

Minutes of the Selectmen November 28, 2023

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

In Attendance: Terri Marsh, Town Clerk; Joe White, Building Inspector; Matt Messenger, Road Agent; Scott Whitehouse, Fire Chief

The business portion of the Selectmen's Meeting was called to order at 5:30PM. The Selectmen approved payroll and the payment of the bills. The minutes from the Selectmen's meeting on November 14th were considered and approved. With one member stepping down from the Zoning Board, the Selectmen approved and signed an appointment slip for an alternate to fill that position. The Board signed an annual extension letter for KRT Assessing. The Board received and read correspondence from Christopher Weeks in reference to matters at 54 Wingate Road. Miscellaneous correspondence was also read and discussed.

Terri Marsh briefly came before the Board to further discuss the voting machine options in NH. The NH Ballot Law has approved two machines- VotingWorks and Dominion ImageCast. Currently, both machines have to meet the final conditions for use. The Board of Selectmen voted and approved the ordering of a Dominion ImageCast Ballot Counting Machine. Once the new machine has met all conditions and been approved by the NH Ballot Law Commission and NH Secretary of State, it will be ordered from LHS and used to replace the existing machine and put into use for elections in Strafford NH. Per the 10/17/2023 Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes, LHS has been contacted with a pre-order, contingent on machine approval.

The Selectmen would like Jen Czysz from Strafford Regional Planning to be contacted to discuss several matters concerning the 2024 contract.

Joe White, representing the Building Department, came before the Board to discuss the proposed 2024 budget. The Building Inspectors are requesting a cloud based program allowing access to building files remotely.

Matt Messenger came before the Board to present the proposed budget for the Highway Department in 2024. Proposed Capital Improvements for 2024 include Canaan Road, Sunny Oaks Terrace, Bernard Road, and Sloper Road. The underdrain started in 2023 on Province Road is to be continued into 2024. Road striping was also discussed and will be considered at the next meeting.

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 (d). Roll call was taken as follows:

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

The Board entered non-public session at 6:16PM.

A motion was made by Lynn Sweet to leave non-public session and seconded by Chris Garcia to return to public session. Roll call was taken as follows:

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

Public session reconvened at 6:23PM.

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

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

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

Fire Chief Whitehouse also presented his proposed 2024 budget and several possible warrant articles. Chief Whitehouse also updated the Board on the acquisition of a 20' boat for the Fire Department the boat was of no cost to the Town. This boat will stay on the trailer and will be used to assist other towns when called upon.

Matters at the Recycling Center were briefly discussed.

At this time a motion was made by Chris Garcia 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 7:08PM.

A motion was made by Chris Garcia to leave non-public session and seconded by Lynn Sweet to return to public session. Roll call was taken as follows:

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

Public session reconvened at 7:15PM.

A decision was 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

Representatives of the Hill Library will be in attendance for their budget review at the December 12th Selectmen's Meeting.

There will be no Selectmen's Meeting on December 26th.

The NH Primary will be held on January 23, 2024.

The Town's Budget Hearing will be held on February 13, 2024 at 6PM with a snow date of February 15, 2024 at 6PM.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made, seconded and voted on to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:32PM