



## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Fitzwilliam Town Hall

13 Templeton Turnpike, Fitzwilliam, NH 03447

### BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 13, 2024

6:00 P.M.

**Selectmen Present:** Martin Nolan, Nancy Carney, Thomas Rothermel

**Guests:** Dana Pinney, Mike Piquette

**Also Present:** Debbie Favreau, Town Administrator; Rhonda Sheats, Administrative Assistant

#### Call to Order

- Mr. Nolan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

#### Public Comment:

- Mr. Piquette shared that Turnkey has exhausted remedies on ZBA. They have been told to go to the Planning Board. This whole situation is a mess of technicalities by all boards.

#### Appointments:

- 6:54 Meet with Dave Drasba – Mr. Drasba met with the Board to discuss looking at the current office space in the Town Hall to see if there is a better way to utilize the space the space we have for each departmental use. Mr. Drasba explained it would be helpful for him to meet with each department head in their office and go over their space and any issues. Mr. Drasba will come back with a proposal – fees for the drawings. Currently Mr. Drasba is working with Dan Scully. Mr. Nolan suggested that a letter be sent to the employees with questions and to also get their information on their space. Mr. Drasba will contact Ms. Favreau with a date that he will come by and speak with the employees.
- 7:15 Meet with Trustees of Trust Funds – Non - Public RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Welfare

#### Part A Non-Public Session - RSA 91-A:3 (c) Welfare

At 7:15 p.m. Ms. Carney moved to go into non-public session: Mr. Nolan seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mr. Nolan – yes, Mr. Rothermel – yes, Ms. Carney – yes.

After returning to public session Mr. Rothermel moved to seal non-public minutes; Mr. Nolan seconded; motion passed 3-0

#### Appointments cont:

- 7:30 Meet with Water District Commissioners – Ben Thomas and Corinne Marcou along with water district treasurer Dave Turnbull came before the Board to discuss the Water District. Mr. Thomas shared that Mr. Beckwith had quit the other day leaving only two (2) commissioners remaining. The Commissioners are feeling very overwhelmed with the grant process/loan process, real estate. They have discussed dissolving the water district and understand that it will require a 2/3 vote. They would like to have the Water District moved back to the Town. Mr. Thomas shared when they put in the new well and if it has a good supply of water they extend to the depot. Discussion followed with questions from the Select Board on whether they thought about contracting a per profit water company. Ms. Marcou shared she would need to have a discussion with the DRA to see if that is something that they could do. Ms. Marcou suggested that maybe the Water Commissioners and Select Board meet and put a list of questions together that Ms. Marcou could ask the DRA. Mr. Thomas shared that this district was formed only

because people did not have room for a well and septic on their property and now, they have come to a crisis point. Ms. Marcou shared that currently they have a system operator, plumber and accountant. Another discussion was to have the entire district pay, not just the users. Mr. Rothermel asked about future discussion, are they going to be staying on until it is figured out on what is going to happen. They shared that they would be. Ms. Marcou shared that if we have any questions to feel free to reach out and she will reach out and get answers.

- 7:50 Meet with Suzanne Gray – Ms. Gray and Ms. Young joined the Select Board at the Table and Ms. Gray shared that she had come before the Select Board in the spring with concern of the Legal Expenses going up, but not a lot of Code Enforcement money. Ms. Gray shared her overview of the all the Legal Cost Review that she had researched on all legal cases and the cost for each case (some of these cases are ongoing). The reason for this research was to see if there was anything that we might be able to change in our ordinances (such as wording) or how we handle situations that are in violation to save on legal costs. Then Ms. Gray shared timeline of two (2) other Enforcement Activities sharing that she could not find all the letters and/or code enforcement backup in the files on these cases to see where any action had taken place such as fines ect...

**Consent Agenda** – Ms. Carney made motion to approve consent agenda pulling out construction permit Map 41, Lot 2-1 for further information, Mr. Rothermel seconded; motion passed 3-0

- Approve 11/05/24 public and non-public minutes
- Appointment – Economic Committee, Village Common Committee
- Construction Permits
  - Map 32, Lot 41
  - Map 41, Lot 2-1
  - Map 3, Lot 16
  - Map 39 Lot 3-4

#### **New Business**

- **Construction Permit Map 41, Lot 2-1** - Mr. Rothermel would like to know if this carport is for business use and if so this will need to go to the Planning Board to do a consult.
- **Village Common** – Mr. Rothermel shared that he would like to see us fill in the divots in the Common with loom this year. Suggested maybe asking to see if Marcy would be interested in doing this for us.
- **801 Rte 12 South** – Mr. Nolan shared that the sign is backup.
- **Discuss Tax Rate** – The State is waiting on missing information from the Water District.
- **Budget Work**
  - Review Executive Budget – Board reviewed – no changes – discussed looking at costs of payroll services
  - Review General Government Building Budget – Board reviewed – no changes – discussed possibly prepaying Heat & Oil, Shoveling at Town Hall is now part of the Highway Budget. Mr. Pinney mentioned the exit signs in hallway needed replacement. Mr. Piquette mentioned maybe setting up an expendable trust for heat and oil.
  - Discuss Code Enforcement Budget – will discuss at next meeting
  - Review BOS Budget Worksheet – will discuss at next meeting
  - Discuss BOS CIP Recommendations – will discuss at next meeting

#### **Continued Business**

- Discuss setting tax rate – Ms. Favreau shared scenarios with the Board. Mr. Nolan made a motion to use \$500,000 from surplus, Mr. Rothermel seconded; motion passed 3-0. Tax Rate set at \$18.27
- Discuss Building Codes – table till next meeting
- Budget Work
  - Review BOS Budget Worksheet
  - Discuss BOS CIP Recommendations

#### **Other Business – Information Only**

- Review Email from Auditors – Re: ARPA Expenditures

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

- **Non-Public RSA 91-A:3 II ( a ) compensation Part B**
- **Non-Public RSA 91-A :3 II ( c ) reputation Part C**

At 8:20 p.m. Mr. Rothermel moved to go into non-public session: Mr. Nolan seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0 for the purpose of RSA 91-A:3 II (a) compensation

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mr. Nolan – yes, Mr. Rothermel – yes, Ms. Carney – yes.

After returning to public session Mr. Rothermel moved to seal non-public minutes; Ms. Carney seconded; motion passed 3-0

At 8:45 p.m. Mr. Rothermel moved to go into non-public session: Ms. Carney seconded the motion; motion passed 3-0 for the purpose of RSA 91-A:3 II (c) reputation

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mr. Nolan – yes, Mr. Rothermel – yes, Ms. Carney – yes.

After returning to public session Mr. Rothermel moved to seal non-public minutes; Mr. Nolan seconded; motion passed 3-0

**Adjournment**

Mr. Rothermel moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.; Mr. Nolan seconded; motion passed 3-0

Submitted by:

Rhonda Sheats  
Administrative Assistant

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Martin Nolan, Chairman

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Nancy Carney

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Thomas Rothermel

Board of Selectmen