



BOARD OF SELECTMEN
P.O. BOX 725
FITZWILLIAM, NH 03447
(603) 585-7723 Fax: (603) 585-7744
Email: fitzwilliamnh@fitzwilliam-nh.gov

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 17, 2020
7:00 P.M.

Selectmen Present: Daniel Baker, Robyn Bates, Charles Kenison

Guests: (via conference call) Benny Warnke, Robert Ford, Jean Ford, Dana Pinney, Kim Heald, Suzanne Gray, Sheena Royce

Mr. Baker called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

PRIMARY:

PUBLIC COMMENT - No Comment

***** APPROVE MANIFESTS**

Mr. Kenison made a motion to approve the manifests. Ms. Bates seconded. Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Bates - Yes, Mr. Kenison - Yes. Approved – 3-0

***** REVIEW SIGNATURE FOLDER** – The Selectmen reviewed and signed

7:15 BROADBAND VOLUNTEER TASK FORCE

Dana Pinney shared information about the CARES Act and how it would affect Broadband in NH. He will forward information to the Selectmen as he receives it. Approximately, a million dollars has been allocated to NH from the CARES Act. Mr. Pinney shared that after last week's Selectmen's meeting, Mr. Pinney and Kim Heald attended a webinar regarding an HB 1129 amendment. The amendment combines two bills and brings in \$40 million for Broadband. Mr. Pinney explained what was included in the amendment. There is a power struggle on who will own the funds from the CARES Act. Governor Sununu shared that \$50 million was for Broadband, and the NH Department of Education and Public Utilities would develop a process. It would be either \$40 million or \$50 million for Broadband. Mr. Pinney reached out to Carol Miller regarding the bill and she understood from Senator Bradley, the sponsor of the amendment would withdraw it and move forward with the Governor's proposal for \$50 million. Mr. Pinney noted that Henry Underwood thought the amendment passed yesterday. There is a lot of confusion. All of the players involved are representatives, providers, towns, even the Government agencies don't know who will monitor the funds. Mr. Baker shared that if you had a project underway and approved, you would be eligible for the funds, even those towns that have just started. Mr. Baker asked for the position of the Town. Mr. Pinney stated that because we haven't signed any contracts with providers, we are qualified to receive funds. Mr. Pinney reached out to someone at CCI. The process wasn't known at this time, but they want access to those funds to build out Broadband. Mr. Pinney noted that a project like Fitzwilliam's might have an advantage. They have already started with Fitzwilliam's design work since we sent out an RFP. Mr. Pinney shared that what is likely is that any money would go to the providers and the State would chose a provider, but he (Pinney) doesn't know at what level the Town could chose a provider, it requires private municipal partnerships, and the providers get paid for performance. Mr. Pinney didn't know what role the Selectmen would have in the process and shared that the build out for the funds must be done by December 15, 2020. Mr. Pinney noted it was 180 days for the State to develop a process, approval and for a provider to build out. There are issues whether there are materials available - since coming from overseas. Mr. Pinney stated it would take intensive work by both the Task Force and the Selectmen and it would be a matter of days and weeks, not months to enter the process or to decide not to.

Mr. Baker asked about the bond, which would require approval at Town meeting. Mr. Pinney stated the funds would be a grant, not bonds. Mr. Pinney shared that the State was requiring that for CARES funds, the Town would have to go down two paths. One to get CARES Act funds, which pays for all or some of the project in Town or a bond. Mr. Baker mentioned that if the Town got \$1 million from the CARES Act, the Town couldn't come up with funds for the project. Mr. Pinney shared that Consolidated Communications has contributed at least a million of their own funds in other towns. Mr. Pinney stated that until we get more clarity, he didn't have any answers. Mr. Baker stated that he didn't know whether or not the Town could pull the project off with grant funds, and there wouldn't be time for a bond. Mr. Pinney stated the need to go down the dual track.

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Mr. Pinney noted that the providers are concerned that they can pull off in time. Mr. Pinney thought that we would know in a short period of time whether or not this would work. If we get into July or August before coming up with a plan, the providers would need more than 60 days to design. If New Hampshire doesn't use the Broadband funds, it would go to other programs.

Mr. Baker stated that if we enter into the grant program and go over the deadline, what happens. Mr. Pinney stated that we wouldn't be involved in that process, the providers would give a list of projects to the State agencies that are administering these funds. The providers would want to work with the Town to see if we wanted to be involved. Mr. Pinney shared there are a lot of things that we need to stay up on.

Mr. Baker asked if the next steps were to provide an inventory of town roads and homes. Mr. Pinney shared that was information that was provided in the RFP, with served and unserved areas included in the RFP cover letter. Mr. Pinney didn't think there was anything that we needed to do at this point. Ms. Heald shared that Mr. Pinney has done a pretty good job of explaining and she felt that the language of served and underserved, if only spending money on underserved, would include only part of the Town. Ms. Heald thought we might disqualify ourselves from the SB 170 project because we need a certain percentage of underserved. Mr. Pinney agreed with Ms. Heald. This would be part of the decision to go down this path and we can't determine this until we know what a provider would propose. Ms. Heald shared that the proposal indicated that it could be copper, fiber or 5g repeaters, which we have no control over.

Mr. Baker noted the next step is to continue on our path and wait to hear on the grant. Mr. Pinney mentioned to be prepared to do a lot of work in a short period of time. Mr. Baker stated to save that kind of money for our taxpayers, it was an obligation to pursue the least costly process.

7:30 MEET WITH SHEENA ROYCE, RECREATION DIRECTOR
- Summer Program

Sheena Royce shared with the Selectmen that registration was low for the Summer Recreation Program. A number of families in Town have one or both parent's home and they are having a hard time justifying the expense, since someone is home. Ms. Royce asked if the Selectmen had a chance to review the options. The first option was to continue the program with low numbers, and the second option was to send the children to Troy. They (Troy) were willing to take on our children if we brought our own counselors and we paid for them. Ms. Royce shared that Troy made sense only financially and to cancel the Fitzwilliam program. Mr. Royce wasn't certain of how many of the 17 children would transfer to Troy. The concern arises that Troy has 65 children registered and they are not just children from Troy. Mr. Baker asked if the concern was in having such a big group. Ms. Royce shared that our residents were concerned and we could lose them. Mr. Baker also asked if she had met with the Recreation Commission regarding the reduced size. Ms. Royce shared the Commission's preference was to reduce staff size to 4 staff – 2 counselors, an assistant director and a director. Someone has to be dedicated to do cleaning every two hours. Ms. Royce stated that if the staff was limited to 3, she could pull it off, but 4 staff was ideal. Ms. Bates asked to walk through the expense. The program cost at \$15,633, less registration fees, left a total cost of \$10,400, in comparison to sending the children to Troy, which would cost Fitzwilliam \$15,900. Mr. Kenison noted we were still under budget. Ms. Bates asked about it being self-funded. Ms. Favreau shared that it hasn't been self-funded. The summer program expenses are imbedded in the Recreation Department budget. Ms. Bates asked if the spend per resident cost, divided by 13 was fair or should we put the funds towards something later in the year. Ms. Royce felt it was money well spent given our circumstances this year. Keeping the children in Town was a positive and comfortable for them. Mr. Baker asked if Ms. Royce was going with 4 staff and if there were late applicants could she accept them. Ms. Royce shared that they could, but she didn't think that would happen. Ms. Favreau asked if the out of town applicants were being charged more and was it fair for the taxpayers. Ms. Royce shared Fitzwilliam residents cost was \$235 and out of town was paying \$550. Ms. Royce noted that followed the same logic as last year. Mr. Baker shared that walking into, was done in good faith and now that it fell sort, we're going back to ask for more money. Ms. Royce shared that she didn't think that was fair. Ms. Bates stated the reduction was just a happenstance and it would be in poor taste to go back to residents to ask for more money. Ms. Royce shared this year's program is a good program. The Selectmen agreed to go with the option that kept the program in Fitzwilliam.

Ms. Bates made a motion to go with the option to reduce the number of counselors and keep in Fitzwilliam. Mr. Kenison seconded. Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Bates - Yes, Mr. Kenison - Yes. Approved – 3-0

Ms. Royce asked about her request for an outdoor movie night. Ms. Royce noted that after looking into the license, we can't use the Library's license and it's costly. Ms. Royce shared a solution would be to charge \$20 per family and they would need a minimum of 5 families, so the cost would be \$100 from the Recreation budget. Ms. Royce shared if they get the minimum number of families, it would be a small expense. The Selectmen approved.

***** REVIEW PROPOSALS FOR WORK ON TOWN BUILDINGS**

The Selectmen reviewed the proposals that were received from David Streeter and Wade Leventry. Mr. Baker shared that the Selectmen still needed to meet with the Library Trustees.

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Ms. Bates reviewed some concessions that Mr. Leventry was willing to make on alternative materials for the work at the Library. It was noted that the library needed to approve their expenses.

The Selectmen were in agreement that a cost for labor was needed for the handicap ramp.

Mr. Baker recommended to go ahead with the library and step 2 may be to prioritize the work. It was noted that work couldn't move forward on the ramp, fire escape, and fixing the foundation stonework. Mr. Baker mentioned having the Library sign off on the recommendations. The Selectmen recommend going with \$1,000 savings.

The Selectmen agreed to go forward with everything but the ramp, fire escape, and the foundation stonework on the Town Hall.

Mr. Baker made a motion to go ahead with the bids with the 3 exclusions: ramp, fire escape and fixing the foundation stonework. Mr. Kenison seconded. Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Bates - Yes, Mr. Kenison - Yes. Approved – 3-0

Ms. Favreau would convey to Mr. Streeter what work the Selectmen have agreed to move forward on.

*** DISCUSS E-MAIL – TOWN BEACH

Mr. Baker reviewed the e-mail from a resident asking the Selectmen to reconsider their decision to close the beach. Benny Warnke noted that he didn't send the e-mail but asked that the Selectmen reconsider opening the beach. Mr. Warnke shared that as long as there is a parent with the kids and the parents could figure out what to do. Mr. Baker reviewed the process and input from the Fire Chief and the Health Officer that the Selectmen took in order to make their decision to close the beach. The Selectmen would review every couple of weeks in order to keep pace with what the State was recommending. The Selectmen are aware of the flack that they have gotten but they can't in good conscience open the beach. Mr. Warnke asked at what point we allow the government to tell us what to do. The people are the taxpayers and should be allowed to swim at the swimming hole. Suzanne Gray shared that it was a very difficult decision to make. Ms. Gray noted the beach is beautiful but is small. She shared that people are going to Rockwood Pond and there is more space. Ms. Gray wished people could use the beach at Laurel Lake. Mr. Warnke acknowledged that the beach is small. Mr. Baker stated the Selectmen considered different options, such as roping the beach off and allowing an entrance to the water only, but realized that parents don't always go in the water. The Selectmen would open as soon as they can. Mr. Warnke understood. Mr. Baker shared that he appreciated Mr. Warnke's comments.

This item would be kept on the Selectmen's agenda. Ms. Favreau would reply to the e-mail.

*** DISCUSS PURCHASE OF MOWER – HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Ms. Favreau shared that Jason Walters found a mower. Ms. Favreau reported that \$20,000 was put in the Highway Expendable Trust Fund. It was noted that the mower was a 1998 New Holand 78 hp tractor with a alano side mower, which has 4,200 hours of use for \$15,000 from Jaw Sales, Hollis NH. It was a former Massachusetts highway mower.

Mr. Baker shared that the town currently hired out the highway mowing. The question asked was what wouldn't get done because we are now mowing. Mr. Baker shared that there was a ton of brush that they are behind in cutting and right now we are holding off on the purchase of a grader.

The Selectmen discussed having each Selectmen serve as a liaison to a department. Each would gather the knowledge to help assist the Department Head. Mr. Baker shared that if the Selectmen don't give the new Road Agent any direction, they are failing him.

Ms. Bates made a motion to approve the 1998 New Holand tractor with the side mower with the caveat to do at least as much mowing as we contracted out and defer the purchase of any equipment this year unless approved by the Selectmen. Mr. Kenison seconded. Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Bates - Yes, Mr. Kenison - Yes. Approved – 3-0

*** REVIEW PARAMEDIC INTERCEPT AND AMBULANCE CONTRACT

Mr. Kenison shared that the FireWards have given their approval on the contract. The contract included the language that we are not charged if turned around. The contract was for 1 year. Also included was the offer from DiLuzio to assist with training. Mr. Kenison noted that we are looking at no new EMTs for at least 6 months to a year. The State isn't doing any training at this time.

Discussion was held on the possibility of budgeting differently next year, if DiLuzio continues to answer all calls. Ms. Favreau shared that she is submitting bills for Covid-19 funding. Mr. Kenison stated that even if the State opens up training, training hours at the hospital still needed to be done.

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Mr. Kenison made a motion to approve the One Year Agreement for Paramedic Intercept Services & Interim Primary Ambulance Service from DiLuzio. Ms. Bates seconded. Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Bates - Yes, Mr. Kenison - Yes. Approved – 3-0

*** REVIEW INVOICE FOR STEEPLE

The Selectmen reviewed the invoice from Southgate Steeplejacks in the amount of \$20,429.91 for structural work and material costs. Ms. Bates asked if the Selectmen should review actual to budget with Jay Southgate to make sure we are all on the same page. Mr. Baker agreed. Mr. Baker asked to get the expenditures to date, the remaining costs and any estimate on lightning protection. Mr. Baker noted to focus on Phase 3 and the cost.

Ms. Bates made a motion to approve Southgate Steeplejacks invoice in the amount of \$20,429.91. Mr. Kenison seconded. Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Bates - Yes, Mr. Kenison - Yes. Approved – 3-0

*** MEET WITH SUZANNE GRAY - NON-PUBLIC SESSION - RSA 91-A:3 II(e) - Legal

At 8:37 p.m. Mr. Kenison made a motion to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II(e). Ms. Bates seconded and the motion passed 3-0. Roll Call vote: Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Bates - Yes, Mr. Kenison - Yes.

At 8:54 p.m. Mr. Kenison made a motion to leave non-public session and seal the minutes as disclosure would adversely affect the reputation of the person other than a member of the board. Ms. Bates seconded and the motion passed 3-0. Roll Call vote: Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Bates - Yes, Mr. Kenison - Yes.

*** NON-PUBLIC SESSION - RSA 91-A:3 II(c) - Exemption

At 8:54 p.m. Mr. Kenison made a motion to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II(c). Ms. Bates seconded and the motion passed 3-0. Roll Call vote: Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Bates - Yes, Mr. Kenison - Yes.

At 8:57 p.m. Ms. Bates made a motion to leave non-public session and seal the minutes as disclosure would adversely affect the reputation of the person other than a member of the board. Mr. Kenison seconded and the motion passed 3-0. Roll Call vote: Mr. Baker – Yes, Ms. Bates - Yes, Mr. Kenison - Yes.

INFORMATION

*** INFORMATION FROM HEALTH OFFICER

Ms. Favreau shared that a complaint was received from Terry Gustafason regarding Stateline Grocery. It was cleaned up before Carol Ann Rocheleau went to inspect.

ON-GOING BUSINESS:

*** **STEEPLE PROJECT** – Mr. Baker would get up with Jay Southgate on Phase 3. Mr. Baker wanted to make sure he goes through a detailed list to make sure everything is included in Phase 3 that should be. Ms. Bates asked about the water damage on the second floor. Mr. Baker would also ask Mr. Southgate about the roof.

*** **AMBULANCE SERVICE**

*** **SOLAR**

*** **TOWN-WIDE ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED AND THEIR ENFORCEMENT – REVIEW GUIDELINES DRAFT**

- Unregistered vehicles
- Debris and junk in yards

Meeting Schedule: *To be determined on a weekly basis*

Ms. Bates made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m. Mr. Kenison seconded and the motion passed. 3-0

Submitted by:

Sheryl White
Secretary to the Board of Selectmen

Daniel Baker, Chairman

Robyn Bates

Charles Kenison
Board of Selectmen