



**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
P.O. BOX 725  
13 Templeton Turnpike  
FITZWILLIAM, NH 03447  
(603) 585-7723 Fax: (603) 585-7744

**Fitzwilliam Town Hall**  
**13 Templeton Turnpike, Fitzwilliam, NH 03447**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 23, 2023**  
**1:00 P.M.**

**Selectmen Present:** Brian Doerpholz, Chairman; Martin Nolan; Nancy Carney

**Guests:** Dana Pinney

**Also Present:** Debbie Favreau, Town Administrator; Shannon Lucas, Secretary; Rhonda Sheats, Admin. Assistant

**Call to Order**

1. Mr. Doerpholz called the meeting to order at 1 pm
2. At 1:55 p.m. Mr. Doerpholz moved to recess until 3 p.m., Mr. Nolan 2nd; all in favor 3-0
3. At 3 p.m. Mr. Doerpholz reconvened the meeting

**Public Comment:**

1. none

**Public Hearing:**

1. none

**Appointments**

1. 1:30 meet with DPW Glenn Smith
  - a. Claim that BoS made illegal decision to enter into Clean Diesel grant
    - i. Review of minutes from May 2023 proves this is inaccurate
    - ii. Glenn grateful things have been done on the up-and-up
    - iii. Bucky Gagnon, rep from truck dealership will meet with B0S on January 31
  - b. Issues with plowing on Old Quarry Rd because road not cleared per request of (unnamed) property owner
    - i. Recommended another letter sent to resident saying road will not be plowed until road is cleared and kept cleared
  - c. Personnel
    - i. Open position at DPW,
      1. Glenn: hiring somebody with a non-CDL not a wise decision because they cannot cover for any out-of-action CDL employees
      2. Sub-contracted plow driver is possibility, and within the purview of BoS to hire

3. Nancy: need to keep eyes to future and continue pursuing another laborer that could be trained into a CDL driver, to be prepared for next snow season
    - a. Brian: that person could be a “shared laborer” with cemetery, etc. to start with, until enough manpower is procured for both departments
  4. Agreement to place ad for entry-level person with willingness to train into next level, and sub-contract remainder of 2023-2024 snow season
2. 3:00 MEET WITH Mark Croke- Green Street Power Partners
- a. Plan, develop, build solar installations
  - b. NH catching up with getting into solar
  - c. RootNet set up for cities and towns getting into solar
  - d. Project creates energy credits for towns that use more energy than others
  - e. Some of the biggest hurdles: land, and ability to connect to grid
  - f. David Cole has property, preliminary studies tell them that Eversource can accept energy produced, GSPP would lease property, produce revenue stream for homeowner
  - g. Mr. Croke here to introduce himself, tell what they would like to do in Fitz, and what town would need. Where do we find they might run into roadblocks?
  - h. Debbie: how big is project?
  - i. Mr. Croke: total acreage: 25-30, 3.8 megawatts of production, a little less than Chinook. Is there a checklist of items town would like to know/see?
  - j. Mr. Doerpholz: this is a decision to be made in front of the Planning Board
    - i. Nancy: preliminary hearing, presentation of project
  - k. Mr. Croke: what is your role in the whole project?
    - i. Brain: pretty limited
    - ii. Nolan: we would just hear the proposal and final decision, have a chance to address concerns
    - iii. Informed of appropriate channels and contacts
  - l. Mr. Doerpholz: how would this project affect the town as a whole? How do people benefit from it?
  - m. Mr. Croke: taxes revenue generated back to town; increased activity related to construction; tend to hire local tradespeople for installation; group net-metering credits, equal to about 10% discount from Eversource expenses; possible opportunities in school systems for training/education; “agri-voltaics”- local sheep might be employed by local farmers to help maintain property- panels can be installed at varied heights to accommodate grazing
  - n. Mr. Nolan: what are some of the drawbacks?
  - o. Croke: construction on 119; NIMBY; variances needed; abutters; siting can be a challenge
  - p. Mr. Doerpholz: is the land currently cleared
  - q. Mr. Croke: mostly treed, would have to be cleared. Trees treated like lumber and sold off
  - r. Mr. Doerpholz: does solar creates a “heat island” and raise the ambient temperature
  - s. Mr. Croke: no, except maybe very close to installation
  - t. Mr. Doerpholz How long are the panels good for
  - u. Mr. Croke: 40 years; 25 yr. “commitment” from the town, with 5-year re-commitment increments; company responsible for decommissioning and removal, escrow set aside for such
  - v. Ms. Carney: important that project is not visible from anywhere
  - w. Mr. Nolan explained how the public meetings are conducted, and how the public is allowed to participate and how they are not

**Consent Agenda** – Ms. Carney made a motion to approve the consent agenda, including a construction permit application; Mr. Nolan 2<sup>nd</sup> , motion carried 3-0

## **New Business**

1. Reviewed draft warrant
  - a. Warrant form and content passed review
2. Review school district budget figures
  - a. Nancy mentioned public hearing for school budget
    - i. Transportation, meals, and housing for special ed students out of district is expensive
    - ii. Warrant articles are primarily construction
    - iii. Spots for special ed staff down to nine from 64
    - iv. School budget committee made recommendations and approved budget \$37,750,000.00
3. Recommended town operating increases much lower than most surrounding towns
4. Notice out for employment positions in water district
5. Town of Fitzwilliam voted to follow suit with Winchester and go with Emax as new ambulance billing company
  - a. Emax contract needs to get signed so billing can get sent out, and service begins/began January 16th, will be followed-up with Adam Dubriske

## **Other Business – Information Only**

1. Planning Board
  - a. request to meet with BoS February 6 regarding Turnkey
    - i. Brian feels it would be unproductive and premature
2. Email sent requesting written confirmation of permission to hire an attorney regarding Turnkey

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

### **1. Non-Public Session RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Disabled Exemption**

At 1:15 p.m. Mr. Doerpholz moved to go into non-public session RSA 91-A:3 II (c); Ms. Carney seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0

### **2. Non-Public Session RSA 91-A:3 II (I) Legal Exemption**

At 1:20 p.m. Mr. Doerpholz moved to go into non-public session RSA 91-A:3 II (I) Legal Exemption ; Mr. Nolan 2<sup>nd</sup> ; motion passed 3-0

At 1:25 p.m. Mr. Doerpholz moved to go back to public session ; Mr. Nolan seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0 Roll Call vote: Mr. Doerpholz -yes, Mr. Nolan - yes, Ms. Carney – yes

After returning to public session Mr. Doerpholz moved to seal non-public minutes; Ms. Carney 2<sup>nd</sup>; motion passed 3-0

## **Adjournment**

- Mr. Doerpholz moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:50 p.m.; Mr. Nolan 2<sup>nd</sup> ; motion passed 3-0

Submitted by:

Shannon Godby Lucas  
Secretary

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Brian Doerpholz, Chairman

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Martin Nolan

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Nancy Carney

Board of Selectmen