



**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
June 23, 2021**

**Present:** Karl Pruter, Chairman, Bob Hamilton and Marybeth Quill, Selectmen, Lori Rautiola, Executive Secretary, Members of the Community.

Karl Pruter called the meeting to order at the Town Office at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Selectmen's Announcements:** Karl announced the Swap Shop would re-open on Saturday, June 26 from 9-2. The Shop will start out with limited hours and if all goes well the hours will gradually increase back to normal. Bob noted the Wellington Bridge is still under construction, adding some boulders are stored in an area where they should not be and he would reach out to have the issue resolved.

**1. Consent Agenda:** Approval of:

- Minutes 5/26/2021, 6/9/2021
- Payroll 6/17/2021, 6/24/2021
- Accounts payable 6/17/2021, 6/24/2021
- Jaffrey Women's Club Fundraiser Application 9/25/2021 held at Rindge Women's Club Harvest Fair
- Energy Commission Appointments: (3 year terms) - Patricia Martin, Chair, Richard Mellor, Vice Chair, Dwight Schenk, Secretary, Jeff Dickler, Member

Bob stated the he still had a problem with the 5-26-2021 minutes and has not seen his edits in a revised draft. Bob made a motion to approve the consent agenda except for the 5-26-2021 minutes. Karl seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

**Citizens Forum:** Patricia Vargas, Director of the Cathedral of the Pines, stated she was present to request a police officer, fire fighter and EMS responder to be a part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Remembrance of September 11<sup>th</sup> which will be held on Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup> of 2021 at the Cathedral of Pines. Karl stated the Board will coordinate to see if the Town can fill those positions. Tina Kokoska stated she would like to make a proposal to pave Bancroft road due to her vehicles being ruined from dirt and rock getting stuck in the wheel wells; adding, she has brought her new car numerous times to the Honda dealer who has informed her that the damages were due to traveling the dirt road in bad conditions. She mentioned she called the Police to notify the highway department to fix the road at one point because it was not safe to travel on. Tina also noted she was disappointed in the decision made regarding Rindge residents not being able to park at Contoocook Beach. Bob noted it is

extremely expensive to pave roads and the Town does not have funds to pave the dirt roads. He explained the process to petition the Board with a warrant article to the voters. Bob suggested she visit the NH Municipal website for more information regarding petition warrant articles.

Dan Whitney stated he was present on behalf of the Warrant Article #19 Committee. Dan mentioned the Committee will be reaching out to NHMA regarding exemptions they are studying. He notified the Board the Committee would be looking at all exemptions (not just the elderly exemptions) unless the Board directed not to. Karl noted the Committee is advisory and it was fine to move forward with studies for all exemptions.

Judy Unger Clark questioned the outcome of a warrant article from 2018 regarding the land swap on Willcroft Pond. Bob responded there was an issue and the Town was unable to swap the land. Al LeFebvre stated several large trucks have been coming and going out of Old New Ipswich Road, adding the sign at the beginning of the road states "no thru traffic". Al spoke with Chief Anair and was informed that Old New Ipswich Road was not on the list of roads under the town ordinance 95:15, therefore the police cannot enforce the violation. Al suggested the Town amend the ordinance to add Old New Ipswich Road. He also suggested the Town widen the road for safety reasons. He also suggested the Board establish a subcommittee that would help to address an appropriate ordinance that is in line with the RSA procedures which he stated, need to be followed in order to solidify the situation.

Bob stated he spoke with DPW Director, Mike Cloutier about Old New Ipswich Rd and Mike would like to address this issue with the workers at the gravel pit first, adding, in the past there has been specific routes the drivers are required to use when hauling gravel in and out of the pit. The trucks are supposed to adhere to specific hours of operation as well. Bob noted he did not have a problem with amending the ordinance and adding Old New Ipswich Road to the list; adding, an informal committee would be fine, but suggested to allow Mike to address the issue with the owners and the rules the drivers are to follow.

#### **Old Business:**

Consolidated Communications (CCI): There were no updates from the Board for CCI.

2020 Abatement Applications: Karl noted the Board has reviewed the seven remaining abatement applications which have recommended changes from the Town's contracted assessor, KRT. He noted residents can appeal the Board's decision through the Board of Tax and Land Appeals (BTLA). Deni asked for clarification on how the Board reviewed the abatements. Karl noted due to the time constraints and the large amount of abatements received for 2020, the Board agreed to accept KRT's recommendations with the understanding that residents could appeal through the BTLA if they felt the decision was made in error. Karl stated, speaking for himself he was not an expert in assessing properties and felt it was best to agree with the Town's contracted assessor's recommendation as they are experts in that field. Deni questioned if it was a normal process for the assessor to use a past MLS listing when comparing the dwellings features. Bob explained it would be considered a normal procedure for them to add information from a recent MLS listing as the information given from the homeowner should be accurate. Bob added, due to Covid KRT did not enter into people's homes to conduct a physical assessment. Deni thanked the Board for the explanation, adding she had never gone through the process of an abatement. Bob made a motion to approve the recommendations from KRT for the following properties: Map 27, Lot 11-2-1, Map 10, Lot 23-1, Map 4, Lot 54-4, Map 6, Lot 67-1, Map 3, Lot 41-2, Map 4, Lot 35, and Map 2, Lot 15-2. Marybeth seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

**New Business:**

Tetreault Park Update: Rec Director, Dan Bemis gave a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed Tetreault Park Natural Playscape. The park, once completed will be located off of Rand Road. Instead of the traditional playground, Tetreault Park will be more in line with nature having amenities such as an embankment slide built into the natural landscape, stumps and logs for kids to play on, and caves built of wood and more. There will be a Gaga Court and other natural playground activities. The land is being donated by the Conservation Commission and is about 4 acres in size, with the playground area consisting of about 1-1.5 acres with room to expand. There will be a walking path around the outer edges of the park to accommodate residents of all ages. There is an existing septic on the property which will be a huge savings. The Department will be conducting some fundraisers in hopes of raising some funds for the project. Al Lefebvre stated the Conservation Commission will be holding one of their summer tours of the park on the third Sunday of July. Times and dates to follow.

Building & Fire Fee Schedule: The fee schedule was tabled. Karl noted due to the demands of Covid and the delays for building and supply issues, the Board would like to waive the renewal fees for 2020 building permit fees. Karl made a motion to waive the fees for the 2020 building permit fees. Bob seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

**Informational Items, Communications and Updates:**

Fairpoint Abatement Request: Karl announced the court ruled in favor of Fairpoint on the request for an abatement from 2011. This has been an ongoing case with Fairpoint (now Consolidated Communications). Karl added the Town will have to pay about \$93,000. Fairpoint has offered a 4% discount if they take the offer now, this would lessen the payment. The Board will consider the offer and make a decision. It was noted the Board is considering paying \$45,000 in 2021 and the remaining \$45,000 in 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Rautiola  
Executive Secretary