

Minutes of the Selectmen October 4, 2022

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

In Attendance: Judy Dupré, Tax Collector; Mike Richards, Police Chief; Scott Whitehouse, Fire Chief; Matt Messenger, Road Agent; Katie Miller, President of Brown's Pasture -Fire Road 29; other residents

The meeting was called to order at 5:30PM. The Selectmen reviewed and signed payroll and bills, minutes from the September 20, 2022 Selectmen's and Multi Board/Department Head meeting were read and approved. A timber tax warrant was read and approved. The MS-535 Financial Report for the State of NH was read and signed, miscellaneous correspondence was read and discussed.

A property that had been brought to the attention of the Select Board at the last meeting was discussed. The Selectmen had voted at the last meeting that this property be boarded up for safety matters. It was reported that the property was now secured, but a resident called and said it was not secured. The Police Chief will be contacted to investigate the contrary reports.

Judy Dupré was in attendance to get approval of a proposed payment plan with a resident concerning taxes that are in arrears. The Tax Collector has spoken with the resident and the resident has agreed to the proposed 10 payments. The Selectmen read and approved the letter for distribution.

At this time the meeting was moved to the conference room to accommodate those attending the meeting.

Katie Miller, along with three other members of the Brown's Pasture Association, came before the Board requesting that Fire Road 29 be considered a road that the Town maintain during the winter months. The main argument the Association brought forth is this is a road that connects to two other roads and some use Fire Road 29 as a "short cut". Its steep terrain in the winter makes it a hazard with possible ice. An Association member had been maintaining the road but no longer wishes to do it. The Association has received quotes to do the plowing but the cost is very high. Phil Auger, a resident of Fire Road 29, added that they would prefer the Town maintaining the roads over a private contractor. Mr. Auger had researched on-line and found policies dated in 2002 from Derry and Rye concerning how they handle their Fire Roads. Mr. Auger reiterated this would be a winter maintenance program only. When questioned on whether there would be a petition for the Town to take over Fire Road 29, Mr. Auger thinks that the road would have to be widened and possibly paved and the Association would not want that.

The Board requested a more formal scope of work from the Association. Chairman Sweet stated that the cost of such maintenance would have to be figured and how the Association would reimburse those extra costs the Town would incur; adding, if this should move forward, there are many other privately maintained areas and Fire Roads that would want the same provision.

The Board thanked those from Brown's Pasture Association and the Selectmen will get in touch with them soon.

Chief Richards, Chief Whitehouse, and Road Agent Matt Messenger were also in attendance. After stating their thoughts on Fire Road 29, another property in Town was briefly discussed. The Fire Chief is waiting on a report from the State and a letter will be composed to the resident for eviction.

The Fire Chief requested that he be able to offer a monetary stipend to compensate any firefighter willing to work holidays. The Selectmen unanimously approved.

With Chief Richards retiring, a lengthy discussion was had concerning the hiring process of the new police chief. The Board discussed the possible committee members to be contacted to sit on the committee.

At this time a motion was made by Lynn Sweet and seconded by Brian Monahan to enter into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a). Roll call was taken as follows:

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

The Board entered non-public session at 7:14PM.

A motion was made by Brian Monahan to leave non-public session and seconded by Brian Monahan to return to public session. Roll call was taken as follows:

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

Public session reconvened at 7:17PM.

No votes were taken or decisions were made during the non-public session.

A motion was made by Brian Monahan and seconded by Lynn Sweet to seal the minutes of the non-public session. Roll call was taken as follows:

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

The Board circled back to the request to maintain Fire Road 29 in the winter. With several issues to consider, the Town attorney will be contacted and an answer given to the Association in a timely manner.

With no other business to discuss, a motion was made, seconded and voted on to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:44PM.