

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
April 28, 2021

**CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Chairman, Karl Pruter called the meeting to order at the Meeting House on April 28, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Chair read Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12, pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04 regarding meetings held via Zoom.

**Present:** Karl Pruter, Chair, Bob Hamilton and Marybeth Quill, Selectmen, Sara Gravell, Town Administrator, Members of the Community

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Selectmen's Announcements:** Bob stated the Memorial Day parade will be held Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. The Memorial Day Committee will meet beforehand to determine the times, however, the parade typically starts at noon. Bob noted the Governor's mandate for masks has been lifted. Bob mentioned the Board and Town Administrator met with Josif Bicja, of Hoyle & Tanner regarding the Wellington Bridge, adding the message boards are up on Wellington Road. Bob made a motion to allow Sara Gravell to sign the Wellington Agreement, the Notice to proceed, and the Wetlands permit on behalf of the Board. Marybeth seconded the motion and it passed by roll call vote 3-0.

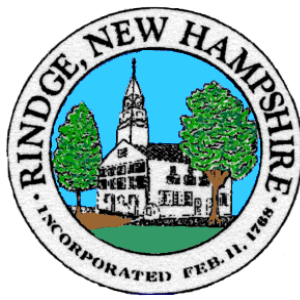
**Consent Agenda** - Approval of:

- Minutes 4/14/2021
- Payroll 4/22/2021, 4/29/2021
- Accounts payable 4/22/2021, 4/29/2021
- Camper Permit – Map 47 Lot 48

Bob made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Marybeth seconded the motion and it passed by roll call vote 3-0.

**Old Business:** Karl noted the Town's contracted assessing company, KRT is reviewing the abatements and will make their recommendations to the Board by the 12<sup>th</sup> of May. Bob mentioned the Board has until July 1 to grant/deny the abatements.

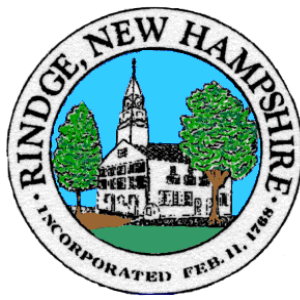
**Citizen's Forum:** Roni Hamilton inquired about the Warrant Article 19 Committee to examine income and asset levels for elderly exemptions. It was noted the Committee has seven people who have volunteered thus far. The Board will continue this discussion in a non-public session.



Judy Unger Clark read the Town's Mission Statement. She stressed the words "total quality service" questioning whether or not this was being provided to the residents by the employees. Judy continued stating that Marcia Breckenridge, at a Zoning Board Meeting, explained the current Zoning Department's office situation, and that a "Letter to the Editor" was submitted expressing her opinion of the Department's needs, adding the situation of the Zoning Clerk is not a "courteous manner". She requested the Board address the situation, stating the Board should also address the root of the problem which in her opinion was the Planning Board Director, adding she has expressed this publicly multiple times and there is a conflict of interest between the PB Director and his private business. She continued stating the Zoning Board is being ousted from the Town Office, adding this is about ethics. She asked the Board to reexamine the mission statement and uphold its integrity. She concluded asking the Board to reconsider their decision and reinstate the Zoning Clerk back into the Planning Office space.

Marcia Breckenridge read a letter she addressed to the Board of Selectmen. (Attached) Bill Thompson stated the Planning and Zoning office space has always been shared and the main point is that the office space can be shared and the Zoning Clerk should not have to leave the space she is currently in. There was discussion regarding the office space between the Planning and Zoning Departments. ZBA Chairman, George Carmichael stated things should be left the way they were with the Planning and Zoning offices sharing a work space the way it has been in the past.

Bob stated there are now two positions, Planning Secretary & Zoning Clerk, so sharing a space cannot be done as it has been in the past. Bob stated it is not feasible to put two people in one work space at the same time. Bob stated he understands space is tight at the Town Office in general; however, the space that has been offered for the Zoning Clerk is a perfectly good working area and is one of that largest rooms available. The Zoning Board members continued to express their frustrations to the Select Board. It was noted the signage is wrong at the Town Office. Karl noted the signage will be addressed once everything is in order. Craig Clark questioned if the Zoning Office needs information within the Planning Office. Kim McCummings stated there is information that flows with the planning side of things and it would be helpful to be in the same office to access files and research. Judy Unger Clark reiterated the Mission Statement stating the ZBA needs the space in the Planning Office to allow an accurate, timely and thorough approach to licensing, permitting, inspecting and record keeping for our customers and it should be in one space on the main floor. Karl stated there has not been a decision made and the Board would consider looking into the inner office flow for the Zoning Department.



**New Business:** Josif Bicja presented a PowerPoint on the Wellington Bridge Project. Mr. Bicja gave a brief overview of the company, Hoyle, Tanner & Associates. He proceeded to explain some of the Wellington Bridge project's general requirements: 24 ft. wide roadway (minimum), 30 MPH design speed, HL-93 (36 tons) design load-replacement, 15 ton minimum design load (rehabilitation) and 1 ft. minimum freeboard over 50-year flood. The goals for the project are as follows: 75 year design service life, adequate waterway opening, low maintenance, 36 ton design load. The company plans to minimize construction duration, project costs, and abutter and environmental impacts. The Town will get funding from the NHDOT and be able to replace the bridge with an 80/20% match. The project will start on May 17<sup>th</sup> and the bridge will be closed at that time. The timeline for completion will be tentatively open to the public around August 31<sup>st</sup> with a final completion by September 17, 2021. All inquiries on the project can go to Josif Bicja, Project Manager, [jbicja@hoyletanner.com](mailto:jbicja@hoyletanner.com) or call 603-460-5147 and Katelyn Welch, EIT-Resident Engineer, [kwelch@hoyletanner.com](mailto:kwelch@hoyletanner.com) or 603-460-5601.

Bob noted there may be short duration when residents could lose power for a short period of time but Eversource will notify the Town when this will take place.

**Informational Items/Communications & Updates:** Sara noted Mike Cloutier accepted a bid from Pento & Sons in the amount of \$34,800 to repair the highway garage roof. Holly Koski questioned why the second company was rejected. Sara responded they did not submit the required documents. Bob noted Franklin Pierce students will move out on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Bob reported the Meeting Oversight Committee met and discussed painting of the historical building and will start the five stage process to paint it this year. The Committee will meet next month to discuss the funds available.

Bob mentioned there has been some delay in communications with the Board responding to the Town Administrators emails and suggested the Board make it a "good faith" effort to respond to her emails within 24 hours.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Rautiola