



**Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Town Office  
Wednesday, 1/9/19 – Approved 1/16/19  
5:45 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

Present: Selectmen: Bob Hamilton, Jim Qualey, Roberta Oeser; Town Administrator Joe Byk, Executive Secretary Michele Christian, Finance Director Laurie May, Police Chief Dan Anair, Members of the Community.

The meeting was opened at 5:45 PM. A motion was made by Bob to enter nonpublic under RSA 91-A:3 II(e) for Litigation, seconded by Jim. Roll Call Vote: Bob-Yes, Jim-Yes, Roberta-Yes.

**CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Chair returned the meeting to public session at 6:00 PM and invited members to join him in the pledge of allegiance.

Roberta made a motion to seal the minutes of the nonpublic session until 3/31/19, seconded by Bob, Approved 3-0-0

Selectmen's Announcements: Bob announced that today is Police appreciation day. There was a round of applause for Chief Anair who was present at the meeting. Roberta stated that last week there was the biggest meet raffle ever. This raffle was co-sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

**CITIZEN'S FORUM**

Judy Unger Clark presented a book to the Board which is a compilation of the Monadnock Project which was a photography project for area photographers. In October 2017 there was an exhibition at the Sharon Arts Center. Judy stated that she has some of her photographs that are in the book that may be designated to the Historical Society. The Selectmen accepted the book on behalf of the town. It will be available for viewing at the Library.

Holly stated that on February 2<sup>nd</sup> the P.O.O.R. meat raffle will be sponsored by Crime Watch.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

### **1. Consent Agenda**

Changes to Consent Agenda – Change the minutes of 12/12/18 to reflect a start time of the nonpublic session to 6:00 PM.

#### **Approval of:**

- **Payroll 1-10-19**
- **Accounts Payable 1-10-19**
- **Minutes 12-12-18, 12-19-18, 12-28-18**

Roberta made a motion to approve the consent agenda as amended, seconded by Bob,  
Approved 3-0-0

### **6:15 PM – PUBLIC HEARING: BEMIS TAVERN ROAD IMPROVEMENT**

Reuben Goddard submitted an application to improve Bemis Tavern Road where he will be building a single family dwelling. Roberta stated that the road was reclassified as a Class A Trail by a warrant article in 2012. Jim stated that we are going to accept the application even though the road is considered a class A trail not a class VI road. Roberta stated that we have to have a discussion before we accept the petition to improve and maintain the road. Jim said that he doesn't believe that it is a problem.

There was discussion on what part of the road is being discussed. Jim showed a map of the property.

Bob stated that Mr. Goddard was issued a building permit on the road and it was assumed that it was a class VI road by the Roadway Committee and Planning & Building Depts. Jim stated that he feels that a warrant article should be written but for tonight we should consider the petition from Mr. Goddard as it is a Class VI road pending further clarification of the road designation. Jim stated that Mr. Goddard had begun improving the road prematurely and building however he does not believe that it was done with ill-intent.

Judy Unger-Clark said that there is a problem in this town with one Board communicating with another. She feels that all committees and boards are not on the same page. Jim said that he doesn't feel that this is an issue. Unger-Clark said that it is a

failure how things progress through the town. Roberta said there was no failure here. She also said that no one knew that the road was considered a Class A Trail. Bob stated that originally the representative of Mr. Frye wrote the warrant article and how it was presented at the deliberative session was very confusing. The only roads that should have been considered were the roads that were going through the Frye property.

Roberta stated that the Board can approve this petition but Mr. Goddard shouldn't start building until after town meeting. There was discussion regarding the building and bringing in electricity. Bob stated that he believes that the Board should take the Roadway Committees recommendation. Roberta said that nobody knew about the classification of the road. Lisa Wiley said that nobody is debating this it is a terminology issue. She feels that the Board should do their best to allow Mr. Goddard to continue to build on his property. Roberta said that we should grant it pending the outcome of the meeting on March 12. Roberta said that we can't allow him to build on the road which is a trail. Bob said that the road has already been improved and that Mr. Goddard is now coming forward to go through the proper channels. The building has already started. The warrant article was written poorly by the town administrator in 2012.

Bob made a motion to approve the application for improvements on 500 feet of Bemis Tavern road, seconded by Jim.

Roberta said that the building department made an error in issuing the building permit. Jim said the cease and desist order was issued by the town for the application for improvements not for the building. Jim read the cease and desist order. Roberta said that she can't approve until the road has been reclassified. Jim stated that he doesn't believe that there is proof that this is a Class VI road or a Class A Trail. Both Jim and Bob cautioned Mr. Goddard about continuing to build on the property.

The improvement to Bemis Tavern Road was approved 2-1-0.

**Public Hearing closed at 6:57 PM**

### **6:30 PM PUBLIC HEARING –**

### **PROPOSED BUDGET AND DEFAULT BUDGET 2019**

The public hearing opened at 7:00 PM

The proposed budget shows a 2.5% increase which is the rate of inflation. Chief Anair asked if the increase in wages also included the two employees who have not been here for one year yet. Town policy states that you have to be employed for one year before you are eligible for a raise. The Chief stated that there is high turnover and he feels that they risk losing two more officers if they don't get a raise. Roberta stated that we need to just put the additional raises for the two police employees in the budget. Jim stated that

we need to stick with the rate of inflation and we shouldn't make any changes to the current budget. Jim said that he wants to stick to the 2.5% bottom line. Roberta stated that we need to stick with the CIP plan. Bob said that we should take the money out of paving temporarily until we have funding from other warrant articles. Roberta asked if the \$2,000 line item for tuition was still something that was needed. Chief Anair stated that he did have an employee submit a request for tuition reimbursement, but if it meant that the officers would not get raises he would cut that line item. Bob suggested taking \$1,846.20 from highway appropriation for the raises for the two officers. Don Cook said that he wanted to know exactly what the raises cost because it will come up at the BAC tomorrow night. This increase will not increase the bottom line on the budget. Sharon Rasku asked for the rate of the increase which is 2.5%. Ellen Smith asked about why the assessing wages went back up. If we purchase the new CAMA software it will require more hours of updating in the assessing dept. Ellen also asked about why the health insurance budget is so high. Roberta stated that she thought we overspent it. Laurie was asked to go back and find out what the actual reimbursements were and contact the insurance company. Bob stated that we should leave the place holder in there for emergencies. Ellen asked if we had gotten anything from Primex with regard to the workman's compensation. Jim asked if there was further comment on the budget. Ellen Smith stated that she had questions about the consistency on the default budget. Roberta stated that the default on the auditor services is a contracted service that we must have. She also stated that the health reimbursement is requesting a \$250 increase but unemployment compensation is lower than the default. Laurie said that the basis of the request was because of the recommendation of the insurance company. Roberta stated that the default is there because if the budget fails the town needs a budget to operate. Bob stated that the reasoning is that the default was so the town could operate and the legislative body would approve a budget no greater than last year with further contractual obligations. Ellen stated that the default on the bond should be the same as last years. Roberta stated that the interest changes. Laurie will check on whether this was changed from last year.

### **The public hearing was closed at 7:39 PM**

#### **2. Old Business:**

Spaulding Hill Contract – Joe stated that at the last meeting there were two proposals. The increase was 6% for two years and Joe was able to get the contract down to 3%. Joe asked that the board authorize him to sign the contract for two years. Roberta asked whether or not Joe discussed the turnover with Spaulding Hill. They expect this to improve. Roberta made a motion that the Spaulding Hill contract be approved and for the Town Administrator to sign said contract, seconded by Bob. Approved 3-0-0

#### **3. New Business:**

Chief Anair applied for a highway safety grant. There are a number of different grants that the police department is eligible for. Chief Anair listed the categories which would be part of the grant. Roberta made a motion to approve applying for the highway safety grant, seconded by Jim. Approved 3-0-0

Judy Unger-Clark stated that the intersection near the post office is very dangerous. She wanted to know how to get that changed. Chief Anair said that it is a state highway and falls under their jurisdiction. Karl Pruter asked how the matching funds for the grant for the police dept. affects the budget. Chief Anair stated that most of the monies will come from “in kind work” or the budget which is sufficient.

#### **4. Committee Updates:**

Roberta stated that the Rec. Dept. did get a bus. Bob stated that he was concerned that the Board had not received a heads up on the purchase of the new bus. Bob will speak to Dan Bemis, the Rec. Director about this. The ski program is starting and so is basketball.

Roberta stated that the School District proposed budget is up 1.8 million. At the school board meeting Laurel McKenzie asked the board to come back with a budget that was less and they cut \$900,000. Charlie requested that the budget be reduced again by \$200,000. The increase is 3%. There has been a 1.2 million surplus year after year. There was discussion about the feasibility study that for dissolving the cooperative school district.

Bob made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bob. Approved 3-0-0

**Adjournment 8:20 PM**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Michele Christian**

**Executive Secretary**

