



**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
P.O. BOX 725  
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**Fitzwilliam Town Hall**  
**13 Templeton Turnpike, Fitzwilliam, NH 03447**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**June 21, 2023**  
**6:00 P.M.**

**Selectmen Present:** Brian Doerpholz, Martin Nolan arrived at 6:19 p.m., Nancy Carney

**Guests:** Dana Pinney, David Tighe

**AGENDA:**

- **Call to Order**

Mr. Doerpholz called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

- **Public Comment - None**

- **Appointments**

**6:30 Meet with Community Power Committee**

Mr. Doerpholz gave Ms. Carney an update on why the Selectmen had created the committee and their scope of work.

Kevin Wooley, Susan Silverman, Erik Durmer met with the Selectmen to give an update.

Mr. Wooley gave the Selectmen an update of where they are in their research. There are 3 options: join the coalition through the County, a private broker, and CPCNH.

The Committee met with Standard Power, and they would do everything. This path would need to go to town meeting. Standard Power would keep the revenue. The coalition revenues stay with the coalition and with the town. Ms. Silverman mentioned that the money goes towards keeping the rates down. Mr. Durmer shared that Standard Power needed to make a profit, they are gambling that they wouldn't lose money and the town is gambling that the rates would be low. It is like a 3 year fixed rate and if the rates go down, we would still pay the contract rate. Ms. Silverman noted that people can opt out.

Mr. Doerpholz asked if a person needed to opt out. Mr. Durmer confirmed a person would need to opt out, unless they were getting electricity through a third party, then they would have to choose to join. A resident or business can switch on a month-to-month basis.

Mr. Doerpholz asked about the different levels. Mr. Wooley shared there are four choices: basic, 33% renewable or carbon free, 50% renewal or carbon free, or 100% renewable or carbon free. Mr. Doerpholz asked if the rates are any different. Mr. Wooley shared it is a streamlined path. Cheshire County joined the Coalition and what is different, we would go through the County to have input. They would be of great assistance in getting the educational information and letters out.

Mr. Doerpholz asked if they were recommending going through the County. Mr. Wooley shared that it was up to the Selectmen. Mr. Wooley noted that we didn't have to do this.

Ms. Silverman shared that politically, Cheshire County would mean the outreach to residents would be straightforward. After a decision is made, it would be approximately a month to get the letters done. In February, we would get into the higher rate.

Mr. Doerpholz asked about the downside of going with the County. Mr. Durmer shared that in terms of the public hearing, there will be a lot of questions and push back and this would be the downside of going with the County. The key would be educating the town and getting people prepared for that. It wouldn't preclude a vote at Town meeting. Mr. Doerpholz shared that they can make a preliminary decision and at town meeting, they could decide that it isn't worth it. Mr. Wooley shared that it takes three months to get out but there are no penalties.

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Mr. Wooley shared that if going through the County, Fitzwilliam would have two representatives and with the Coalition, we would have one - one town, one vote. Mr. Nolan shared that the County doesn't have a good track record and he is suspicious of anything they do. Mr. Doerpholz asked if the committee is recommending the County. Ms. Silverman noted that there are downsides. She shared that we could join through the County and at a certain point, get out and go with the Coalition.

Mr. Doerpholz mentioned we could go with the County and could re-evaluate over the six months and then go with the Coalition. The County only started their program a month ago. Mr. Durmer asked why the bigger town is going with Standard Power and shared the answer is that some of the options weren't available in the beginning, now there are more choices. Mr. Durmer shared that there will be a memorandum of agreement that lays out the responsibilities of the Town and the County and the representation. Mr. Doerpholz mentioned putting it to vote at Town meeting after we see how this has gone. Mr. Doerpholz also mentioned the Board of Selectmen voting and starting with the County and then having a Warrant Article to ask if we want to stay with the County or whether to go with the Coalition.

Ms. Silverman shared if not going with the County, there are three public hearings, and that at town meeting it would be voted on during the day and it would be by simple majority. Mr. Doerpholz shared that there would be some trepidation. Discussion was held on Eversource still providing the power, billing is from Eversource, and the supply rate is Eversource's rate. Ms. Silverman shared that the County would help with the public hearing, through the Coalition.

Mr. Doerpholz shared that the Selectmen's next meeting is Thursday, July 6<sup>th</sup> and they have a lot of information to review. Ms. Carney shared that the public hearing would be at the end of July, early August.

Mr. Durmer shared that the prediction is that the electrical rates would be going down. Mr. Durmer asked what the Selectmen needed from them. Mr. Doerpholz shared that they needed to go through the information and they would need them to help with the public hearing.

- **7:00 Meet with Carol Ann Rocheleau - Non-Public Session - RSA 91-A:3 II(e) – Legal**

At 7:07 p.m. Mr. Doerpholz made a motion to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II(b). Ms. Carney seconded and the motion passed 3-0. Roll Call vote: Mr. Doerpholz – Yes, Mr. Nolan – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes.

At 7:31 p.m. Mr. Doerpholz made a motion to leave non-public session. Mr. Nolan seconded and the motion passed 3-0. Roll Call vote: Mr. Doerpholz – Yes, Mr. Nolan – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes.

At 7:31 p.m. Mr. Doerpholz made a motion to seal the non-public minutes as disclosure would adversely affect the reputation of the person other than a member of the board. Mr. Nolan seconded and the motion passed 3-0. Roll Call vote: Mr. Doerpholz – Yes, Mr. Nolan – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes.

### **7:30 Meet with Budget Committee Members**

Carl Hagstrom, Ben Thomas, Andy Wood, and Ginger Doerpholz met with the Selectmen to review budgets. Mr. Doerpholz shared with the Budget Committee members the expenditures to date. Mr. Doerpholz noted that unexpended should be at 50%.

Recreation Commission - Mr. Doerpholz noted that they want to go through CIP to get a new shed. The summer program would be held through Beyond the Bell. Mr. Doerpholz shared that currently there is no Recreation Director.

Mr. Doerpholz shared that FEMA had contacted the town to find out what happened during the storm. We are hoping to receive some funds for the damage.

DPW – Mr. Doerpholz mentioned that one truck was down and the repair cost was taken out of the Expendable Trust. A grant was awarded to pay 25% to purchase a new vehicle. A warrant Article would be done for the remainder. We currently have \$150,000 of the \$250,000 cost.

Cemetery – Mr. Doerpholz shared that they are looking to fill the seasonal position and shared what had transpired with personnel.

Transfer Station – Mr. Doerpholz noted that they are short two people. One person has been hired for the summer.

Paving – Mr. Doerpholz shared that the DPW is preparing to pave Lower Troy Road. Mr. Thomas asked if the two culverts would be replaced.

Library – Mr. Doerpholz shared that Cindi Beede was hired full-time and her part-time position needed to be filled.

Mr. Hagstrom shared that departments have done a great job with their budgets. Mr. Hagstrom asked for another meeting the end of September, just before budget season begins.

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- **Consent Agenda**

- Payroll and Vendor Manifests
- Minutes – June 8, 2023 – Public and Non-Public
- Construction Permit Application – Map 8, Lot 46-1 – 27 roof mounted solar panels
- Construction Permit Application – Map 11, Lot 16-1 – 21 roof mounted solar panels
- Construction Permit Application – Map 41, Lot 2-1 – L-shaped open deck – front
- Construction Permit Application – Map 13, Lot 4-2 – 14X20' addition to existing dwelling
- Construction Permit Application – Map 11, Lot 38-3 – 15 roof mounted solar panels

Ms. Carney made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Doerpholz seconded. Mr. Doerpholz – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes. Approved – 2-0

- **Continued Business**

- **Review Additional Information for Application for Vendor's Permit/Vendor's License**

Mr. Doerpholz asked Ms. Favreau to notify the Police Department that the Vendor Permit has been approved.

Mr. Doerpholz made a motion to approve the Vendor Permit. Ms. Carney seconded. Mr. Doerpholz – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes. Approved – 2-0

- **Follow up letter from the Bessette's**

The Selectmen reviewed and stand by their original response that the Selectmen have met and answered Ms. Bessette's objections and consider the matter closed. Ms. Favreau would draft a letter to Ms. Bessette for the Selectmen to sign.

- **New Business**

- **Review Abatement Recommendation from Avitar – Map 33, Lot 29**

Mr. Doerpholz reviewed the abatement recommendation of Avitar for Map 33, Lot 29.

Ms. Carney made a motion to accept Avitar's recommendation. Mr. Doerpholz seconded. Mr. Doerpholz – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes. Approved – 2-0

- **Accept resignation from ZBA member**

Mr. Doerpholz shared that unfortunately Melanie Paterson has submitted her resignation. Mr. Doerpholz asked that a letter be sent to Ms. Paterson. Mr. Doerpholz noted that this leaves two alternates.

- **Review legal invoice**

The Selectmen reviewed and agreed to pay.

- **Review sample evaluation form**

Mr. Doerpholz shared that they have received complaints about the Town's evaluation form, which the Selectmen needed to fill out. They reviewed a form from another town. The Selectmen would like the evaluation form in a pdf fillable form.

Ms. Favreau shared that Chief Leonard DiSalvo would like to proceed with the disposal of the old cruiser. In the past we have had the DPW sand blast the lettering and to remove the light bar and the cage. Ms. Favreau would look into the company that sells municipal vehicles. The Selectmen agreed with having the DPW remove the lettering, light bar and cage.

Mr. Nolan shared that he had asked Ms. Favreau to put something in the newsletter thanking A.L. Johnson & Sons. Ms. Favreau shared that it had been done.

- **Other Business – Information Only**

- **Notice from NHMA**

- **Non-Public - If Necessary Non-Public Session - RSA 91-A:3 II a, b, c, d, e, I**

- **Non-Public Session - RSA 91-A:3 II(b) – Hiring**

At 7:50 p.m. Mr. Doerpholz made a motion to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II(b). Ms. Carney seconded and the motion passed 3-0. Roll Call vote: Mr. Doerpholz – Yes, Mr. Nolan – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes.

At 7:53 p.m. Mr. Doerpholz made a motion to leave non-public session. Mr. Nolan seconded and the motion passed 3-0. Roll Call vote: Mr. Doerpholz – Yes, Mr. Nolan – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes.

At 7:53 p.m. Mr. Doerpholz made a motion to seal the non-public minutes as disclosure would adversely affect the reputation of the person other than a member of the board. Mr. Nolan seconded and the motion passed 3-0. Roll Call vote: Mr. Doerpholz – Yes, Mr. Nolan – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes.

### **BOARD MEETING MINUTES - June 21, 2023**

- **Non-Public Session - RSA 91-A:3 II(a) – Personnel**

At 7:53 p.m. Mr. Doerpholz made a motion to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II(a). Mr. Nolan seconded and the motion passed 3-0. Roll Call vote: Mr. Doerpholz – Yes, Mr. Nolan – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes.

At 7:59 p.m. Mr. Doerpholz made a motion to leave non-public session. Ms. Carney seconded and the motion passed 3-0. Roll Call vote: Mr. Doerpholz – Yes, Mr. Nolan – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes.

At 7:59 p.m. Mr. Doerpholz made a motion to seal the non-public minutes as disclosure would adversely affect the reputation of the person other than a member of the board. Ms. Carney seconded and the motion passed 3-0. Roll Call vote: Mr. Doerpholz – Yes, Mr. Nolan - Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes.

- **Non-Public Session - RSA 91-A:3 II(e) - Legal**

At 6:05 p.m. Mr. Doerpholz made a motion to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II(e). Ms. Carney seconded and the motion passed 2-0. Roll Call vote: Mr. Doerpholz – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes.

At 6:09 p.m. Ms. Carney made a motion to leave non-public session. Mr. Doerpholz seconded and the motion passed 2-0. Roll Call vote: Mr. Doerpholz – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes.

At 6:09 p.m. Mr. Doerpholz made a motion to seal the non-public minutes as disclosure would adversely affect the reputation of the person other than a member of the board. Ms. Carney seconded and the motion passed 2-0. Roll Call vote: Mr. Doerpholz – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes.

Mr. Greenan came into the meeting and Mr. Doerpholz explained the Selectmen’s decision to deny. Mr. Greenan asked what the appeal process was and he also wanted to know when he would receive the Selectmen’s decision in writing.

- **Non-Public Session - RSA 91-A:3 II(e) - Legal**

At 6:09 p.m. Mr. Doerpholz made a motion to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II(e). Ms. Carney seconded and the motion passed 2-0. Roll Call vote: Mr. Doerpholz – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes.

At 6:13 p.m. Mr. Doerpholz made a motion to leave non-public session. Ms. Carney seconded and the motion passed 2-0. Roll Call vote: Mr. Doerpholz – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes.

At 6:13 p.m. Mr. Doerpholz made a motion to seal the non-public minutes as disclosure would adversely affect the reputation of the person other than a member of the board. Ms. Carney seconded and the motion passed 2-0. Roll Call vote: Mr. Doerpholz – Yes, Ms. Carney - Yes.

#### **Adjournment**

Mr. Doerpholz made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. Mr. Nolan seconded and the motion passed. 3-0

Submitted by:

Sheryl White  
Secretary to the Board of Selectmen

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Brian Doerpholz, Chairman

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Martin Nolan

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Nancy Carney  
Board of Selectmen