



BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 6, 2022
9:00 A.M.

Selectmen Present: Robyn Bates, Brian Doerpholz, John E.F. Craig

Guests: in person – Dana Pinney via Zoom – Robert Ford, Jean Ford

Ms. Bates called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

PRIMARY:

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Craig reviewed an article for the newsletter that he has put together relative to Consolidated Communications changing its name to Fidium for broadband.

***** APPROVE MANIFESTS**

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

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

***** UPDATE ON BOARD MEETINGS**

Planning Board – Ms. Bates shared that there were two public hearings - Chapter 127-14:A:2 – Home Occupation/Business and Chapter 148 - Solar. Both passed with no changes and would be on the ballot.

Ms. Bates also shared that residential solar was increased up to 25 kW and would require a Construction Permit Application. Over 25 kW to 1 MW community or large scale in addition to the Construction Permit Application would need a Conditional Use Permit from the Planning Board. Anything over that would require the Planning Board and the SEC. Ms. Bates thought that they did a great job in streamlining the ordinance.

Master Plan Update – Ms. Bates shared that the survey has been reviewed and is out there. It covers a lot of the community and would get much needed review. It can be found at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FitzwilliamMasterPlanSurvey>.

Mr. Doerpholz asked about the differentiation of Home Occupation/Business. Ms. Bates stated home occupancy was mostly service oriented businesses, not products. If there is traffic, noise, etc. than it is a home business requiring Planning Board site plan review. Ms. Bates shared that we need to keep an eye on home business to make sure they go through the site plan review process. Ms. Bates noted that home occupancy is just within the home and home business can have one or two employees.

Master Plan – Mr. Doerpholz shared that the survey is done and will be mailed out Friday. Survey monkey is active and there are 1,300 surveys available.

Mr. Doerpholz noted the forum date has been scheduled for March 19, 2022 at Emerson School, with a snow date of March 26, 2022. Volunteers would be contacted to lead the small break out groups. They would reach out first to the volunteers before deciding the topics for the break out groups. Mr. Doerpholz mentioned that boards/commissions membership may be changing.

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Library Trustees - Mr. Doerpholz shared that there is a topic that he would address momentarily as it involves an elected official. The Library discussed their Master Plan and they needed to get moving on it as it would have some input in the Planning Board's Master Plan. Richard Marshall has already developed a plan and it is being reviewed. The Locke Collection was also discussed and they would start to display some of the items. A catalog describing the collection with photographs would be put together to garner interest from the Town. The Trustees are hoping to get donations to help display the items.

Mr. Doerpholz mentioned that Matthew Buonomano serves as a Library Trustee and Treasurer. Mr. Buonomano had sent out a very terse e-mail to members of the board. Prior to Monday's meeting, Mr. Doerpholz had passed Mr. Buonomano on his way out of the Library and learned that Mr. Buonomano had engaged with Kate Thomas and had an altercation with Pam Troccia, prior to the meeting, regarding the wearing of masks. The altercation violated the Code of Conduct of the Library Trustees and the Trustees present will discuss the request for resignation of Mr. Buonomano.

Ms. Favreau shared that Fire Chief Adam Dubriske asked if the Selectmen would discuss making any changes to shutting down the building. Ms. Favreau shared that this is not on the Agenda and that our protocol is to follow the State. Fire Chief Dubriske wants to limit the public as much as possible in the Fire Station as they are crucial. Ms. Favreau shared that Police Chief Leonard DiSalvo has talked with her. They have ordered an air filter to put in their entry way. She would put under FEMA. FEMA is now still covering personal protection at 100%. Ms. Favreau would get with Fire Chief Dubriske to discuss what he has purchased. Ms. Favreau asked if she should consider an air filter for the Town Hall. After discussion, the Selectmen agreed that the size of the Town Hall would prohibit the air filter from running properly, unless one was put in each office space.

Ms. Bates wanted to ask Fire Chief Dubriske what other towns were doing for EMS. She wanted actual back up since they have been following the State. It was thought that nothing would be happening with the Governor regarding Covid but there is legislation at the federal level. Ms. Bates shared that on last night's news, the Governor wanted to push it down to the county level and managed at the school level as well. Ms. Bates wanted to follow Fire Chief Dubriske's decision but wanted to be consistent.

It was noted that a lot of the services are being pushed down to the EMS staff and we need to keep them safe. Ms. Favreau shared that we have control over our own buildings, even without Covid. After discussion, Ms. Bates wanted to follow Fire Chief Dubriske's guidelines and stated that we didn't need to follow up with other towns.

Ms. Bates made a motion to adopt Fire Chief Dubriske's recommendation to restrict public access at the Public Safety building, until further notice. Mr. Doerpholz seconded. Ms. Bates - Yes, Mr. Doerpholz - Yes, Mr. Craig - Yes. Approved - 3-0

Discussion was held on public meetings, and protocol. Ms. Favreau asked if we would be having the Town meeting at the Town Hall. The Selectmen agreed to hold at the Town Hall. It was noted that the decision was made as of now.

*** REVIEW VETERAN'S CREDIT APPLICATIONS

Ms. Bates reviewed the two Veteran's Credit Applications:

One application was for Map 6, Lot 13. Ms. Favreau shared that the Town has adopted the all veteran's tax credit. It is \$500.

Mr. Doerpholz made a motion to approve the Veteran's Tax Credit for Map 6, Lot 13. Mr. Craig seconded. Ms. Bates - Yes, Mr. Doerpholz - Yes, Mr. Craig - Yes. Approved - 3-0

The other application was for Map 7, Lot 1.

Ms. Bates made a motion to approve the Veteran's Tax Credit for Map 7, Lot 1. Mr. Doerpholz seconded. Ms. Bates - Yes, Mr. Doerpholz - Yes, Mr. Craig - Yes. Approved - 3-0

*** REVIEW INVOICE FROM CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS

The Selectmen reviewed the invoice from CCI in the amount of \$405,625 for the fiber buildout, which is half of the balance. It was noted that the Selectmen changed it to 50/50. The bond funds should be received the middle of January. Mr. Pinney shared that the bond funds would be available in February. Ms. Bates wanted to have a check-in call with Jeff McIver. The Selectmen gathered their questions.

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- *** **BUDGET TRANSFERS**
- Police Department - \$842.00
- Ambulance - additional - \$267.43

The Selectmen discussed the budget transfer needed for the Police Department in the amount of \$842 and the Ambulance for an additional \$267.43. After discussion, the Selectmen agreed that both budget transfers would come from the Direct Assistance line item.

Mr. Doerpholz made a motion to approve the transfers of the Police Department in the amount of \$842.00 and an additional \$267.42 for the Ambulance from the Direct Assistance line item. Mr. Craig seconded. Ms. Bates - Yes, Mr. Doerpholz – Yes, Mr. Craig - Yes. Approved – 3-0

*** **REVIEW BUDGETS**

Discussion was held on the cost to replace the Town Hall roof and it was mentioned that LCHIP had given away millions of dollars in grants last year. Discussion was also held on what type of roofing material could be used, keeping in mind the historical nature of the building. The Selectmen would evaluate their CIP priorities. CIP would be making their recommendation tonight and they would allow any department to come in and meet with them at another meeting, if needed. Ms. Favreau shared that she has called AL Johnson for a proposal, as they did the repair work on the roof. The Selectmen had previously determined that \$25,000 would be the amount to put aside. Ms. Favreau shared that the expendable trust can be used for any building. The Selectmen agreed to apply for an LCHIP grant, which would be later in the year. The Selectmen began their review of the CIP list of priorities that they had previously prepared. The Selectmen agreed to allot the \$25,000 for building maintenance. Full review of their CIP priority list would be done at their next meeting. Mr. Doerpholz would share this at the CIP meeting tonight.

Highway department repairs were mentioned, as well as looking to determine what can be under ARPA funds and taken out of the CIP requests. Ms. Favreau mentioned that she didn't think there was anything else that could be taken out of CIP and covered under ARPA. Ms. Favreau explained how unexpended revenue can be used.

The Selectmen reviewed and discussed their recommendations to bring to the Budget Committee.

INFORMATION

Ms. Bates shared that she is looking for guidance. Ms. Bates felt there is unfinished business but given where she is, she wants to do a lot more travel and is struggling with whether or not she should run for something. Now she has three major times that she is out of town and doesn't want to put the burden on others. Ms. Bates asked the Selectmen for their thoughts. She (Bates) is hearing from multiple people that she should reconsider running. She doesn't want to leave the Selectmen with a void. Ms. Favreau shared that she would like Ms. Bates to run again. Ms. Favreau reminded Ms. Bates that Dan Baker was gone a lot last year when moving his boat from Florida and it worked. Ms. Favreau also shared that it scares her to have another person come on the board with no prior knowledge. Ms. Bates has the knowledge about what has been done during her tenure. Ms. Bates appreciated that and noted that she would be writing to our State legislators, as an individual, advocating for legislative action to allow for remote attendance at meetings. Ms. Favreau shared that this is needed to allow things to be done remotely. Ms. Bates felt we would get more candidates if there was more flexibility. Mr. Craig shared that he really enjoys the people that he works closely with and Ms. Bates is one of those people. There is a lot to be said about Ms. Bates' fairness and how she runs a meeting and he appreciates her presence. Mr. Craig had a sense that she might not be returning and it is great to hear she is reconsidering. Mr. Craig shared his consideration in whether he runs is how can we leave Mr. Doerpholz alone in this role, not that he isn't capable of handling it, and that how could he not run for at least a one year term, especially with Ms. Favreau having to do all of the training. Ms. Bates shared that Mr. Craig shouldn't discount his service. It was easy for her to select him for this role. Mr. Craig asked Ms. Bates to stay on for another term. Mr. Doerpholz shared that he was thrilled to hear that Ms. Bates is reconsidering. Mr. Doerpholz didn't want to talk her into running as it is a personal decision but shared that she is great for the Board and he is glad she has served for the last three years. Mr. Doerpholz was aware of Mr. Craig's interest in attending public meetings and it is great to have someone with this interest. Mr. Doerpholz felt that if both would run, they would be voted in. Mr. Doerpholz mentioned that as far as missing time, there are three members and two members can carry on. People go on vacation or are sick, and being able to call in is helpful. Ms. Bates shared that she would want people to understand her other commitments. Mr. Craig shared that Ms. Bates is a really good mix and he felt very encourage that Ms. Bates is considering running again. Ms. Bates thanked them for their comments.

Mr. Pinney shared that people don't understand how much work goes into it. He felt that experience would win. Ms. Bates asked if Mr. & Mrs. Ford had any comments on this. Mrs. Ford shared that she and Mr. Ford felt that Ms. Bates is an asset to this Town and it is very good news. Consistency is a good thing. Mr. Ford shared that he totally agrees with Mrs. Ford and mentioned that one thing he has noticed is the turnover of town officials and he thinks Ms. Bates reconsidering is a very good thing.

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ON-GOING BUSINESS:

***** TOWN-WIDE ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED AND THEIR ENFORCEMENT**

- Unregistered vehicles
- Debris and junk in yards

Ms. Bates made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:21 p.m. Mr. Doerpholz seconded and the motion passed. 3-0

Submitted by:

Sheryl White
Secretary to the Board of Selectmen

Robyn Bates, Chairman

Brian Doerpholz

John E.F. Craig
Board of Selectmen