



**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
July 21, 2021**

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

At 5:16 p.m. Bob made a motion to enter into nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a), (c), and (l), Marybeth seconded the motion and it passed 3-0 by roll call vote. At 6:01 Bob made a motion to enter back into public session, Marybeth seconded the motion and it passed 3-0 by roll call vote.

The meeting reconvened at 6:01pm. Bob led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Bob noted Karl Pruter was present via phone and all votes would be taken by roll call vote. Bob made a motion to seal the first four sessions of the non-public meeting due to reputation. Marybeth seconded the motion and it passed by roll call vote 3-0.

**Selectmen's Announcements:** Bob stated the Wellington Bridge construction is moving along quickly. There will be a retirement celebration for Tax Collector, Carol Donovan on July 28<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm at the Town Office. He also announced the Veteran's group is sponsoring the "Moving Wall" which is a replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall at the Cathedral of the Pines in August and the Committee is in need of volunteers. If interested in helping please contact Bob or Tim Westin for more information. Sara announced the Town had received a compliment in regards to the Police Department. It was from a court employee that stated "the department was really resourceful and had good community relations".

**Citizen's Forum:** Roberta Oeser requested the Board reconsider some abatements that had been denied due to the inaccurate assessments on some of the properties. Roberta stated in the past the Town has followed a procedure with the abatements and felt it was only fair to continue the same process, adding the Town has had the same amount of abatements or more in the past. She also noted the Board of Tax and Land Appeals (BTLA) will send a letter to the Town to request that the Town work with the owners/applicants on the value, adding, eventually the Select Board will have to deal with the abatements. Tim Halliday proposed the same request, stating KRT has made some mistakes on assessing and felt the Board should hear them before it goes to the BTLA. Jeff Dickler added it costs \$65 just to appeal the decision to the BTLA.

Bob stated this year was drastically different than past years with the revaluation that took place in 2020. He questioned if residents had called or met with KRT upon receiving their new property

valuations that were mailed to property owners in September, 2020. Deni Dickler stated she had spoken with someone from KRT during that time but had lost faith in the company when she did not receive a clear explanation of her assessment.

Jeff Critsier stated when the letters went out from KRT with the new assessments, the new tax rate was not set so there was no basis to judge the potential impact. Bob pointed out KRT does not set the tax rate they conduct an assessment. It should be based on whether or not you agree with that assessment of your property. Mr. Critsier added he did an analysis and found no consistency in how KRT came up with their numbers, adding if you do not visit the property you do not have accurate data. Bob noted the Board would consider the requests but still suggested the property owners take it to the BTLA. Karl noted there was not enough time to hear every case. Marybeth agreed with Bob to let it go to the BTLA. Bob added if the BTLA recommends the Town work it out with the applicant the Board would proceed to do so at that time.

Roni Hamilton mentioned the State is aware of KRT and how they are conducting their work. She questioned if the State would be able to rectify the situation. Bob responded the Department of Revenue oversees the assessing firm's work. Jeff Dickler asked if the USPAP manual was available. It was noted the manual is available to the public in the Assessing Office.

**Consent Agenda - Approval of:**

- Minutes 7/7/2021
- Payroll 7/15/2021, 7/22/2021
- Accounts payable 7/15/2021, 7/22/2021

Karl noted he did not see the 7/22 payroll and accounts payable. Bob made a motion to approve the consent agenda without the July 7, 2021 minutes due to his edits not being made. Marybeth seconded the motion and it passed by roll call vote 2-0-1, Bob aye, Marybeth aye, Karl abstained.

**Old Business:**

Fire/Building Fee Schedule: The new Fire and Building Fee Schedule was briefly discussed. Bob stated he met with Chief Donovan regarding the new schedule. Some adjustments were made and fees are comparable to surrounding towns that are similar in size. There was a slight increase to some fees. Bob made a motion to approve the Building and Fire Fee Schedule. Marybeth seconded the motion and it passed by roll call vote 2-0-1, Bob aye, Marybeth aye, Karl abstained.

**New Business:**

Bridge Ceremony Planning: Bob stated the Board would like to have a ceremony to celebrate the opening of the Wellington Bridge. Sara mentioned she was looking into having a marching band and possibly having some residents drive antique cars over the bridge. The Board will consider any ideas that come before them.

Police Cruiser Title/Bill of Sale: Bob made a motion to allow Karl Pruter to sign the release of the old title for the cruiser. Marybeth seconded the motion and it passed by roll call vote 3-0, Bob aye, Karl aye, Marybeth aye.

Miscellaneous: Bob mentioned upon review of the June budget expenditures, he noticed the Zoning Board was over their budget at this point and the Memorial Day line was overspent as well. He questioned the reasoning for the Memorial Day budget being overspent and asked Sara to check with the Finance Department. The Fire Chief has requested the town put up temporary no parking signs along the road at Cathedral of the Pines due to the Flag display. Bob made a motion to allow Chief Donovan to put up temporary no parking signs. Marybeth seconded the motion and it passed by roll call vote 3-0.

#### **Informational Items/Communications & Updates:**

Karl noted he met with the Budget Advisory Committee and mentioned they will meet with the Board of Selectmen during the budget process like they have in past years. He thanked the Town's Finance Director, Leslie Frank for taking the time to attend the meeting and meet the Committee members. Bob reported the Town Gown Committee will be seeking a new chairperson. He also announced FPU would be holding five home football games for the upcoming season, the first one being September 11, 2021. Police, Fire and the University's Athletic Department are collaborating together to ensure safety. Bob announced FPU will be requiring all students and faculty to be vaccinated for COVID-19 but there will not be a mask mandate. Classes start on August 18<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

At 6:57 pm. Bob made a motion to enter into nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a), Karl seconded the motion and it passed 3-0 by roll call vote. At 7:14 p.m. Bob made a motion to enter back into public session, Marybeth seconded the motion and it passed 3-0 by roll call vote. Bob made a motion to seal item #5 of non-public session. Marybeth seconded the motion and it passed by roll call vote 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Rautiola  
Executive Secretary