

Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting April 16, 2024

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

In Attendance: Police Chief Randy Young; Hammond Brown, Mimi Jost, Kim McGlinchey, Green Committee; Dan Howard and Joe White, Building Inspectors; Ken Berry; Denise Rainey and Marilyn Rivera

The Selectmen's Meeting was called to order at 5:30PM. The Selectmen began with approving payroll and the payment of bills. The minutes of the April 2nd Selectmen's Meeting were considered and approved. Notices of pay rates for 2 new library hires and rate changes for 2 current employees of the Fire Department were approved. The contract and notice of pay rate for Detective Stickney effective April 28, 2024 was read and approved. Miscellaneous correspondence was read and discussed.

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 5:40PM.

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 6:04PM.

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

Members of the Green Committee came before the Board to discuss their findings in researching Community Power and its options for the Town. Information supplied by the Green Committee are attached to these minutes. The Board asked what the savings would be to residents if opting in to the program. The committee was not in a position to give numbers on the savings. The committee will be reaching out to Community Power to set up a time in June to meet with the Selectmen.

The Building Inspectors were before the Board to discuss the contract for iWorq, the software program they've decided on for the Building Department. The budget for the software as well as tablets for each inspector was approved at Town Meeting. The training will take roughly 4-6 weeks. The Board raised concerns over online payments and made clear that the Building Inspectors would solely be responsible

for reconciling the payments and downloading all applications/information to print and file in the building files.

Ken Berry requested an appointment with the Selectmen to offer some historical bits he and Liz Evans have compiled for a future historical tab on the Town's website. He also offered several pictures of his years at Austin Cate Academy. The Selectmen enjoyed listening to his stories and looking at the pictures; they thanked Mr. Berry for his time. The Selectmen will continue their efforts in developing a historical tab for the website.

Denise Rainey and Marilyn Rivera requested time to come before the Board to discuss the proceedings at the 2024 Town Meeting-specifically on Article 33. Ms. Rivera requested to record the Selectmen's meeting in order to recall what was said once she got home. Ms. Rainey began by requesting the Selectmen ask for a special meeting to re-litigate article 33; she also stating they were disappointed that no one reached out to hear the audio they had recorded at Town Meeting. The Selectmen did state they had received and read the transcript Ms. Rainey's group had provided, noting that several areas were considered inaudible, but what was there was "pretty close". Ms. Rainey stated that it wasn't that the article failed, but felt the proceedings were a "huge breach of protocol" with several people not approaching the microphone and the people yelling out from the bleachers should not have been recognized. Ms. Rainey also stated that if it had played out the way it was supposed to play out, they "wouldn't be here".

Selectman Monahan stated several times that it was the voters that tabled article 33.

Ms. Rainey stated the Selectmen need to make a call on this. The Board felt it was not their call, but the moderator would have to make that call. The Selectmen are not in charge of the voting process and they are there to be voters. The Selectmen looked for an RSA on the matter of calling a special meeting and will have to research the matter and contact the Town's attorney. Initial findings of the Board were that there would have to be a petition of 50 voters in order for a special meeting to be considered, but more information would need to be gathered. It was restated that the article was voted on and tabled at Town Meeting.

Ms. Rainey said she would not get signatures again as she feels they've done their due diligence and had previously submitted signatures for the original article but will talk to the county attorney and the special investigator she has been in contact with and get back to the Selectmen on what is said.

The Selectmen will look into what the procedure is for a special meeting as there was confusion over authority and requirements to pursue a special meeting. The Board thanked Ms. Rainey and Ms. Rivera for coming; the Board looks forward to hearing their findings.

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 7:15PM.

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 7:29PM.

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

Deputy Fire Chief Steve Johnson contract was brought up to reflect additional responsibilities while Fire Chief Whitehouse recovers from an injury.

The hiring process for Department Heads in the Town's Personnel Policy Section 7 was amended to add a second option. The draft of this had been approved at a prior meeting. Brian Monahan made a motion for the amended Personnel Policy Section 7 adding the second option to be accepted; Chris Garcia seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

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

The amended hiring policy goes into effect immediately.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made, seconded, and voted on to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:48PM.