

Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting November 12, 2024

Members Present: Lynn Sweet, Chair; Chris Garcia; Bryant Scott

In Attendance: Police Chief Randy Young and Felix Siegels; Phil Auger and Claire Murdough; Scott Young

The Selectmen's meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM. The Selectmen reviewed and approved payroll and bill payments. The minutes of the October 29, 2024 Selectmen's meeting were considered and approved. Two intents to cut were signed; one timber tax was signed. A contract for firefighter/AEMT was reviewed and notice of pay rate approved; in addition, a contract and pay rate for the newly hired police officer was considered and approved. The 2026 Hazardous Waste contract with the City of Rochester was read and approved noting Rochester sends out their contract for Hazardous Waste Day a year and a half in advance. Miscellaneous correspondence was reviewed.

Chief Randy Young was in attendance to introduce his new officer, Felix Siegels, to the Select Board. Officer Siegels will be sworn in tomorrow at 10AM with the Town Clerk and start regular shifts this week.

The Police Chief submitted budget price for body cameras. It was determined that this be a warrant article for the voters to consider at Town Meeting, pending determination of any grants available that would aid in the purchase. The Selectmen were in agreement that body cameras are necessary to provide accountability and transparency and give a visual record of interactions between officers and the private citizen.

The Selectmen read and discussed correspondence from Eversource concerning billing for a street light on Roller Coaster Road. The Selectmen voted to have the light removed.

Phil Auger and Claire Murdough were in attendance to discuss a warrant article for the possible purchase of land. The owners are aware of Mr. Auger and Ms. Murdaugh's speaking with the Board about this and are open to selling the land. An appraisal would have to be done on the land before any negotiations take place.

Mr. Auger stated that the land could be developed by a builder or purchased by the Town for town development (i.e. Library, Fire Station, etc.).

A question on whether the appraisal should be on the whole piece or broken out into parcels arose. The Selectmen agreed that the whole parcel be appraised and agreed to consider this as a warrant article.

Chris Garcia updated the remainder of the Board on where the Fire Station Committee was in their discussions. Members reviewed correspondence that the Committee had submitted to the Selectmen. The Selectmen agreed that a public session take place for the community to weigh in on. A condensed version of the report would then be given at Town Meeting. The Board was made aware of a feasibility study being contracted with an architect. His contracting is in order to put together the ideas and needs the Town has and to morph it into this study and not a full blown architectural design.

With the recent notifications from insurance companies, the Selectmen requested that all Department heads be notified to submit a copy of their standard operating procedures for the Board to review.

The Board reviewed and briefly discussed the Tax Collector's report of several properties with overdue taxes.

The Board noted seeing Comcast trucks in the area and was hopeful of changes in internet providers in Town. The Town has not received any word from Breezeline if they had been bought out or if Comcast was actually coming to Town.

With 2025 quickly approaching, Departments will be notified to submit their proposed budgets by December 10th in order for the Board to have time to evaluate.

Several meetings are scheduled for their next meeting, November 26th.

With no other business to discuss, a motion was made, seconded, and voted on to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:10PM.