



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

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 28, 2024
6:00 P.M.

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

Guests: Dana Pinney, Peg Presditch, Gene Cuomo

Also Present: Debbie Favreau, Town Administrator; Shannon Lucas, Secretary

Call to Order

1. Mr. Doerpholz called the meeting to order at 6 pm

Public Comment:

1. Ms. Presditch commented that her road (Sandy Hollow) is well-past the need for maintenance and is further concerned about the lack of Highway personnel. Templeton Turnpike travelers take Sandy Hollow and make it even worse, then the "mudders" come through
 - a. Ms. Carney stated that there is discussion of the issues with the highway department on the evening's agenda
2. Mr. Pinney stated he did not know there was a plan for the highway department

Appointments

1. **6:30 Non-Public RSA 91-A:3 II (c)**

Consent Agenda – Mr. Nolan made a motion to approve the consent agenda, Ms. Carney seconded, motion carried 3-0

New Business

1. Veteran's credit application
 - a. Mr. Nolan moved to accept the application; Mr. Doerpholz 2nd, motion carried 3-0
2. Review email from Water District regarding website
 - a. Ms. Favreau stated that she was going to make departmental logins to maintain their own portions of the website
 - b.
3. Discuss painting of Town Hall
 - a. Painter is proposing collaboration with other sites needing a lift to reduce costs on finishing remaining walls of town hall. Ms. Favreau thinks we should go ahead and do it for the cost savings
 - b. Painter also recommends opening up windows that are sheet-rocked over

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- c. Mr. Nolan made a motion to approve the painting to be done by lift, and to unblock the windows; Mr. Doerpholz 2nd; motion carried 3-0
- 4. Review abatement requests
 - a. Abatement request I
 - i. Ms. Carney made a motion to accept abatement; Mr. Doerpholz 2nd, motion carried 3-0
 - b. Abatement request II
 - i. Ms. Carney moved to accept the abatement; Mr. Doerpholz 2nd, motion passed 3-0
- 5. Review warrant presentation at Town Meeting
 - a. See notes on warrant printout
- 6. Request for work on the Common
 - a. Christmas tree is listing, Carole Beckwith suggests her husband cut the tree into pieces and Connie Porter remove the pieces from the site
 - b. The Common Committee would like to have the stump of the removed maple tree ground down
 - i. The Selectmen request three bids to have it sub-contracted
 - c. Planter replacement
 - i. Recommending replacing three large planters with one rectangular planter approximately 6' in length at end of common by the church
 - 1. What will they do with old planters?
 - 2. What does historic district think? They should ask

Continued Business

- 1. Discuss DPW Department
 - a. Advertising for Road Agent/DPW Director
 - b. Grant information
 - i. An extension would require an approval process
 - ii. We can ask for a 1-year extension
 - iii. Brian recommends asking for it right away, all agree
 - c. Mud season v1
 - i. citizens concerned about mud on the roads
 - ii. Mr. Nolan will be putting a load of stone in that section
 - iii. Mr. Cuomo will take a ride through the worst areas
 - iv. Mr. Cuomo authorized to make reasonable decisions regarding temporary fixes on worst roads
 - v. Mr. Cuomo will take temporary action by bringing in a load of stone to fill the worst of the ruts on Sandy Hollow
 - d. Statement read aloud regarding resignations of the highway department, verbatim statement to be attached to these minutes
 - e. There is an advertisement written for departmental personnel and a road agent
 - f. Discussion about striking a balance between doing equipment maintenance in-house versus outside shops
 - g. Discussion about sub-contracting tree- and shrub-trimming for Spring and alleviating the highway department
 - h. Suggestion of sub-contracting mowing the common, town hall, library
 - i. Mr. Cuomo: March 1 posting of roads, make sure it gets advertised; also brought up moderating at town meeting, he declines the opportunity. Suggests a copy of the rules be printed out and having a stack beside town reports
 - j. Order of advertising for personnel vs road agent:
 - k. Job Title and responsibilities being changed to road agent from director of public works
- 2. Discuss ZBA appeal
 - a. Regarding Turnkey: Zoning allows to extend 30 ft into another district? Unconfirmed
 - i. Still violations in existence, letter has gone out
 - b. Demolition permit submitted for map 33-28, removal of a carriage house
 - i. Mr. Doerpholz made a motion to approve the permit, Mr. Nolan 2nd, motion passed 3-0

- c. Building permit for map 6-31-4
 - i. Basement renovation including two interior walls
 - ii. occupancy stipulated
 - iii. Mr. Nolan made a motion to approve the building permit Mr. Doerpholz 2nd, motion passed 3-0
 - d. Building permit application
 - i. New construction 2 bed, 3 bath house
 - ii. Approved septic system in place
 - iii. Driveway in place
 - iv. Stipulation required that if previously existing trailer has not been removed it must be prior to construction
 - v. Mr. Nolan made a motion to approve the building permit; Mr. Doerpholz 2nd, motion passed 3-0
3. Discuss MiBox for police use
- a. MiBox is coming out of corporate headquarters rather than Fitzwilliam, so no conflict of interest
 - b. Primarily storage of animal control equipment
 - c. Mr. Doerpholz made a motion to accept the donation of the MiBox, Ms. Carney 2nd, motion carried 3-0

Other Business – Information Only

1. March meetings (and tentative) set

Non-Public Session - RSA 91-A:3 II (c)

At 6:30 p.m. Mr. Doerpholz moved to go into non-public session ; Mr. Nolan seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0

1. At 6:45 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
2. After returning to public session Mr. Doerpholz moved to seal non-public minutes; Mr. Nolan seconded; motion passed 3-0

Adjournment

- Mr. Doerpholz moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.; Ms. Carney seconded; motion passed 3-0

**Addendum:
Statement submitted by The Fitzwilliam Board of Selectmen Regarding the Resignation of the
Highway Department Personnel**

The Board of Selectmen's office received a resignation received a resignation from the DPW Director Glenn Smith effective 2/9/2024. Following suit, the remaining two laborers submitted their resignations effective 2/23/2024. These resignations were a personal decision by these employees, not initiated by any action of the Board of Selectmen. Our board met with these individuals and tried tirelessly to convince them to remain in their positions. Our Board valued these employees. Not being able to persuade them otherwise, the Board of Selectmen reluctantly accepted the resignations and we are moving forward. Selectman martin Nolan has been placed in charge of overseeing the department. Selectman Nolan holds a CDL license and will be plowing and sanding our roads should the need arise. In order to serve the best interest of our residents, we have reached out to the former Road Agent, who is currently employed already by the town as a police officer. He has graciously agreed to help in any way he can until the Board is able to hire full-time replacements for these positions. Mr. Nolan and Mr. Cuomo will work collaboratively to determine if additional personnel will be needed during the transition. All of the vacant positions will be advertised and interviews will be conducted to fill these vacant positions.

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Submitted by:

Shannon Godby Lucas
Secretary

Brian Doerpholz, Chairman

Martin Nolan

Nancy Carney

Board of Selectmen

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