

# TOWN OF TAMWORTH

## SELECT BOARD OFFICE

Select Board Meeting: 5:00 PM

Thursday, April 6, 2023

### Meeting Minutes

**CALL TO ORDER:** Roberts called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm, those present are Select Board members Roberts, Doucette, Behr, Schaeffer, Prentice, TA Myer, and Ed Comoeau of Government Oversight, Shannon Heath, and Donna Kuethe. Roberts motioned to go into Nonpublic RSA 91-A:3 (c) Session #1, Nonpublic RSA 91-A:3 (a), Session #2, and Nonpublic RSA 91-A:3 (a) Session #3 Behr seconded, roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.

Roberts motioned to come out of nonpublic at 6:01 pm. Prentice seconded, roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes. Joining the meeting are: Zach Remick, Chief Littlefield, Road Agent Roberts, Fire Ward bowles, Fire Chief Colcord, Welfare Administrator Cathy Graham, Emily Verny, Bruno Siniscalchi, Peter Dancy, Cathy Dancy, Mike Grady, Tony Iorfino, on Zoom: Maureen and Jim Diamond, Linda Cook, Linda Eldridge, Eric & Devon Ames,

**CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:** Remove Recreation Department report, add Driveway Application Map 414, Lot 36, and Driveway Application Map 213, Lot 38

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Police Department:**

1. Police Detail Rate Discussion – Chief Littlefield presenting: Discussion centered on increasing the Detail Rate as the payout is less than the straight overtime rate, and is lagging behind other towns Detail Rates. Currently it is \$65.00, \$45.00 to officer and \$20.00 to town. Chief Littlefield's recommendation is to raise it to \$75.00. Discussion ensued. Roberts motioned to set detail rate at \$75.00 dollars an hour, \$50.00 an hour going to officer and \$25.00 going to the town, Prentice seconded, roll call vote, Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
2. Discussion on new employment arrangement for Sergeant Perley. Roberts motioned to accept the resignation of Sergeant Perley as of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, Behr seconded, roll call vote, Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes. Roberts motioned to re-appoint Sergeant Perley on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April at the rate of \$40.00 per hour not to exceed 34 hours per week, Behr seconded, roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes. Note: this is a part time position with no benefits.
3. Department report – April is typically a down month due to mud season, and the department uses this as a month to catch up time on reports and patrols. Reminder April 22 Drug take back from 10:00-2:00 on 4/28. No Syringes or battery devices.
4. Reach the Beach discussion: Chief Littlefield feels it is tough on the community to have the race go through the town. The only benefit is the fundraiser for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and a small fundraiser for the Tamworth Outing Club. Chief doesn't think it benefits the community, as it creates havoc. He gets a lot of complaints. Typically the Chief signed off on the road permit, but he will not do it this year. It's more than a management issue, it's the loose cannon of individual racers and van drivers. Select Board opts to invite them to present to the Board and make their case and allow the public to speak for or against. Brett school is not hosting this year.
5. Chief Littlefield noted that Phil Ames passed away recently.

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### Department Head Reports:

- **Welfare:** Cathy Graham – Welfare Administrator – Ms. Graham summarized what town is legally obligated to provide. Graham's main priority is to counsel people on the multiple resources that exist out there. See report below. Usually by the time we get a call they are desperate. TCNA does an amazing job taking care of the elderly, so people asking for assistance are mostly young families.
- **Fire Chief** – Richard Colcord reporting. 107 calls since January, busier each year.
- **Tall Pines Road Resident Concern,** Peter Dancy discussed his concerns about Tall Pines Road: there is a steep grade, making it difficult to go up the hill. His understanding was that the road going to be repaved many years ago and it is in bad shape. Also there is a 13 inch gap between Rt. 113 and the road, making it a very dangerous turn. Tony Iorfino stated that when the State was repaving Rt. 113, they didn't create an apron to make a smooth transition – you can't hit it straight or you'll bottom out. This is hazardous. Mr. Dancy showed some photos of this to the SB. They are asking for an apron to be installed to smooth the transition. Roberts commented that there is a limited amount of money, and it has not been paved in 30 years. Agrees it does need to be paved. Roberts agreed to take care of the apron. To pave it it would be around \$45K, this is not in the budget.
- Select Board Committee Assignments: See Chart below.
- Prentice nominated Emery Roberts to be Select Board Chair, Behr seconded, roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes, Roberts abstained.

### OLD BUSINESS:

### ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- Account Balance: \$2,337,736
- Myer has been working on the Audit, preparing for the town properties auction, general assistance cases, ARPA reporting, and SAM compliance.

### SIGNATURE FILE:

- Roberts motioned to approve Select Board Meeting Minutes, March 23, 2023, Prentice seconded, roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer abstains, Prentice yes, Roberts yes
- Roberts motioned to approve Select Board Meeting Minutes, March 27, 2023, Prentice seconded, roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer abstains, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- Roberts motioned to approve Select Board Nonpublic Minutes, RSA 91-A:3.II (a), March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, Prentice seconded, roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer abstains, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- Roberts motioned to approve Select Board Nonpublic Minutes, RSA 91-A:3.II (c), March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, Prentice seconded, roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer abstains, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- Roberts motioned to approve Engagement Letter, Plodzik & Sanderson, P.A., Prentice seconded, roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- Roberts motioned to approve Voucher to Trustees of the Trust Fund, Transfer Station, Prentice seconded, roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- Roberts motioned to approve Notice of Intent to Excavate, Map 210, Lot 003, Prentice seconded, roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- Roberts motioned to approve Notice of Intent to Excavate, Map 218, Lot 98, Prentice seconded, roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- Roberts motioned to approve Notice of Intent to Cut, Map 414, Lot 36, Prentice seconded, roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- Roberts motioned to approve Yield Tax on Timber Cut, Map 411, Lot 033, for \$2,156.28, Prentice seconded, roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.

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- Roberts motioned to approve Excavation Tax Assessment, Map 218, Lot 98, for \$114.20, Prentice seconded, roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- Roberts motioned to approve Timber Cut Yield Tax Levy, Map 410, Lot 51 for \$220.36, Prentice seconded, roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- Roberts motioned to approve Driveway Application Permit, Map 401 Lots 22, 48.1, 48.2, Prentice seconded, roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- Roberts motioned to approve Driveway Application Map 414, Lot 36, and Driveway Application Map 213, Lot 38, Prentice seconded, roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- Roberts motioned to approve Payroll Manifest, \$3,624.76, Prentice seconded, roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- Roberts motioned to approve Accounts Payable: \$ 775,238.52, Prentice seconded, roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.

### SELECT BOARD UPDATE:

**Doucette:** Attended a Northern Borders Regional webinar and is putting together an application for the Transfer Station project. Also attended a Sanborn Head meeting. Got into the weeds on the design. Letter of intent to NBRC who added a infrastructure category to their grant. There were 100 people on the call. Sanborn Head call was interesting and useful. Good back and forth about how people come and go. We don't like head in parking, prefer drive through.

**Behr:** Quiet week, visited Ossipee transfer station. Liked it very well. Scale should be elevated.

**Schaeffer:** Attended day long NHMA select board training.

**Prentice:** Wrote an EPA grant for the fire department. It would pay 25% of a new truck in the 24-25 season – something like \$125,000. Spent time at the Ossipee Transfer Station, attended RPC meeting last Monday. Housing was on the agenda, which didn't really apply to us as we don't have land use restrictions. And spent a long day at the polls. Exciting at how many people turned up to vote.

**Roberts:** Spent the day at voting, and was pleased with how well town meeting went.

**PUBLIC INPUT:** Mr. Siniscalchi asked Prentice if she wants the frame for the wreath – she said to please keep it. Linda Cook asked why was payroll so little? It was a close out payment for someone who is retiring. And she asked if there is an update on the Swim Program? Roberts shared that he has been trying to speak with the State and hopes to have more info early next week. Maureen Diamond, thank everyone and welcomed to Steve Schaffer as the new Select Board member.

### NON-PUBLIC:

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn 7:37

Emery Roberts

Lianne Prentice

Karl Behr

Steve Schaeffer

Richard Doucette

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## **Welfare Administrator – Department Update**

### **Overview**

Welfare Administrators and Officers are bound by NH RSA 165. Basically, towns and cities must provide financial help for basic needs like shelter, rent, mortgage payments, heat, lights, gas, water, food, necessary clothing, transportation and prescriptions. Burials, cremations, and security deposits are also among the required items for coverage.

NH Legal Aid wrote an excellent article summarizing these requirements:

<https://nhlegalaid.org/self-help-guides/benefits/local-welfare-new-hampshire>

While my role is to respond to clients and process their applications, my main priority is to provide other resources they can take advantage of for assistance (in addition to the Town), to reduce the impact on your budget and to the taxpayers. While Tri County CAP is an obvious agency for fuel and electric assistance, I also work with DHHS, Waypoint, Way Station, local churches, Stewart Property Management (subsidized housing), and I network with Welfare Administrators throughout the County. If family members are able to help out, family support is always my first recommendation.

### **Current Budget and YTD Spending**

2023 Budget: \$25,000.00

Spending YTD: 8,200.17

### **Activity**

As can be expected during the winter, the majority of the clients thus far are in need of electric and heating fuel assistance. Others need help with rent payments, cremations, vehicle repairs, ambulance bills, etc. The biggest problem facing us is homelessness.

Since taking over this position in November of 2022, I have assisted eleven new clients, and counseled many more who ultimately chose not to pursue Town assistance.

Requests for assistance reduce considerably during the summer months (fingers crossed!).

While I don't see the homeless issue going away, certainly heating fuel and electrical assistance are no longer needed again until November. I require all clients to apply to Tri County CAP for assistance.

### **Hardships**

Both State and grant funds to house the homeless ended on April 1<sup>st</sup>. All towns in the State are now scrambling to find housing for the homeless in a State that has very little subsidized housing and now exorbitant rents. These homeless were housed in hotels over the past six months and now are back on the streets. Homeless shelters throughout the State are full.

Here is another article by NHPR describing the end in funding to house the homeless:

<https://www.nhpr.org/nh-news/2023-04-01/unhoused-families-living-in-nh-hotels-face-deadlines-to-find-new-homes>

Last fall the Governor targeted \$32 million for heating fuel and electrical assistance to those who met certain income eligibility requirements. This support was broad enough to include those considered middle income. Unfortunately less than 2% of those funds have been distributed, and those funds end on April 30<sup>th</sup>. The State had all the CAP agencies throughout the State distribute those funds, but they were already swamped with too many applications and a cumbersome (paper) application process. Because these funds were not distributed, towns had to make up the difference. I have many clients who are just getting their CAP assistance now – and it ends at the end of the month. Ironically, in 2021 the State legislature passed a bill that no longer allows municipalities to get

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reimbursed by the State if the town had to cover payments which the State should have funded.

Here is an excellent article on the energy assistance funding failure:

<https://newhampshirebulletin.com/2023/03/31/just-1-5-percent-of-new-hampshires-largest-energy-relief-package-has-been-disbursed/>

Finally, adding insult to injury, SNAP benefits and Medicaid coverage have been slashed to pre-pandemic levels. Needless to say, Welfare Administrators are BUSY and folks are suffering out there.

## Board Assignments 2023

<b><u>Board, Commission, Etc.</u></b>	<b><u>Representative(s)</u></b>	<b><u>Alternative</u></b>
Capital Improvement Plan	E. Roberts	K. Behr
Road Study	E. Roberts	S. Schaeffer
Veteran's Committee	E. Roberts	
Cook Library Trustees	K. Behr	R. Doucette
Sewer Commission	K. Behr	R. Doucette
Joint Loss Management	L. Prentice	K. Behr
Planning Board	L. Prentice	E. Roberts
Cemetery Trustees	R. Doucette	E. Roberts
Conservation Commission	R. Doucette	S. Schaeffer
Municipal Records	R. Doucette	E. Roberts
Transfer Station Improvement Committee	R. Doucette	S. Schaeffer
Mount Washington Valley Economic Council	R. Doucette	K. Behr
Energy Committee	R. Doucette	
Economic Development Commission	S. Schaeffer	E. Roberts

<b>Department Liaisons</b>		
Roads	E. Roberts	
Recreation	K. Behr	
Police	L. Prentice	
Fire	R. Doucette	
Maintenance	K. Myer/BOS	
Transfer Station	S. Schaeffer	