 truck. Pete would also like to keep the \$75,000 in the budget in case he finds something to replace the big green truck.

Dick presented some financial information from the Town of Sunapee on truck repairs. In seeing this, Dick feels the extended warranty would be beneficial. Tamara thinks this will need to be a warrant article. Pete is going to go call the guy down in Westminster because when Croydon bought their western star in came with a plan that every spring the truck gets pressure washed and re-undercoated to keep it clean. Pete is hoping this truck might come with the same kind of deal. The board thanked Pete for all the information.

Zoning Permits:

REPORT from ZONING COORDINATOR. -- Board of Selectmen - Monday, January 11, 2021.

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

Application for Permit – Acted Upon, APPROVED

1. Linda Harper, 2710 Rte.4A, application (after-the-fact) for an 8' x 10' galvanized steel garden shed with a 3' wide walkway leading to the door of an existing structure. After-the-fact fee paid. Discussed matter with Select Board at prior meeting (December 14). There are no setback or wetlands shown on the Wetlands Mapping Tool and the structure is 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. Marc McCalmont, Oak Hill Lot # 164 (house number not yet assigned); application to build a garage. Zoning Coordinator has visited the site and discussed plan with the applicant. There are no setback or wetlands shown on the Wetlands Mapping Tool 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.

Open Applications - In Hand, But NOT Acted Upon.

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

Other Matters.

A. Inquiry from on-line roofing specifications company. Advised Select Board and sent response.

B. Inquiry regarding placement of garage on small lot on Nichols Hill Road. Provided advice regarding process for obtaining a Special Exception through the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

C. Inquiry regarding need for permit for “mini-split” heat pump – permit not required per Planning Board decision.

D. Visit to area at the end of Sanborn Hill Road at the request and in the company of the Chair of Planning Board to view extension of road or drive and the placement of camper and large storage structure. This is the same lot where a school bus converted to camper had been located. Picture previously supplied to the Select Board.

E. Inquiry from resident regarding conversion of a “shed” into an apartment (second dwelling unit). Referred to the Planning Board.

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Kevin Lee called and told Whit they were building a road out at the end of Sanborn Hill and the extension of a driveway out there. Whit took a trip out there and saw that the yellow school bus is gone, but there is now a camper in the same place. Whit observed there is also some sort of a large structure. Kevin and Whit walked out on the class VI road on the southwest side of the pond and you could see everything clearly. Whit has no knowledge of what is required to extend one's driveway. They also observed keep out signs with the name of the gentleman who has been posting those signs. Sgt. Beaulieu explained what the property owner is doing, which is putting in a fire break. Whit said there appear to be some temporary structures which could become permanent. Dick asked where you draw the line between a temporary structure and permanent structure. Whit explained that a temporary structure still requires a permit, it's based on size. Whit feels if you built something with a fabric covering, that's temporary. Whit said with the camper, as long as it's registered and mobile, technically we've said that's not a structure. A camper where the registration has lapsed and the tires go flat, the town and state of NH say that is to be treated as a structure, which needs a permit and is taxable.

Dick stated the reason he asked the question, as you recall from the last meeting, he reported a conversation he had with Mr. Piispanen. Mr. Piispanen's point was that this was temporary, and Dick told him he was gathering information, which is when he was referred to Mike Howard, the contractor. Dick has spoken with Mike and he will go down and look at it. Dick said temporary or not, if that is going to remain there, he requires a zoning permit. Whit said that is correct. Whit said there are two issues there. First, it is a structure which requires a zoning permit. Secondly, whether there is a zoning permit or not, there is a potential safety hazard because of the proximity to the roadway. Whit also added that it doesn't qualify for a zoning permit because it doesn't meet the setback requirement. Sgt. Beaulieu was informed the location was on Stoneybrook Road, and it was a large green container on the side of the road. Sgt. Beaulieu is aware of the location and the container is still there. Tamara asked if that is something Sgt. Beaulieu can request he moves. Sgt. Beaulieu is not sure he has the authority to have him move it, he is unsure what the safety issue is as the container is not on the road. Whit stated the container was barely a yard off the road. Whit doesn't have much more to say on that other than it does require a permit but does not qualify for one.

Whit received a call from Josh McGraw, who just bought the house on Old Grafton Rd. Josh would like to refurbish the building, which is now listed as a non-commercial business so that he can put living quarters on the second floor and use it as an itinerant apartment rental for traveling nurses. Josh will be going before the planning board for a consultation in two weeks.

There is an individual that wants to build a garage on Nichols Hill Road, it's a non-conforming lot. He's a new property owner in town and wants a place to store his boat. He's worried about the expense of all the town requirements. He's not quite sure what he wants to do yet.

Dick asked what the requirements are, if any, to build a rustic cabin with an outhouse. Janet said the state does allow you to put in an outhouse but is unsure if you need a permit from the state to do so. You can build a rustic cabin and not need a septic if you don't have any running water into your cabin. Whit said there are three levels. First, the zoning ordinance level, which is basically silent on the whole thing if you aren't encroaching on any designated wetlands or any existing wetlands, and you are thirty-five feet away from the lot line and under thirty five feet tall. Second, is the state regulations level for the disposable waste. Janet stated the town has an ordinance which was adopted many years ago that any structure that is going to be used for residence is required to have a septic design. But the state doesn't require a septic design if you aren't having running water into the building. Third, is the commonsense level, which is if you want to have an outhouse that's fine, if you want to avoid the outhouse you can rent a port a potty or get a composting toilet. Janet stated this property owner's plan is to move a portable saw mill on to the property and cut down his own materials to build his rustic cabin.

Minutes of December 14th and 21st:

Dick made a motion to accept the minutes as written for December 14th and 21st. The motion was seconded by George and unanimously approved.

Unfinished Business:

Continued Budget Discussion:

The select board went through the budget report. Janet provided the board with amounts that she has entered in to the 2021 budget.

Tamara suggested putting the cost of the culvert repairs under the line item for Culvert. Dick asked where we would put the paving. Tamara asked if we should put it in the budget or possibly do it as a warrant article. Janet suggests putting the culvert out of the unreserved fund balance if there is enough fund balance money to do that. Janet also suggests the board inform the budget committee that there is \$86,000 worth of a culvert that needs to be somewhere. Janet feels the paving should come out of the budget. She said what the budget committee likes to see is that there has been something consistent for paving in the budget year after year; that Pete goes in to paving with a plan.

Whit expressed an interest and plans to attend the budget committee meeting. Whit has been toying with the idea of running for the budget committee and would like to learn more about how it operates before making that decision.

Dick said the board needs to consider cost of living increases, if any.

Miscellaneous Business:

Janet informed the board that Sgt. Beaulieu was gifted with a gift card that he can't accept. He has turned the card over to the select board to decide what to do with the card. The board has tabled this for now.

Board and Department Updates:

George said the conservation commission is buying trees to give away. They have put off the foresting with Mr. Weather's for another couple of months. The conservation commission's budget will be staying the same for 2021. Marla did a sheet of wetlands information that she should be sending to Whit, Resources for Updating Natural Resource Inventory Maps of Wetlands. George said the commission also had a request of a name to be considered for the conservation commission, Gene Hayes.

Janet stated that Marla Binzel, Emily Cleaveland and Tim Frasier need to be reinstated for three-year terms, which will expire on December 31, 2023. Tamara made a motion to appoint Marla Binzel, Emily Cleaveland and Tim Frasier for three-year terms on conservation. The motion was seconded by Dick and unanimously approved.

Tamara said fire department will meet tomorrow night. Tamara will talk to Pete about his budget.

Signatures:

Contract with Upper Valley Humane Society for stray animals.

Dallas left off the 2021 reappointment paperwork for the fire wardens, which needs approval and signatures. The wardens are Pete Lacaille, Laura Patten, Darrin Patten, Kevin Roberts and Dallas Patten.

Janet said the other thing to keep in mind while talking about the budget is that the sand shed site prep has lapsed. That means that there is \$100,000 back in the unreserved fund balance.

George visited Hoptimystic Brewery. The only two people in the room that had masks on were the owner and his wife. There wasn't a Springfield person in there except for George, they were all out of state people and none of them had masks on. George said everything seems to be orderly, but guests wear masks up to the door and once they get in they take them off, and they're all out of staters. Janet added they were closed for two weeks because of the holidays.

At 5:46 p.m. Dick made a motion to enter into non-public session for personnel per RSA 91-A:3, seconded by George and unanimously approved.

The Board moved back into public session at 6:36 p.m. A motion was made by Dick to seal the minutes, seconded by George. Tamara, Dick and George all voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Jill Hastings
Deputy Administrative Assistant