

TOWN OF TAMWORTH

SELECT BOARD OFFICE

Select Board Meeting: 5:00 PM

Thursday, March 9, 2023

Meeting Minutes

- **CALL TO ORDER:** Prentice called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm, those present are Select Board members Behr, Doucette, Prentice, Ed Comeau, Town Administrator Keats Myer, EMD Zach Remick and candidate for Deputy EMD. At 5:01 Prentice motioned to go into nonpublic RSA 91-A:3,II (a), Session #1, RSA 91-A:3,II (c), Session #2, and RSA 91-A:3,II (c), Session #3. Behr seconded. Roberts entered room at 5:04.
- Roberts motioned to come out of nonpublic at 5:55, Behr seconded, roll call vote - Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes. Roberts calls for 5 minutes recess, those joining are Melanie Streeter, Glenn Johnson, Kelly Rines, Bruno Siniscalchi, Willie Farnum, TJ Eldridge, Andrew Chehayl, on Zoom Linda Eldridge, Maureen and Jim Diamond. Kelly Goodson entered the room at 6:02. Chris Canfield, Town Moderator, entered the room at 6:08. Emily Verny entered at 6:20.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

- Chris Canfield, Town Moderator to review Town Meeting
- Notice of Intent to Excavate, Map 413 Lot 14
- Notice of Intent to Excavate, Map 413 Lot 13
- Notice of Intent to Excavate, Map 206 Lot 40

NEW BUSINESS:

- Department Head Report, Transfer Station, Glenn Johnson – all is going well, will need to update tires on the tractor, he thinks he will have enough in the budget. Doucette asked if there are any applicants for the position, response is no.
- Sandwich Litigation Update – Tamworth received a large bill from the Town Attorney related to this litigation. The Attorney had not communicated with the current Select Board, or Town Administrator that this large a bill would be coming, although it dates from November of 2022. The Select Board will have to make a motion to increase the legal budget at town meeting by \$30,000. Paul King attended a Select Board meeting over a year and a half ago to explain to the Board what it was all about. The town boundary has been an established agreement for over 150 (since 1843) years. Cook asked about how many acres are at issue – Doucette responded that there are 200 acres in dispute. Roberts confirmed that the land is in current use so not a lot of tax dollars at stake. Cook wondered if it is worth the cost of fighting over it. Roberts explained that the Select Board decided to enter this legal debate over a year ago, and as it is now in process, we have no choice but to continue. Cook asked if we can go after Sandwich for legal fees. Roberts wasn't sure. The attorney will be at Town meeting, so some questions can also be answered at the town meeting.
- Transfer Station Grant request, Willie Farnum: Farnum shared that he is applying for money from Rep. Pappas office and that it is a simple application form. The money, if awarded, must be spent in 2024. Timeline is as follows - proposals in on March 13, they go to appropriations committee on the 24th. Willie is asking the Select Board for approval to apply for funds to help build the Transfer Station. Doucette asked what the funding range is, Farnum wasn't sure. Prentice discussed the process, and shared that there are many kinds of projects, and that this one seems like a good fit. Pappas will be visiting the Transfer Station at 12:15 on Thursday the 16th. Roberts asked what the match to this grant would be, Farnum thought possibly 20%. Doucette explained that the EPA Grant was unusual in that there was no match. Goodson motioned to allow Farnum to apply for the congressional earmark. Prentice seconded. Discussion: TJ (Tony) Eldridge – stood up to share his experience as the Public Works Director for the Town of Ossipee. Eldridge has been watching the

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process of planning this facility, and reviewed the economics of recycling cardboard and plastics. Eldridge stated that the return on recyclables will never pay the town back. The local level can never address this problem, it must be addressed at a broader level. Eldridge feels this is not responsible to build a facility of the size discussed by the TSIC committee members. There are some things he feels are necessary, such as a scale, and an employee bathroom, for example. If we build this large facility, we will need more employees. Eldridge printed off a document from Greenpeace which discusses recycling plastic as a nonstarter. Eldridge encouraged the Select Board to discuss this with Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRRA). Last statement is that ideology should never be a part of tax related issues. Roberts asked Mr. Eldridge what the operating costs are in Ossipee, Eldridge estimated about \$700,000, about double that of Tamworth. Eldridge reaffirmed that the fix needed is to change the system upstream, not at the local level. Goodson asked if Ossipee does composting, yes they do. Streeter asked how can we go above the \$1.4 construction budget if that is what the town voted on to a \$4.3M budget? Farnum explained that it is a grant request, if we don't get it we're back down to \$1.4. Farnum then went into detail about future concerns of waste stations near Tamworth filling up, and the related costs of future shipping farther away. Farnum also discussed the impact of inflation on the project. Roberts asked about operating costs once the new building is built. Farnum stated that operating costs will increase regardless. Cook noted that the population is shrinking, and asked about the size of the building - is it three times the size as originally planned? She doubts we will grow into that large a transfer station. Farnum noted that Sanborn Head is currently collecting data (traffic, volume, population growth, average household waste, etc) and pointed out that we will know about the EPA grant by May or so, leaving Sanborn Head time to adjust accordingly to the project size. He stated they will not overbuild it. Siniscalchi, speaking as a concerned taxpayer in town noted that Mr. Eldridge did a great presentation on why we shouldn't be doing this project, and is hoping the Select Board listens. Eldridge is concerned that the facts that Farnum stated are not actually facts - we don't actually know if the landfills will fill up. Doucette reminded the Select Board that we are here to vote on the application that Farnum raised in this meeting, not to revisit what Town Meeting approved last year. Goodson stated that we can all agree on improved infrastructure, and the need for a scale and a bathroom. Roll call vote, Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes. Roberts explained while he does not support the Transfer Station Improvement project, he will not stand in the way of getting a grant. Roberts thanked Mr. Eldridge for attending.

- Appointment of Deputy EMD deferred for two weeks.
- Carroll County Communications District, Revised Agreement Review: Town Warrant Article #38, establishment of the CCCD. Andrew Chehayl, Tamworth's representative to the CCCDPC reviewed the process. The Attorney General was late getting back to the CCCDPC, they were required to update the agreement, it has been sorted out, and approved by AG and CCCDPC, so it is now valid. The Warrant Article is fine, the underlying agreement is now also fine. The benefit of creating the District is it give the town larger negotiating ability when working to get Broadband. Most of Carroll Country has this on their town meeting agenda this year. At this point it is just the WA that needs to be approved. Roberts thanked Mr. Chehayl.
- Chris Canfield, Town Moderator: Canfield asked if there is anything that the Select Board needed to ask the Town Moderator in anticipation of the Town Meeting next week? Roberts asked if Chris could go through the process. Mr. Canfield will run the meeting, with the questions going through Canfield. Prentice stated that there are two warrant articles that the Bearcamp Sustainability Center is bringing forth, and stated that she needs to be able to move off the stage to the audience when these two articles are voted on. Canfield explained that typically he will take the totals of the petition articles, and as he reads them out, anyone can asked for some to be pulled out of the group. If nothing is pulled then there is no discussion. If one or two are pulled out, they are discussed separately. VERNY asked if we could switch the order of the two Veteran's articles. Canfield will speak with the town attorney, and asked VERNY to be the point person on these articles. Prentice

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asked if there are any ballot changes. Canfield answer, not to his knowledge. Canfield will be reviewing all of the emails from the Secretary of the state prior to the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Government Building Update
 - Myer reported that the Library insurance money came in, and library will start the repairs once they have finished the procurement process.
 - Town House Fire Escape Update: Behr and Roberts attended the meeting with the Friends of the Town House, and Mr. Sean Bergeron on Wednesday, March 8th. Streeter shared that the Friends are considering a grant request for \$1,320 from the Tamworth Foundation to cover a formal assessment by Bergeron on the safety of the escape: Is it safe, and for how long? They learned from Bergeron, that because the Town House is a place of assembly of more than 50 people it has to have drawn plans to put the new stairs in. Doucette asked if there is an RSA that dictates the need for a drawn plan? None was known of. Behr read the grant request aloud for the \$1,320 for the emergency exit inspection. Discussion ensued about what this inspection would accomplish. Roberts did go up to the top to inspect. Landing and railings have some rot. Mr. Edridge's other job is as a building inspector and stated that having drawn plans protects the town if the fire escape ever did fall down. Maureen Diamond asked if requirement for plans would eliminate A&M from the project. Roberts responded that once we have the plans they, and others can bid on the plans. Streeter noted that there is a different building code for new buildings versus historic buildings. Prentice motioned that the Select Board sign the grant request to the Tamworth Foundation written by the Friends of the Town House, to cover the cost of Bergeron making a formal review of the fire escape. Behr seconded. Doucette asked if this impacts the Warrant Article, which is to raise \$29,000 replace the fire escape and three windows. Discussion ensued about what the money could be used for. Roll call vote, Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes. Melanie asked if she should send to the Tamworth Foundation. The Select Board confirmed that she should. Emery was glad to meet with Mr. Bergeron.
 - Update on Speed on Route 25 in South Tamworth. Doucette noted that we asked about traffic calming in South Tamworth. The Department of Transportation (DOT) response arrived today. DOT agreed with only one item the town suggested, to have a maintenance agreement for a speed feedback sign, and we would pay for it. Doucette wasn't sure what a sign would cost, so he is not proposing the town does this without more information. Doucette sent an email to the road agent and police chief asking for additional information on these kinds of signs. McConkey is cc'd on the DOT letter.
 - Bruno's comments were excluded from last week's minutes, we will wait to approve.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- Account Balance: \$3,376,701
- Working on several projects. Such as Sandwich Litigation, PILOTS, and tax deeding properties

SIGNATURE FILE:

- Roberts motioned to approve Select Board Meeting Minutes, March 2, 2023, Behr seconded, Mr. Siniscalchi noted that his comments made during the public input section were not included in the minutes. Minutes will be revised and reposted.
- Roberts motioned to approve amended Select Board Meeting Minutes, February 9, 2023 Goodson seconded, roll call vote, Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.

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- Roberts motioned to approve Notice of Intent to Excavate, Map 413 Lot 14, the Notice of Intent to Excavate, Map 413 Lot 13, and the Notice of Intent to Excavate, Map 206 Lot 40, Goodson seconded, roll call vote, Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- Roberts motioned to approve Accounts Payable: \$328,684.98, Goodson seconded, roll call vote, Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- Cash Used: \$2,365,304.05

SELECT BOARD UPDATE:

Doucette, nothing to update.

Behr, other than the Town House discussion, he has nothing to add.

Goodson stated it has been her last meeting, and thanked everyone.

Prentice: Met with Pat Farley about the Lakes Region Planning Commission meeting. They discussed a Lakes Region Housing study, in the context of a town master plan. They discussed housing needs for Tamworth.

Prentice & Myer met with Town Attorney to better understand the Sandwich Litigation. Worked on department head evaluation forms.

Roberts: Met with the Friends of the Town house. And noted that on Monday March 13th at 10:00 am the Governor is coming to kick off New Hampshire Maple Month, Roberts will try to attend.

Prentice asked Cook and Streeter if the Ladies Guild group is still around, they stated that it has disbanded.

The leftover money was donated for the Town House downstairs shades. Streeter reviewed the early history of the Friends of the Townhouse.

PUBLIC INPUT:

- Streeter stated that in the past when there are amendments to the minutes it is stated in the motion about what is amended. Doucette asked why do we save drafts. Wondered if we need to do this.
- Cook wanted to know if there are any updates on the ratio of students to life guards. Prentice clarified that NH law says that if you are a child care center, you would be required to have a life guard on duty. But if your only giving swim instruction, you do not have to have a life guard present. The sticking point is that the State Park rules don't align with the Red Cross expectation, nor NH state law. So then the question becomes should swim lessons be at White Lake? or do we do swimming somewhere else? Heath has been speaking directly with White Lake. Streeter suggested speaking with Marc McConkey, Prentice thanked her for this suggestion. Cook asked if the Select Board has given a list of goals to accomplish. Goodson stated that Heath has been working on of establishing the necessary infrastructure. Behr said there is a probationary period and she has been given goals. Prentice shared that we discussed 4th of July, Swim program, Easter, etc. Verny asked how the meet and greet went, Behr responded that 4 or 5 folks showed up, parents of young children, two on the PTA. It was a good discussion. They were Interested in having a Friday program so that the full week is covered in the summer. Cook reexpressed her concerns.
- Linda Eldridge asked if ballot be put on town website, Verny confirmed they are posted on the Tax Collector/Town Clerk's page.
- Mr. Edlridge stated that even though the Transfer Station was voted on the scope of work has changed a lot, and so the Select Board doesn't need to expend the money – it is not required that it go forward.
- Maureen Diamond, thanked Emery for managing a difficult and good discussion. Maureen thanked Kelly for all her excellent and hard work as a member of the Select Board.

NON-PUBLIC: None

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ADJOURNMENT: *Roberts motioned to adjourn at 7:34.*

Emery Roberts

Karl Behr

Richard Doucette

Kelly Goodson

Lianne Prentice