

## Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting January 24, 2023

Members Present: Lynn Sweet, Chairman, and Chris Garcia  
In Attendance: William Vance

The meeting came to order at 5:30PM. The Selectmen reviewed and approved payroll, the payment of bills, and the minutes of the January 18<sup>th</sup> Selectmen's Work Session. Several 2021 Appeals for Abatements that had been mediated for settlement were considered. Miscellaneous correspondence was also read and discussed.

William Vance came before the Board to discuss the possible removal of ash trees that have been infected by the ash borer; further inquiring as to who would be responsible for the cost of such removal. Mr. Vance stated that once an ash tree is infected, the tree lives about 5 years. He suggested the diseased trees be taken down sooner rather than later to ensure not only the safety of residents but also to be able to burn the wood rather than letting the tree slowly rot.

The Board appreciated Mr. Vance's thoughts. While the Town has taken down many trees and has tagged many more, the Town is not responsible for trees that are not on Town roads or Town property. If the trees are on someone's land, it is up to the property owner to take those trees down. The Town has no legal recourse as to what happens on someone's land. The Town is only responsible if the tree is on the Town's right of way.

The Selectmen feel that the best thing to do would be to make residents aware of the situation and perhaps contact the Hill Library to host UNH Extension to come and educate residents. Also reach out to the Conservation Commission, Bear Paw, and Strafford's Garden Club.

The Board thanked Mr. Vance for coming in with his concerns.

The Selectmen continued to work diligently computing the 2023 budget for the Town. All department budget lines were examined.

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 6:48PM.

A motion was made by Lynn Sweet 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 6:55PM.

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 Selectmen funded several positions. They also discussed how to use the remaining funds from ARPA in the best interest of the Town.

The Board has received quotes for replacing the backhoe at the Recycling Center.

KRT Appraisal Service and Strafford Regional Planning Commission will be contacted to speak with the Board after the budget hearing.

The Selectmen have requested that the Fire Chief, Police Chief, Road Agent, and the Hill Library be at their next work session on Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss their budget forecasts.

With no other business to address, a motion was made, seconded, and voted on to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:20PM.