

Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting December 15, 2020

Members present: Scott Young, Chairman, Bryant Scott and Brian Monahan
Also in attendance: Jim Andersen, Police Chief Mike Richard, Tax Collector Judy Dupré, Steven Twombly

Appointments: no scheduled appointments

The business portion of the Selectmen's Meeting was called to order at 5:25PM. Payroll and bills were reviewed and approved for payment. Minutes from the December 1st Selectmen's Meeting were read and approved. The Selectmen received the resignation of Ron Lemieux from his position as Town Moderator. A notice of pay rate for a new Fire/Rescue Department employee was signed. The Selectmen reviewed the 2019 Report of Cyclical Inspections prepared by NHDRA. Mr. Young signed the yearly Animal Shelter contract.

Old Business

Jim Andersen was in attendance to check on the status of the repair of the Recycling Center's backhoe. He was particularly concerned about having it for snow removal from the expected storm later in the week and for use this weekend with the open containers. Mr. Young confirmed, via phone, that it was expected back before the weekend.

Ms. Dupré reported on the status of her correspondence with a resident concerning the recording of his deed and the warning of impending eviction if that transaction is not completed.

New Business

Mike Richard was in attendance, at the request of the Board, to discuss with them a concern raised by a resident about a request for information. Chief Richard gave each Board member assembled emails between him and the resident which they reviewed in his presence. Discussion with Chief Richard followed. Based on the information reviewed, the Selectmen were satisfied that Chief Richard had provided all that had been requested and saw no wrong doing. As always, available information will continue to be provided when requested.

The Selectmen will review the details of Governor's decree concerning the necessity of wearing masks, specifically at the Recycling Center.

The Selectmen approved the draft from the Town attorney in response to a legal situation before the Board. Mr. Monahan, the Selectmen's representative on the Planning Board, reported that the Planning Board had reviewed a proposed zoning amendment addressing events. Members of the Planning Board pointed out some problems that might arise from the amendment in its current state. The Selectmen's Office will consult the Town attorney to address those situations.

The Town is in receipt of a refund from Healthtrust. Where applicable some money will be returned to individual employees.

The Selectmen read and approved Town Clerk Terri Marsh's "Strafford's Top Dog" contest plans for 2021. Dog owners may enter by providing photos of their dogs (if licensed and vaccinated by April 30th) to the Town Clerk's Office. The winning dog will be selected at random and the dog's sketch will be featured on the 2021 new dog letters and on the Town website.

Most preliminary budgets have been received by the Selectmen's Office and will be reviewed at the December 29th meeting. In the earlier discussion with Chief Richard an equipment need had been mentioned. Upon review of his current budget, the Selectmen authorized its purchase from the available surplus.

A property owner on Province Road was in attendance at the request of the Selectmen, to discuss with him how to address a written complaint they had received about the condition of his property. The purpose of the meeting was to help him outline a plan to bring his property into compliance. He reported that he has begun disposing of some equipment and machinery that he will not be using. Much of the work has been done behind the house and is not visible from the road. He did point out that much of the equipment is forestry related equipment which is allowable in the zoning ordinance and also how he makes his living; he will be keeping that type of equipment. He assured Board members that the property will look different in the spring; according to the policy he has 180 days to address the situation and bring his property into compliance. He added that space is a problem and he is looking for more land.

There being no further business to address, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:58PM.