

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**February 24, 2020**

**MEMORIAL BUILDING**

**4:00 P.M.**

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

Selectmen present: Dick Hendl, Chairman, Tamara Butcher and George McCusker

Others: Mike Lawlor, Ken Jacques, Rob Thorpe, Whit Smith and Sargent Beaulieu

The meeting started with the pledge of allegiance.

Scheduled Appointments:

Ken began by introducing Rob Thorpe, the superintendent of the water precinct. Ken made the announcement that the gate will get unlocked, but it will still be hasped, which is legal. The concern of the water precinct is when people drive up there and get to the second gate where will they park. Ken asked if there is any regulatory authority by anybody for when there are cars parked in the road and the water precinct needs to get up there. Dick asked if these cars are parked in the middle of the road would they trespassing on anyone's land. Ken stated that the road is a town road, and it is Villa land on both sides. Another concern is when there is a problem up there, the water precinct has to get there quickly as it is usual an emergency situation of some kind. Who do they call? Dick did not have the answer and asked Ken if he had spoken with Tim. Ken spoke with Tim after receiving the letter from the board and got the impression that Tim was not sure whose responsibility this would be. Ken read in A Hard Road to Travel that the selectmen have the same regulatory authority over all roads in town, regardless of their classification. Ken and Rob aren't sure if signage would be appropriate at the second gate if there is no parking, because what do the cars do from there. It's like a hallway, you must turn around and come back. Whit asked if there is enough room to turn around. Ken said that is also an issue. Ken gave a scenario – Saturday afternoon at 3pm Tamara is coming home with her family ( being used as an example because they live on a class VI road) and get past Cynthia's house, where the road turns to class VI and there are two cars parked in the middle of the road, Who does she call? Tamara stated that was a good point that she had never thought about. Dick's opinion is that it is a town road at this point and people have no more right to park in the middle of a town road than if they parked out there in the middle of Main Street. The first person Dick would call would be Tim. Dick is going to discuss this issue with Tim. The water precinct just needs to have a plan in place. As of now the road is in good shape. Ken stated nobody will be going up this road anytime soon because it's covered in snow; March 1<sup>st</sup> the road is closed to vehicles until June 1<sup>st</sup>. Once the snow is gone and the road starts to dry up Rob will take some pictures of what would be considered troublesome areas (either wet or on a pitch). The water precinct needs to know if there is anything they can do to keep people from parking in the road. George feels the first step would be a sign warning that you will be towed at the owner's expense. Ken feels this defeats the purpose of opening the gates. Ken is wondering if this is a sign the town would provide, because he doesn't have the authority to tow them. Ken

asked that this be investigated by the board of selectmen. The water precinct has until June 1<sup>st</sup> before worrying about cars. Ken stated the lock will be off the gate twenty-nine days after this letter was received. The water precinct has started conversations with the state of New Hampshire Forestry Department so they understand this will change the road for them too; they will be meeting with them within the next month.

#### Zoning Permits:

REPORT from ZONING COORDINATOR. -- Board of Selectmen - Monday, February 24, 2020.

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

#### Application for Permit – Acted Upon, APPROVED

1. Rylee Preston, Philbrick Hill Road; Application to build residence on parcel (Map # 30 Lot 325-217). House number and drive permit applied for. Septic system approved. Visited site; location staked. No setback or wetlands issues. House will be less than 35' tall. Application approved pursuant to delegation of authority.

#### Open Application - In Hand, But NOT Acted Upon.

2. Kara Zaleskas, 164 Four Corners Road; No change in status on this matter.

#### Other Matters.

A. Prep and deliver report regarding high speed broadband internet rural initiative.

B. Attend continuation of hearing – Kazenas Appeal of BOS decision: BOS Refusal to sign certification of compliance with Town of Springfield Zoning Ordinance in order to receive State of New Hampshire pet vendor license.

C. Follow up with agent for AT&T cell tower upgrades (Deer Hill Road).

D. Attended Planning Board meeting – consultation with property owner (Four Corners Road) regarding “nano-brewery.” Participated with PB in review of initial draft of a proposed Noise Ordinance for the Town of Springfield.

E. Inquiry from property owner (Shad Hill Road) regarding building design specifications (snow load, wind gust load) and merger of lots to allow building footprint.

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Whit read through his report. Regarding item 2 under open applications, Dick stated that he will speak with Kara Zaleska if and when he see's her.

Dick provided Whit with another candidate for the internet committee, for which Whit is only collecting names not running. Whit provided more knowledge of this problem and possible next step which is that hard wired phone companies are losing market because people are switching to just cell phones. These hard wire phone companies need to retain that contact with their customer base. They are being motivated to provide alternative products to POTS (Plain Old Telephone Service). This could help give us a new conversation point to Consolidated Communications who is perfectly capable of providing an exemplary high-speed internet service. Whit believes that if we don't prepare ourselves for this next generation, we will probably regret not having the utility that is served by an internet service available to us. Whit informed the board that he hasn't done anything other than catalog the names received, he would like to see the responsibility of this committee fall on the Planning Board.

Minutes of January 27, 2020:

Dick mentioned a comment made by Whit Smith was taken out of context. Whit stated to change it to say, "Whit learned there is \$200 million of USDA money available for rural internet installation not unlike the rural electrification project and we will not get any of that." George made a motion to accept the minutes with the correction to Whit Smith's statement, seconded by Tamara and unanimously approved.

*Whit feels we need a group, committee or office, some sort of entity associated with the town that has the same level of motivation that the 250<sup>th</sup> committee had. ~~One of the opportunities for 200 million dollars in funding, the grants must be in by March 15<sup>th</sup> or March 31<sup>st</sup>; Whit is confident we can make that deadline.~~ Whit learned there is \$200 million of USDA money available for rural internet installation not unlike the rural electrification project and we will not get any of that. The overall takeaway being there are target initiatives for underserved areas, and that would be us.*

Old Business:

Dick stated that as of Thursday evening the noise at the mill has cranked back up and he has received three emails over the weekend from three different residents regarding this noise. Dick took some measurements on Saturday and these residents are correct, the noise has increased. Dick has sent a note off to Shawn Tanguay for his advice as to what to do in this situation.

Dick also emailed Shawn Tanguay to see if there was anything the board of selectmen needed to do as a result of the ZBA's decision. Shawn referred this note to Christine and the board has not yet heard from her.

New Business:

Tamara shared that Andrew Swift, of Swift Ambulance, attended the fire department meeting and proposed renting a space to store his ambulance. Andrew is currently in the process of building a garage that will eventually store this ambulance. For insurance purposes the ambulance needs to be stored inside. The fire department has the space available and does not have any objection to this, but they referred it to the board of selectmen. Tamara had hoped Andrew would attend the selectmen's meeting, but she will get his contact information and have him come to the next meeting. Dick asked if this is a private individual. Tamara stated yes, he is a private ambulance company and believes at this time he only has the one ambulance. He is a

Croydon resident. It is Tamara's understanding that the only benefit to the town is that we will be collecting rent to store it at the Fire Department. Andrew works at New London Hospital; he would pick up the ambulance in the morning and take it to New London. This ambulance is just a transport, he does not go on calls. Janet asked if he has a goal to maybe be an emergency service provider and a back up ambulance service. Tamara said that it does sound like that is what he wants to do in the future. Andrew is currently an EMT. Tamara said once we get more information, we can check with our insurance company to see if it would be allowed.

Dick stated at the Primary Election Leigh Callaway loaned his Verizon JetPak to the town to help with the WIFI at the meetinghouse. Pixie has asked that the town to purchase one. Dick added there would be a \$10 a month fee for this service. Pixie and Don will go to Verizon to get more details. Whit asked what the JetPak does; it serves as a hotspot. Janet stated that the supervisors of the checklist were very impressed having the hotspot. Dick added that the device is wireless, it just needs to be plugged in to an electrical outlet. Tamara feels this is a good idea. Mike Lawlor asked where the device would be kept when not in use. Tamara's response was that it would be locked away.

Dick stated that Leigh is ready to have Roger Laro arrange for movement of the alarm system at the meetinghouse to where it needs to go to be out of the way. Dick left a message with Roger and he will contact Leigh to make the arrangements.

Dick attended the moderator's course last Saturday. They did cover how to postpone a meeting. However, Dick will still plan on taking the webinar on the subject.

Dick said the last thing to discuss under new business is the warrant articles and who will get up to explain them. Janet read through the warrant articles. B. Manning has asked Dick to discuss the unassigned fund balance and Ken will be doing something to follow on with more specifics. George will discuss the two highway articles and Tamara will discuss the Old Home Day article. Janet also mentioned that there is an article six which is the establishment of an agricultural commission and she is unsure if the board will be asked to weigh in on that. Keith has been approached to talk on this article.

Dick would like to go into non-public session at the end of the meeting to discuss some information he received from the attorney on the Stone property.

#### Board and Department Updates:

George shared the highway department go the newer Freightliner back with no bill. After running the truck for a couple of days Pete was asked to bring the truck back so Freightliner could check the drive shaft. Troy brought the truck up on Friday and all looked good. At the same time a check engine light was on and checked; looks like the computer needed to be reset, which was done at no charge. He added that Pete has done some welding on the green truck and replaced hoses on both trucks. Dick asked George how Troy is making out with the pursuit of his CDL license. George said, if he hasn't already done it, Troy is supposed to take a written exam which will give him some limited seat time. After that, in several months, Troy will take his driving exam. George says Troy is well on course and has been riding with both Peter and Eddie, so he is learning the ropes. Janet mentioned that the office received a bill from

Freightliner last week and it was around \$500, the bill has not been paid and is in Peter's box for his review.

Correspondence:

None

Signatures:

None

Miscellaneous Business:

Janet thinks it would be a good idea to try to meet with George Hildum and Mr. Kent, from the power plant, to decide what is going to happen with the assessment in 2020. Janet suggested the March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting might be a good time.

Dick mentioned that the board had discussed having the representative to the school committee and the MBC come and give a fundamental sketch where they think the school budget is going. This will be pushed to the future for now.

Dick mentioned there was a folder in the red box that contains the lift contract which needs to be signed by Tamara and George. Janet got the folder to have the board sign the document. The contractor won't be given the 10% until he agrees and signs the contract.

Whit did some quick research on JetPaks and shared they range from \$24.95 to \$129 to purchase then a \$10 a month charge for the subscription through Verizon. The device is like a cell phone, it connects to the cell service and then acts as a wireless router that allows you internet data access over the cell phone service. Depending on which model you buy it will allow anywhere from 8 to 15 wireless connections.

Dick moved to close the public session and enter into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II at 5 p.m.

At 5:37 the board voted unanimously to recess the non-public session. Dick moved to enter back into public session at 5:37 p.m.

Andrew Aliotta, of Swift Ambulance Service arrived at the meeting. Andrew explained to the board that he was about to invest \$10,000 in building a new bay for his ambulance. However, over the last year he realized he was spending money on things that don't pertain to their system and what they believe in; it felt like they were just throwing money away. Instead he would like to give back to the community. Andrew needs a place to park this truck and would like to rent a bay from the fire department. He feels having a relationship with Springfield Fire, having an ambulance in the area with the potential to do 911 at some point, would be beneficial to all parties involved. Tamara explained a benefit the town would get right off the bat is that Andrew would join the fire department as part of the agreement. The department has been lacking in new membership, so this would be great. Andrew told the board that he is currently a paramedic and a Croydon resident. His ambulance is covered up to \$3 million in liability insurance, so if something were to happen to this truck while it is stored in our fire department his insurance would cover it. Janet added that we would need to contact Primex to see if this would be

allowed and, if so, draw up a rental agreement/contract. Andrew feels having this ambulance there and being able to provide service in the future is the biggest selling point for him. The selectboard supports this proposal, the details just need to be worked out. Janet will contact Primex after town meeting and Andrew will be contacted as soon as possible.

Dick made a motion to enter back into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 at 5:51 p.m.  
Dick made a motion to close the non-public session at 6:11 p.m., seconded by Tamara and unanimously approved.

George made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tamara and unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Jill Hastings  
Deputy Administrative Assistant