



**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
May 25, 2022**

Present: Bob Hamilton, Chair, Marybeth Quill, Vice Chair, and Karl Pruter, Selectmen; Sara Gravell, Town Administrator, Amanda Urmann, Executive Secretary; and members of the public.

Public session opened at 5:30 pm. Bob motioned to enter non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Second by Karl, motion passed 3-0.

Public session re-opened at 6:05PM.

There was 2 non-public sessions and Bob said it had been decided that the minutes would be sealed for litigation and reputation purposes. Bob made the motion to seal the both sessions of the nonpublic meeting, Marybeth seconded the motion. 3-0 vote.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Selectmen announcements:

The cell tower on Tax Map 9, Lot 13-3 on Bemis-Tavern Road will be having their 2nd test tomorrow, May 26th from 8am to 4pm.

The Thomas Family Grandfather Clock dedication will be held at the Ingalls Memorial Library on May 28th at 10am, and people are welcome to come in as early as 9:30am.

There will be a town wide plant and yard sale on 6/4/2022. It is a part of the town wide yard sale at the Lutheran Church and the plant sale will be there as well as a second location on the map at the Rec Center for their flee market and bake sale. This will be from 8am to 2pm.

On July 10th Flags for Forgotten Heroes will be held at the Cathedral of the Pines to remember first responders. This will be held at 12:00 noon.

Karl said that there is still being garbage dumped on Thomas and Perkins Road.

Memorial Day observance will be on Monday, May 30 at the Town Common starting at 1PM. There are programs all over town for this.

Citizen's Forum:

Debbie Qualey thanked Bob and Roni Hamilton for planting the flowers for Memorial Day observance. She also asked what the two new flag poles were for the veterans that were being put up. Bob said there is a relatively new branch of service, which is the Merchant Marines and the other is the Space Force. Debbie also asked if the Cathedral of the Pines was still being vandalized. Bob said that it was the whole Cathedral road has been being vandalized and that no one has yet to be held responsible.

Holly Koski mentioned that the Farmers Market will be from 3pm-6pm tomorrow (May 26th). She also mentioned that there would be a memorial for Betty Comerford on June 4th from 2pm to 5pm. Holly also brings up that the Rindge Recreation Department has put up an Independence Day Family Festival on July 1st at 5pm. She also brings up that there will be a picnic on Memorial Day that will be held on the common.

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

- Minutes 5/11/2022 Public Session, 5/11/2022 Non Public Sessions
- Payroll 5/19/2022, 5/26/2022
- Accounts payable 5/19/2022, 5/12/2022
- Appointment of Forest Fire Warden
- Appointment of Daniel Bissex to Energy Commission
- Ingalls Memorial Library Board of Trustee Alternates:
Richard Isakson
Taylor Ratcliffe
- Special Event Permit: Memorial Day Commemoration 5/30/2022
- Special Event Permit: Yard and Plant Sale 6/4/2022

Minutes and non-public minutes from 5/11/2022 were tabled.

Karl motioned to accept consent agenda as proposed without the minutes and non-public minutes from 5/11/2022, Marybeth 2nd. 3-0 vote

Karl wanted to compliment the library for reaching out and getting people to volunteer.

1. Old Business**a) ARPA**

This was added onto the agenda more so as a placeholder to keep it on as a reminder just in case anything comes up in any of the next few meetings. The rules for ARPA have become more flexible and open and there are more opportunities to spend the ARPA funds.

Debbie Qualey asked what the amount of ARPA funds the town is getting. Bob and Sara said that it was ~\$318,000. There will be another in the same amount coming in later this year. There was also county funds in the amount of ~\$80,000.

b) Signature on Gift Deed for Thomas Clock

Karl motioned to allow Bob to sign the gift for the Thomas Clock. Marybeth 2nd. 3-0 vote

c) Congressionally Spending Request

Marybeth brought up this additional agenda item that was not listed on the agenda but was in a previous meeting that was submitted by Pat Martin and others. The application that was submitted to the BOS that was approved, was not the same application that was submitted and the funds were all different. Marybeth motioned to take a revote on this congressionally directed spending request that was submitted by Pat Martin and others that was voted on on 4/13/2022 because the application that was submitted and voted on was not the application that was submitted to Senator Shaheen's office. Bob 2nd. 2-1-0 vote

Pat Martin to be told to pull the application already submitted back based on the fact that the figures were not as presented to the board of selectmen.

2. New Business

a) Postage Meter Contract

The new contract that is proposed is for \$1,396.32. This is a small increase from the previous contract, which was \$1,328.16. This contract is also including a new mail machine.

Bob motioned to allow Sara to enter in to an agreement and sign on behalf of the town for a new Pitney Bowes postage machine lease. Karl 2nd. 3-0 vote

b) Paving Bid Recommendation

There were 2 paving bids submitted this year. One was for \$91.89 per ton and the other was \$93.40 per ton. This is a \$24.41 increase per ton from last year. Michael Cloutier, DPW Director, recommended the \$91.89 per ton bid, and also mentioned that asphalt will likely stay like this for at least 2-3 years before the price comes back down.

Karl motioned to allow Sara to sign on behalf of the town. Marybeth 2nd. 3-0 vote

c) Brush Clearing for July 4th Event

Karl motioned to have Mike's crew to cut the grass and Atlas Fireworks to clean up all objects. Marybeth 2nd. 3-0 vote

3. Informational Items/Communications/Updates

Town Gown Meeting:

Commencement is over and there was over 2,000 people visited town on commencement day. Moving out went well and in general this year was good. The retention at the college was higher. In past years it was up to 73% and this year was 79%.

New enrollment for next year have gone up. They anticipate 340-350 new enrollees/freshmen coming in. There will be around 11,000 students next year.

The college is also looking for employees as well in various positions, in particular housing.

Student engagement was down this year.

Athletes will be returning August 12th.

September 3rd football starts back up. There will only be 4 home games this year.

Bob mentioned that Charlie Eicher had mentioned a memorandum of agreement. He explains that this is an agreement in which encourages both university and the school district to work together with the department of education in terms of student majors and education from their sophomore years to their senior years. There will be home classes in their facilities for these students and they will participate in their classes in terms with helping out with teaching and will give an opportunity to have multiple people in the classroom so that teachers can handle behavior issues and larger class sizes.

Meetinghouse Committee Meeting:

The Steeple needs to be painted and repaired. The painting will be somewhere around \$95,000 according to the last estimate. There will have to be another assessment to be made. The assessment costs about \$17,500, which they mostly have. They will have to request \$3,000 for this from the church. After this, a post grant fund grant will need to be made to cover the cost of the painting, etc. They will be requesting up to \$50,000 from the Ward Trust Fund for the painting of the Steeple.

The next meeting will held June 28th.

The Ward Trustees meeting is next week to review the fund management.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Urmann
Executive Secretary