



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
December 7, 2022
4:30 P.M.

Selectmen Present: Brian Doerpholz, John E.F. Craig, Martin Nolan

Guests: Dana Pinney

AGENDA:

A. Call to Order

Mr. Doerpholz called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

B. Appointments

• **4:30 Site walks to town buildings**

• **6:30 Meet with Fitzwilliam Village Water District Representative**

Ben Thomas and Ken Beckwith met with Selectmen to give them an update on a couple of issues.

Mr. Thomas shared that the Village Water District is being sued by Gretchen Wittenborg, to have well behind the Town Hall discontinued. Mr. Thomas noted that the VWD has made a counter claim.

Mr. Thomas mentioned that because of a threat to water sources, the VWD has been moved up the list for receiving grant funding. Mr. Thomas shared that the Conservation Commission had shared with him that using the Shupack property to site a well wouldn't be allowed. The Monadnock Conservancy hasn't been contacted.

Mr. Thomas wanted to ask about siting a well at the old ski hill. It was questioned which property might be easier to accomplish this. The VWD might be able to use money to install a new well and if any money is left, it could be used towards piping. It was noted that the VWD's annual operating budget is \$50,000. Mr. Thomas acknowledged this would need to go to Town Meeting.

Mr. Thomas was asked if the 25 people on Ms. Wittenborg's well would need to be connected to the new well. Mr. Thomas explained that they keep the Massin connector closed because if opened they lose water pressure. Mr. Thomas shared that in addition to the 25 people, it includes the Town Hall & Library. Mr. Nolan asked about setbacks to wells. Mr. Thomas stated that it is 150 feet and noted that DES doesn't want animals grazing due to contamination. Mr. Thomas didn't know if a roadway would be precluded. Mr. Doerpholz asked if there was a radius and would we be prohibited from using the ski hill. Mr. Thomas didn't think it would be affected.

The steps to be taken:

Step 1 - See if the Board of Selectmen are on board with this idea, and

Step 2 - How to create a warrant article. Ms. Favreau stated that we would need a legal opinion due to the possibility of any liability. This potentially could serve Emerson School. They currently have private well. Mr. Thomas shared it would need a minimally cut roadway to access the pump. Mr. Thomas was asked and shared it may need to be fenced in. They currently have locking caps on the wells. The VWD would like advice on how to proceed. Ms. Favreau shared that if the Selectmen agree, then Mr. Thomas wouldn't need to do a petition warrant article.

Mr. Thomas noted that there is an RSA that allows the boundary of the VWD to be expanded, this would be to incorporate the ski hill or other areas. The big picture is to improve the water service in Town. Fire hydrants may not be able to be part of the system due to the storage tank that would be needed to get adequate pressure.

Mr. Thomas asked if the Selectmen don't approve, could the VWD do a petition warrant article. Ms. Favreau shared that they could. Mr. Doerpholz wanted to check the one legal issue. Mr. Favreau asked Mr. Thomas if he would know the

BOARD MEETING MINUTES - December 7, 2022

exact location of where the well would be. Mr. Beckwith shared that it was part of the hydrology work. Mr. Thomas didn't want to spend funds on something that hasn't been approved. Mr. Doerpholz mentioned having a topographical map to show the possible location. Ms. Favreau read language that was needed should the Selectmen want to put on the warrant. Attorney Christine Filmore would be contacted. The Selectmen would discuss at their next week's meeting.

- **7:00 Meet with candidate for Monadnock Regional School District Board**

The Selectmen thanked Phyllis Peterson for her service, she was on the MRSD Board for 12 years. Ms. Peterson explained why she had to resign her board position. She is currently serving on the Budget Committee but she doesn't enjoy that as much. Ms. Peterson thought with Winston Wright's passing it was a way to get back on the School Board. Ms. Peterson shared her reservation with the bond. Ms. Peterson mentioned that other Budget Committee members also want the figures from the State. Ms. Peterson knows the laws regarding education and she is interested in the position because she loves kids and education.

Mr. Doerpholz asked about the transgender push. Ms. Peterson shared that she is open to new ideas and their perspectives. Discussion was held on class sizes, IEPs, behavior and giving the schools the resources. Ms. Peterson stated that teachers are working harder than ever. Ms. Peterson mentioned that she and Mr. Wright used to visit the school and shared that when the school tries to contact parents because of sick children, it is hard to reach them.

Ms. Peterson discussed her passion in returning to the School Board. She mentioned the misconception that the Town is rich. Mr. Doerpholz asked about the meeting schedule of both the Budget Committee and the School Board. Ms. Peterson shared that the Budget Committee usually meets once a month and the School Board meets the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month. Ms. Peterson was asked if she was appointed to the School Board, did she know someone that would be a good fit for the Budget Committee. Ms. Peterson shared that she didn't have a recommendation.

- **7:30 Meet with Recreation Director**

Mr. Doerpholz shared that the Selectmen, in addition to Justin Killeen looked at the snack shack and they have items to add to the repair list. Mr. Doerpholz doesn't see the need to replace the shed. The recommendation is to lift up on blocks and the electric would need to be reconnected. Mr. Doerpholz asked if the shed would be moved. Mr. Craig thought the reason to move is because it is close to the hillside which is causing rot due to dirt up against the sides. Mr. Craig shared that they were thinking of spring time to do repairs and painting. Mr. Craig asked Katelyn Jagodzinski if she would like a list sent to her. Mr. Doerpholz mentioned that the Recreation Department has an expendable trust fund. The Selectmen are currently putting together a list of repairs needed to Town owned buildings. Ms. Favreau mentioned that the Recreation Department has an expendable trust, the balance of which is \$9,607. Mr. Nolan mentioned the repair needed to the tennis courts. It should be looked at before cold and snow to prevent further damage. Mr. Nolan wanted to know what company the previous repair work was done by. Ms. Favreau would look into. The Selectmen recommended getting the shed off the ground and relocating it. The work would need to be done in the spring. Mr. Doerpholz mentioned having a figure for budget season, even though the price would change, it gives them an estimate.

Two members of the Recreation Commission came in to discuss the shed as well. Discussion was held on the Recreation's budget and not having any equipment. The Recreation Commission wants to purchase a new shed and it was shared with the Selectmen that if they say no, they would spend their funds on equipment. Ms. Favreau shared the purpose of the expendable trust and mentioned that they needed to submit their expendable trust fund request.

Mr. Craig mentioned the Stone Pond Dam Project. The soil for the field would come out of that project which should happen in 2023/2024. Mr. Craig shared the plan is to get both buildings in great shape. Mr. Nolan shared that the Selectmen are in support of the Recreation Department.

It was mentioned that the rodents and rot are the biggest problem with the building. Discussion was held on long range planning. Mr. Doerpholz mentioned putting steel containers in the operating budget to hold equipment. Ms. Favreau noted that Advantage Tennis repaired the tennis courts in 2019. Ms. Favreau would send Ms. Jagodzinski the list of repairs that the Selectmen created and she would get estimates. The Selectmen discussed some of the needed repairs with Ms. Jagodzinski.

C. Consent Agenda

- **Payroll and Vendor Manifests**
- **Minutes – November 8, 2022 – Public and Non-Public**
- **Construction Permit Application – Map 4, Lot 32**

Mr. Craig made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Nolan seconded. Mr. Doerpholz – Yes, Mr. Craig – Yes, Mr. Nolan - Yes. Approved – 3-0

BOARD MEETING MINUTES - December 7, 2022

D. Continued Business

• Budget Work

Fire Department:

Mr. Doerpholz shared that the Selectmen have questions about the salary line item as they didn't get an opportunity to look at before they met with the Budget Committee. The Selectmen want to meet with Fire Chief Adam Dubriske and Deputy Fire Chief Charley Kenison. Fire Chief Dubriske had asked if Emergency Management could be incorporated in this budget. Part-Time has a \$7,000 increase.

Ambulance has a \$9,000 increase in part-time.

Economic Committee:

Beth Lorenz would redo the budget. The Economic Committee wants to have a sign that can show the activities in Town and identifying a property where the sign could be put. Ms. Lorenz thought that money could be put in their budget for this purchase to put aside. Mr. Doerpholz explained to her that an expendable trust fund would be needed. Mr. Doerpholz mentioned that the Economic Committee was created in 2010 and should have been named Economic Development. Mr. Doerpholz would like this put on this year's warrant.

E. New Business

• Discuss public beach at Laurel Lake

It was noted that water is coming down Howeville Road and it washes all of the sand into the lake. There is a gully in the middle of the beach. The thought is to make a spillway out of concrete, the water would hit the rocks and would go into the lake without bringing the sand into the lake. Mr. Craig asked about a special salt to use around the lake and ponds.

Mr. Doerpholz shared that this is Phase 2 and he explained what could be done. Signage would be needed to note a low salt area. Mr. Doerpholz stated that the corner needed to be safe. Mr. Craig asked and Ms. Favreau shared closing Howeville Road has been discussed but not presented to the Town. Mr. Craig thought it would make the beach safer.

Mr. Doerpholz shared that the Laurel Lake Association is willing to do the work. Mr. Nolan wanted to make sure that DES was on board. Mr. Doerpholz noted that DES would need to be contacted. Tom White is an engineer and Pat Deyo is handling for the Laurel Lake Association. Mr. Doerpholz would follow-up with DPW Director, Glenn Smith.

F. Public Hearing – none

G. Other Business

• Review Legal Invoice

The Selectmen reviewed and approved.

Ms. Favreau shared that a lot of applications for the DPW secretary position was received. Mr. Smith would like to start interviews and it was noted that Mary Kisinger has also applied for the position. The Selectmen asked Ms. Favreau to set up the interviews and to let them know the date/time.

H. Non-Public - If Necessary Non-public Session 91-A:3 II a, b, c, d, e, I

• Non-public Session 91-A:3 II(e) - Legal

At 8:33 p.m. Mr. Doerpholz made a motion to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II(e). Mr. Craig seconded and the motion passed 3-0. Roll Call vote: Mr. Doerpholz– Yes, Mr. Craig – Yes, Mr. Nolan - Yes.

At 9:05 p.m. Mr. Doerpholz made a motion to leave non-public session. Mr. Craig seconded and the motion passed 3-0. Roll Call vote: Mr. Doerpholz – Yes, Mr. Craig – Yes, Mr. Nolan - Yes.

At 9:05 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. Craig seconded and the motion passed 3-0. Roll Call vote: Mr. Doerpholz – Yes, Mr. Craig – Yes, Mr. Nolan - Yes.

I. Adjournment

Mr. Doerpholz made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m. Mr. Craig seconded and the motion passed. 3-0

Submitted by:

Sheryl White

Secretary to the Board of Selectmen

Brian Doerpholz, Chairman

John E.F. Craig

Martin Nolan
Board of Selectmen