

Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting/Public Hearing February 18, 2025

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

In Attendance: Dan Howard and Joe White, Building inspectors; Tom Collins, Dan Farinella, Donna Fowler, Dorothy Fowler

The meeting was called to order at 5:30PM. The Selectmen reviewed and approved payroll and the payment of bills. A notice of pay rate for the Fire Department was approved. The minutes of the work session on February 11, 2025 were read and approved. The mapping services agreement with Strafford Regional Planning was signed. Miscellaneous correspondence was discussed.

At this time, a motion was made, seconded and voted on to recess the meeting to hold the Public Hearing. At 6:00PM, the meeting was recessed.

The Public Hearing was called to order at 6:00PM.

The purpose of the hearing is to review proposed amendments to the schedule of fees and charges associated with the building permit process.

The new permit fee schedule is attached to these minutes.

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

Lynn Sweet-Aye Chris Garcia-Aye Bryant Scott -Aye

The new fee schedule will be in effect as of March 1, 2025. Joe White reviewed other surrounding towns and their permit fees confirming to the Board that these new rates are comparable with other towns.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the new schedule of fees and charges associated with the building permit process. A vote was taken:

Lynn Sweet-Aye Chris Garcia-Aye Bryant Scott - Aye

At this time, a motion was made, seconded, and voted on to reconvene the Selectmen's Meeting. The meeting reconvened at 6:10PM.

Donna and Dorothy Fowler met with the Board to discuss a recent denial on an elderly exemption. Dorothy Fowler spoke on her mother's behalf stating that her Medicare B should not be considered income on her Social Security wages. The Board will contact the Assessor to clarify this, but the Board has to abide by what the Assessor finds. The Board suggested to the Fowlers that they write a petition article for next year's Town Meeting and to contact our local State Representatives. If a petition article is submitted, the Town would have to approve raising the income limit at the 2026 Town Meeting.

Tom Collins and Dan Farinella were in attendance to ask the Board about the budget and the rumor of a new fire station, asking why the Town needs a new station. The thought is to be able to have a station that can house the trucks, ambulances and equipment that is getting larger in size, adding that there is no land currently available, but would be in the Town's best interest to start planning for the future. The Board will continue to discuss this article and its future.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made, seconded and voted on to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:03PM.