

TOWN OF TAMWORTH BOARD OF
SELECTMEN 84 MAIN STREET
TAMWORTH, NH 03886
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Selectmen's Meeting- Town Office
Nonpublic 5:15
Public 6:00

Thursday, June 23, 2022

Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER:

Roberts called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm. Present were Selectmen Roberts, Doucette, Behr, Goodson, (Prentice absent) Keats Myer, and Ed Comeau, of Government Oversight. Roberts motioned to go into nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Session #1, (a)Session #2. Seconded by Goodson, roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson Yes, Robert yes. 4 yes.

Roberts motioned to come out of nonpublic at 5:52, Goodson seconded, roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson Yes, Robert yes. 4 yes. Roberts called for a seven minute recess.

Roberts called the meeting back from recess at 6:00 pm, present are Selectmen Roberts, Doucette, Behr, Goodson, (Prentice absent), Ed Comeau, Bruno Siniscalchi, Madeleine Siniscalchi, Richard Roberts, and Keats Myer.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: None

PUBLIC INPUT:

A question from Ms. Siniscalchi as to how much bonus was awarded to the Police Chief. Roberts shared that it was \$1,000. Mr. Siniscalchi commented that he did not agree with the Police Chief getting a bonus, as he is paid a salary. Roberts thanked him for his input. Ms. Siniscalchi mentioned that last week when the new Enforcement Officer position was discussed, Selectperson Prentice mentioned that they may be conducting parking enforcement at Bearcamp Pond in Sandwich. The Board corrected this and said it was for Chocorua Lake parking enforcement only. Ms. Siniscalchi mentioned that we pay sandwich \$500 a year, but in our town agreements we should be able to use Bearcamp pond for no fee. Someone mentioned this was a long standing payment in support of services required to maintain Bearcamp Pond's Road, and parking enforcement by the Sandwich police.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Department Update:** Richard Roberts, Road Agent, started his report with a thank you to John Roberts who lent an excavator to the Road Department for a month, and thereby saved the town a lot of money. Road Agent Roberts also thanked Ian and Clay who dumped 50 loads of gravel using the excavator. Mr. Roberts is taking advantage of the dry weather, including fixing Pease Hill Road, and around the lake. Scott Bridge will get replaced next year, and he is putting 1" steel plates on the bridge to stabilize it for now. Goodson mentioned the funds coming in from the state for bridges and roads, which is just over \$215K.

The state bridge on Rt. 113, and the end of Fowler's Mill Road will be fixed next year, and will be closed while under repair, so there will be lots of traffic on the other smaller roads. Selectman Roberts asked if Road Agent Roberts will be holding off on paving for the summer. The only paving they are doing is on Washington Hill Road. Road Agent Roberts is very concerned about fuel prices for the coming fall and winter seasons and so is holding off on other road paving, until next year, when he hopes things will be less expensive.

The Highway Department conducted some dust control today. Question Siniscalchi what do you put on the roads to control the dust? Its calcium magnesium. They will start mowing in August with two machines, same guy as last year. Selectman Roberts asked - how do they price this, by the hour? Yes, \$6,000 a week for two machines and we have \$20,000 budgeted for fuel, we will have to work with him on that as fuel has risen so much. We will do half the mowing in one year and the other the second year, and go back and forth and do half each year.

- PUBLIC HEARING: Roberts opened public hearing at 6:12 pm and stated this was for the AMENDMENT OF LICENSES PURSUANT TO RSA 231:161: A public hearing for the purpose of receiving public input and taking action on a Petition by the Town Assessor to amend the language of the Town's Pole and Conduit Licenses by expanding their applicability to all poles, structures, conduits, cables, wires, attachments, or any other equipment, whether wireless or otherwise, in, under or across the Town's rights-of-way and to permit the taxation of parties using and occupying the Town's rights-of-way to the full extent that those parties are using and occupying the Town's rights-of-way. Towns are legally obligated by the state to collect taxes on poles and utilities located in town's rights of way – some years ago the law changed and to tax the utilities one needed the license to be amended with appropriate language, which Tamworth didn't do. Last year a utility noticed this, and we had to issue an abatement to the utilities. So this amendment is to reinstate taxes on the utilities that were previously collected and paid to the town by the utilities. These pole taxes are already built into the utilities costs structure as determined by the utilities commission. Roberts invited public comment. Question: how much was taxed and abated last year? Behr mentioned that the utilities have always been a large payer. No one was aware of the amount that was taxed and abated last year, Keats will look it up. No more public input. Roberts motioned to approve the amendment Behr seconded: any discussion, none Roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson Yes, Robert yes. 4 yes. Petition to Amend the Town's pole and conduit license, dated 5/10/22, is attached.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- Account Balance: \$2,945,204.
- 2017 FEMA Grant Application Revision is complete
- The Audit is ongoing, we've had a team of four here most of the week, and Elaine is doing a great job of getting them everything they need. They'll be here tomorrow, and most likely will be complete by the end of July.
- Emily Verny has started, and is doing a great job.

SIGNATURE FILE:

- Motion to approve Selectmen's Meeting Minutes –June 16, 2022, made by Roberts, seconded by Goodson, roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson Yes, Robert yes.
- Motion to approve Non-Public Minutes of the June 16th Meeting - RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Session #1, RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Session #2 , RSA 91-A:3 II (i) Session #3, RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Session #4, RSA 91-A:3 II (e) Session #5 made by Roberts, seconded by Behr, roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson Yes, Robert yes.
- Motion to approve abatement for Map 205 Lot 15, in the amount of \$1,138.00, made by Roberts, seconded by Behr, roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson Yes, Robert yes.
- Motion to approve abatement for Map 206 Lot 32 in the amount of \$64.00 made by Roberts, seconded by Behr, roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson Yes, Robert yes.
- Motion to approve the Payroll Manifest in the amount of \$32,771.87 made by Roberts, seconded by Goodson, roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson Yes, Robert yes.
- Motion to approve the Account Payable - \$28,887.17 made by Roberts, seconded by Goodson, roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson Yes, Robert yes.
- Year to Date - \$3,666,477.89
- The Select Board signed the previously approved appointment forms:
 - Appointment Form to the Transfer Station Improvement Committee, William Farnum

- Appointment Form to the Transfer Station Improvement Committee, Gabrielle Watson
- Appointment Form to the Transfer Station Improvement Committee, Maude Anderson,
- Appointment Form to the Transfer Station Improvement Committee, Ian Haskell,
- Appointment Form to the Transfer Station Improvement Committee, Sue Stowbridge, Alternate

1. SELECTMEN'S UPDATE:

- **Doucette:** Attended the TSIC meeting, and shared information on a meeting held about the Transfer Station that was attended by Willie Farnum, Glenn Johnson, Tim McGlew, Dave Cribbie, and Keats Myer, Doucette noted all agreed that we need to put a hold on the building of the bathroom until there is clarity on the site planning, and how ARPA and USDA funding can interact. Mr. Farnum is working to hire an engineer to get the site planning done, and eventually to create construction documents for the TSIC building. Keats pointed out that there is some question about the ARPA rules, she met with our accounting firm and they are gaining expertise on ARPA funding, although it is new to everyone, and she will be speaking with them on what is allowable. Last night was the cemetery trustees meeting. Occasionally the Cemetery needs deeds written, can/should they go to town attorney assuming it is funded by the cemetery funds, or should they hire a private attorney. Keats will ask Christine.
- **Behr:** Attended the Sewer Commissioner's meeting, and they are having a hard time trying to figure out the next move. There were people here from the public suggesting a waste treatment plant. Behr mentioned that they did not talk about the committee they were going to form, so he doesn't know about the status of that. They did talk about the anticipated recalculation of the sewer capacity. It would cost about \$3,200. There were a few scope-of-work questions, and a discussion about whether the users or the Commission should pay for the study. The designer said he couldn't start for 5 weeks once he gets the go ahead. An important set of decisions to be made. Behr stated there seems to be great concern about once you've gathered data, what if you don't like the answers, but postulated that maybe it will be good news? There might be capacity. A discussion about Meter reading ensued, and there is concern the State may not accept the meter reading. If the meter was read over time, maybe that will be acceptable to the State.
- **Goodson** also went to the TSIC meeting. She also attended the LRPC meeting, and shared that the LRPC is working on the update to the Regional Transportation Plan. They have changed the organization of the plan to be corridor focused as it provides better structure on a regional level. They would like to get together with representatives from the towns along each corridor to discuss the needs and challenges associated with the corridor. The discussion for the NH 25 Corridor meeting will be held at the Moultonborough Library on Thursday, July 14th from 2PM – 4PM. This is an open meeting, so if you cannot attend, or would like to invite other attendees, feel free to do so. The NH 16 Corridor Meeting will be held at the Tamworth Tri-county CAP on Monday, July 11th from 2PM – 4PM. This is also an open meeting, so if you cannot attend, or would like to invite other attendees, feel free to do so.
- **Roberts**, no updates.

PUBLIC INPUT:

- Mr. Siniscalchi amended an earlier statement about his disapproval of the bonus for the Police Chief was not about the Chief personally, rather about giving someone on salary a bonus. Ms. Siniscalchi asked about what is happening with the Rec Director? Roberts informed her we are still working it out right now and will have a plan after July 4th. We are looking at all the options. Maureen Diamond got online and thanked everyone for getting them online. Mr. Comeau stated that the Town of Tamworth has become an Economic Development Zone, he wonders if that might allow the town to get money for septic solutions.

NON-PUBLIC: None

ADJOURNMENT: Roberts motioned to adjourn at 6:36.