

Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting January 9, 2024

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

In Attendance: Dennis Boston, Building Inspector Dan Howard, Mike Harrington, Lyle Deane, Sue Higgins

The Selectmen's Meeting was called to order at 5:30PM. The Selectmen approved payroll and the payment of the bills. The minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting from December 12, 2023 were considered and approved. An Intent to Cut was approved and signed. The Town Clerk submitted her plans for the January 23rd election schedule including volunteers that have signed up to help make the process run smoothly. The Selectmen were also made aware that Accuvote testing will be January 12th.

At this time, a motion was made, seconded and voted on to recess the meeting to hold the Public Hearing. At 5:45PM, the meeting was recessed.

The Public Hearing was called to order at 5:47PM.

The public hearing is being held pursuant to RSA 31:95-b, for the purpose of accepting and expending unanticipated revenue grant funds (bridge payment) appropriated in HB 2 to be used for purposes allowed within the guidelines.

The grant received was in the amount of \$21,262.55.

With no questions being asked or needing to be answered, a motion was made by Chris Garcia to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Lynn Sweet. A vote was taken:

Lynn Sweet-Aye Chris Garcia-Aye

At this time, a motion was made, seconded, and voted on to reconvene the Selectmen's Meeting. The meeting reconvened at 5:49PM.

At this time, Chris Garcia to accept and expend the grant funds for the purposes allowed. Lynn Sweet seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Lynn Sweet-Aye Chris Garcia-Aye

Dennis Boston came before the Board to talk through some concerns he has on a house he purchased in February of 2020 and it not being to code. The main concern is there is no egress in the basement. He stated he had spoken with the Fire Chief and the Town's previous Building Inspector which were frustrating conversations.

Selectman Sweet stated that, by code, if a basement isn't finished, it does not need an egress.

Mr. Boston also stated that the electrical was not properly installed as the breakers seem to trip very easily, adding that several appliances have had to be replaced because of it. He further mentioned that the basement flooded because of improper installation of a drainage line and landscapers covering up the drain. The builder denies any wrongdoing in the building process. The owner feels that his home was not inspected properly in the building process and is asking for the Board's help in addressing this issue.

The Board will conduct an internal investigation into the matters brought before them by Mr. Boston. The Board and Mr. Boston agreed to a March 29th deadline to have a report to him and thanked him for coming in.

While waiting for the next appointment, the Selectmen approved a current use tax abatement. The Board also agreed with the Town's Assessor on a denial of tax deferment on a property. The Board

approved and signed a nominee for the Local River Management Advisory Committee. The closing of the Recycling Center for Easter (March 31st) and Christmas Day was discussed and approved.

The Board asked that Dan Howard, Building Inspector, come in and discuss a property. Mr. Howard was able to find the approved building plans. He will continue to collect more information on this property.

Representative Mike Harrington came before the Board concerning the cyanobacteria that plagued Bow Lake several times over the summer. The State has recently composed a statewide strategy plan to prevent the increase of and control cyanobacteria on the lakes in NH. The biggest problem is public awareness of the several items they can do. The Board suggested he contact those that are on the Master Plan sub group for Bow Lake with this information. (The State's plan has been posted on the Town's website under "Bow Lake".)

Mr. Harrington informed the Board of the rates for Eversource decreasing to 8.9 cents per kw hour. He also updated that the recent testing at the dam went well and the Bow Lake dam is in good condition. The Board thanked Mr. Harrington for coming in.

The 2024 contract for services from Strafford Regional Planning Commission was considered. After a brief discussion, the Board opted to discuss this the work session on January 16th.

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 (c). Roll call was taken as follows:

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

The Board entered non-public session at 6:40PM.

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 6:51PM.

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

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

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

An update was given on the recent court proceedings with a property in Town and the Town's next steps.

Sue Higgins came before the Board asking for additional contributions for fireworks. In June, the Selectmen had suggested that donations be collected to offset the cost; this has not been done. The Selectmen will put the request into consideration when working on the 2024 budget.

The Selectmen approved and adopted an update to the welfare application and the schedule of assistance for the Human Services Department. Information and links were approved to be put on the website for this Department as well.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made, seconded and voted on to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:28PM.