

## Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting June 29, 2021

Members present: Scott Young, Chairman, Brian Monahan, Lynn Sweet  
In attendance: Steve Twombly, Fire Chief Scott Whitehouse

Appointments: 5:45 - Fire Chief Scott Whitehouse  
6:00 - Steve Twombly

The business portion of the Selectmen's Meeting was called to order at 5:30PM. The Selectmen reviewed and approved payroll and payment of bills. An Intent to Cut Timber was signed. The Selectmen reviewed and signed an abatement settlement with New England Telephone.

### **APPOINTMENTS**

**5:45** – Fire Chief Scott Whitehouse was in attendance to discuss 2 matters with the Selectmen. The last Zoning Board meeting was very well attended, with people standing outside, listening through open windows. It is expected that the upcoming Planning Board meeting will be equally well attended. Scott will be enforcing capacity limits; he estimates the space can support 40 people sitting and 25 standing along with presenters and board members. Scott will be attending to ensure that exits remain clear.

The July 4<sup>th</sup> (July 3<sup>rd</sup>) fireworks were the next item for discussion. They will be shot off from a barge off shore. Chief Whitehouse will meet with the Fire Marshal on Saturday morning for a safety check. Parking will be permitted on the lake side of Water Street for the evening. Food trucks will be located in the Grange parking lot.

**6:00** – Steve Twombly was in attendance to speak with Board members about the progress he has made in bringing his property into compliance with local zoning. He gave Board members a list of things that he has removed, but stated he needs more time - 6 more months. The Selectmen pointed out that progress isn't particularly noticeable. Mr. Twombly stated that this is the location from which he works, and where he repairs his equipment. The Selectmen were in complete support of his business, but maintained the necessity of complying with the zoning ordinances. In an effort to relieve some of the financial burden of the cleanup, Mr. Twombly requested that fees for tires and refrigerators that he takes to the Recycling Center be waived. He will move many things in the front of the property to the back where they cannot be seen. The Selectmen will consider his requests and follow up this meeting with a letter.

### **CONTINUING BUSINESS**

At the most recent ZBA meeting, Lynn Sweet, Vice Chairman of ZBA, stepped down to an alternate position. The Selectmen voted to move Alternate Alison Brisson into a regular member position. Discussion followed about some changes in duties and personnel with regard to Planning and Zoning Boards.

The Selectmen discussed Mr. Twombly's requests for an extension of time to comply with zoning and some relief from Recycling Center fees. They unanimously decided to grant the 6

month extension of the deadline with several stipulations which they will communicate to Mr. Twombly.

The Selectmen reviewed and denied a written request to forgive interest on a 2020 tax bill. The Property owner will be notified by mail of the decision.

There was a brief discussion about the clerical position opening at the Town Hall. A pay rate was discussed. The job will be advertised until the position is filled with a suitable candidate.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

The Selectmen discussed technology/infrastructure improvements and the possibility of using some of the American Recovery Plan Act, ARPA, to achieve them. Applications for funding are due by August 18<sup>th</sup>. As requested by the Planning and Zoning Boards at the Tri-Board Meeting, a large screen TV has been purchased for use in displaying plans at those meetings .

The Selectmen discussed and denied a request to sell raffle tickets for the Bow Lake Community Club at the Town Hall.

The Selectmen will sign a proclamation recognizing 2020 as Strafford's Bicentennial Year and the month of July 2021 as the Strafford Bicentennial Celebration.

Several people have expressed interest in a property tax deeded to the Town several years ago. After discussion, the Board members decided that in the near future it will be offered to the public by sealed bid. Details of the arrangement will be discussed further. The former owner is deceased and to date no heirs have been found. The Selectmen would like to make a final attempt to locate any heir before the property is offered for sale

In order to bring more power to Bow Lake village, it was noted that Consolidated Communications is doing considerable work in Town, running 3 phase power from AMI Graphics as far as Province Road East.

The Selectmen briefly discussed perambulation of the Town boundaries. A perambulation of the Town boundaries has not been done for some time. Being the youngest town amongst all the surrounding towns, Strafford must be invited to participate in a perambulation. No town has reached out except Barnstead and that event was canceled due to poor weather.

The backhoe at the Recycling Center has a frozen piston. The Selectmen approved its repair.

Via the Community Facebook page, the Selectmen will thank all those who participated in the recent beach cleanup at the lake.

The Bow Lake Community Club is sponsoring a food truck event on July 3rd. The Selectmen requested that Ms. Higgins bring a certificate of their liability insurance to the office.

There being no further business to address, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:32PM.