

## Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting/Public Hearing September 6, 2022

### **Minutes of the Selectmen**

Members Present: Lynn Sweet, Chairman, Brian Monahan, Chris Garcia

In Attendance: Chief Mike Richard, Chief Scott Whitehouse, Road Agent-Matt Messenger,  
Town Clerk-Terri Marsh

The meeting was called to order at 5:30PM. The Selectmen began to review and approve payroll and payment of bills.

At this time Chairman Sweet made a motion to recess the Selectmen's Meeting to go into Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Brian Monahan. A unanimous vote was taken.

### **Public Hearing**

The Open Public Hearing came to order at 5:45PM. Notice of the hearing was published in Foster's Daily Democrat on Sunday August 28, 2022 and was posted at the Strafford Town Hall, Post Office, and on the Town website.

The public hearing was held pursuant to RSA 31:95b for the purpose of accepting and expending unanticipated revenue grant funds appropriated in SB401 to acquire equipment necessary to maintain class IV and V roads in the Town.

A motion was made by Brian Monahan to use these funds as described and this was seconded by Chris Garcia. A vote was taken:

Lynn Sweet --Aye      Brian Monahan --Aye      Chris Garcia --Aye

The Board gives Matt Messenger full authority to purchase a truck once he finds a viable one using these funds. A motion was made, seconded and voted on to adjourn the Public Hearing. Hearing adjourned at 5:46PM.

A motion was made by Lynn Sweet, seconded by Brian Monahan, and voted on unanimously to resume the Selectmen's Meeting.

### **Minutes of the Selectmen**

The meeting resumed at 5:47PM. The Selectmen completed reviewing and approving payroll and the payment of bills. Minutes of the August 23rd Selectmen's Meeting were read and approved. Timber Tax Warrants were read, approved, and signed as well as a Timber Intent to Cut. A notice of a pay rate change for a current employee was approved and signed.

Miscellaneous correspondence was reviewed and briefly discussed.

Chief Richards was in attendance to discuss the possibility of ordering a new cruiser. He has contacted a dealership and has gotten a price on one. The Selectmen gave the go ahead to order the vehicle as the purchase of a cruiser was accounted for in the distribution of ARPA funds. Chief Richards also gave updates on ongoing situations in Town including the removal of the extra telephone poles being almost complete. The power company has been contacted about disconnecting their equipment from the remaining "extra" poles before their removal.

Chief Richards, Chief Whitehouse, and the Town's Road Agent, Matt Messenger, were in attendance to discuss the proposed asset management policy. All departments will keep track of assets purchased over \$1,000 with the Town Clerk keeping track of the depreciation.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Brian Monahan and seconded by Chris Garcia to adopt the new asset management policy. A vote was taken:

Lynn Sweet --Aye      Brian Monahan --Aye      Chris Garcia --Aye

The asset management policy was adopted and signed.

The Board informed Matt Messenger that the Town has accepted the funds discussed at the Public Hearing and the Board has given Matt full authority to find and purchase a vehicle for the Town for use in maintaining the Town's roads.

With Chief Richards, Chief Whitehouse and Matt Messenger in attendance, the Board discussed Fire Road 29 and the request made by the Brown's Pasture Road Association to maintain the road during the winter. The Selectmen's Board would like to have at least the Road Agent in attendance on October 4<sup>th</sup> when the Association comes in to discuss this situation with the Board. The Selectmen reminded the men of the Multi Board meeting taking place on September 20<sup>th</sup> and thanked the men for their time and coming in to talk with the Board.

The Board looked over and approved the purchase of polo shirts for the Building Inspectors with "Town of Strafford Building Inspector" embroidered on the shirts.

The Town received three appeals to property abatements that were looked over.

Equipment will be arriving next week to replace the bridge on Barn Door Gap Road. Ms. Sweet asked that two letters be drafted and sent to abutters concerning the project.

A brief discussion was had concerning the recent work of the dam.

The compactor for the mixed paper at the Recycling Center has been replaced with the refurbished unit and is operating much better.

With the Primary quickly approaching, our Town Clerk, Terri Marsh, was in attendance to discuss the upcoming elections. The recent public testing of the AccuVote machine has not been successful. Terri has been on the phone with LHS as well as the NH Secretary of State's office for advisement. The State feels the reader isn't operating properly and feels the best option is to bring a borrowed machine for another public testing. This machine is coming from Massachusetts tomorrow (9/7/22) morning by 11AM. The testing will take place at 3PM that afternoon. If the testing is successful, the Town will be using the borrowed machine; should the testing fail, a hand count will have to be taken on election night. The Town Clerk gave a brief explanation on the process of testing the machine. Selectman Garcia has been at each of the tests and feels this to be an accuracy issue not an integrity issue. The Selectmen discussed having "fresh bodies" at the end of election night with the possibility of the hand count. Terri confirmed she already has a whole new crew of pure counters coming in the evening.

Selectmen Garcia will reach out to the NH Secretary of State's Office tomorrow as well. Terri also relayed to the Board the LHS representative is hopeful we will have new machines by the 2024 Presidential Election. The Selectmen are very pleased with all the effort Terri puts in to all she does for the Town and thanked her for coming in to discuss this.

With no other business to discuss, a motion was made, seconded, and voted on to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:12PM