

Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: Prentice called the meeting to order at 4:53, Behr second, roll call vote, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes. Those presents are Karl Behr, Steve Schaeffer, Lianne Prentice, Keats Myer, Ed Comeau.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

- Department Head Report: Road Agent, Richard Roberts
- Select Board Meeting Minutes, September 12, 2023
 - Nonpublic Meeting minutes, September 12th, 2023, RSA 91-A:3,II (e), Sealed
 - Nonpublic Meeting minutes, September 7thrd, 2023, RSA 91-A:3,II (a), Session #2
 - Nonpublic Meeting minutes, September 7thrd, 2023, RSA 91-A:3,II (d), Session #3

NONPUBLIC - Prentice made a motion to go into nonpublic RSA 91-A:3 II (a), RSA 91-A:3 II (a), Behr second, roll call vote, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes. Into nonpublic at 4:54. Prentice motioned to come out of nonpublic at 5:30, Schaeffer second, roll call vote, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes.

WORK SESSION: Personnel Policy, entered into at 5:30, completed at 5 50. Discussion to complete first draft review. Schaeffer page 31 requested to take term “offensive” out on page 31 – too vague. Made other edits which Prentice will include in next draft. Schaeffer agreed to review the tech section of this and update with current best practices.

Joining the meeting: Richard Roberts, Willie Farnum, Gabrielle Watson, on Zoom Zach Remick, Maureen and Jim Diamond.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Budget Process & Discussion:** Myer shared overview of coming process and timeline – plan to get all department head input by Friday 9/29/23, and invite department heads in to review budget during October. Recommend going to weekly meetings during this period. Select Board agreed. Myer raised question of which Price Index to use as an inflation factor, and review the Municipal Cost Index, Consumer Price Index, and the Producer Price Index. Agreed to ask other towns what inflation factor they opt for.
- **Department Head Report:** Road Agent Richard Roberts finished Page Hill Road, lots of maintenance because of all the storms – Brandon is coming to mow next week, finishes Washington hill road . Preparing for winter. Great summer for grading with all the rain. Prentice asked Roberts about the budget, and wondered about Mountain Road Bridge - not sure if we can use a temporary bridge in that spot. We can possibly encumber the funds left over from Scott Bridge. Turnaround from FEMA - he thinks we will get the money. They’ll be removing dead ash trees from town property on Monday.
- **Emergency Shelter Agreement Renewal,** Zach Remick – Remick shared the Emergency Shelter agreement with the Board. The 2018 MOU expires in October and is up for a 5-year renewal. He has no changes to recommend, he will share with the school and bring any changes to the Board. Is concerned that the Emergency Generator might need to be replaced.
- **EV Cars discussion.** As the Select Board considers EV chargers on town property, Remick would like town officials to know about electric vehicle fires. And lithium battery issues. Zach shared a video

on EV fires. Remick is not for or against the use of EV cars. He is concerned the parking lot is not big enough to separate gas cars from Ess, and that they need a lot of water to put out fire. Concerns about enough water to put out a multi car fire in the village. Prentice stated that the SB will take this under advisement as they consider adding EV chargers to the parking lot. Prentice asked if there is there training for our fire department. They have not yet been trained. Watson shared that the Energy Committee is meeting with Remick about safety.

- **Hazard mitigation plan update**, Monday meeting on Zoom. Keats will distribute the press release. 2 hour meetings. June will run the meeting. Done every five years. Grant funded. Meetings are on zoom and are scheduled for:
 - -September 25, 2023
 - -October 23, 2023
 - -November 27, 2023
 - -December 18, 2023
 - -January 15, 2024
 - -February 12, 2024
- All are at 1:00 pm

OLD BUSINESS:

Transfer Station Funding, Willie Farnum: Update on Transfer Station Grant-Seeking Activities: Status of grants applied for:

- USDA - Successful.
- Northern Borders Regional Commission (NBRC) - Turned down. Debriefing from them (Steve Fortier) stated that the Transfer Station was not the right vehicle for the plan. They did not see an amount of money for the NEPA requirements. This was done for the USDA Grant we received. Their goals are more for Social and Economic development.
- The EPA SWIFR grant - Turned down. We are awaiting a date for a debriefing on why we did not receive this grant. There were 354 grant applications and they only awarded 25 nationwide.
- Congressman Pappas office - Pending. Requested an earmark. WF e/m Victoria Laracy for information on request 9-18-23 New contact is Colin Pio colin.pio@mail.house.gov and phone number 603 361-0655
- Additional potential grants to seek: There are two other options that we should look into, suggested by Steve Fortier of NBRC.
 - EDA Disaster Recovery program: [Funding for Natural Disasters in 2021 and 2022 | U.S. Economic Development Administration \(eda.gov\)](#)
 - EDA-DISASTER-2023 FY 2023 Disaster Supplemental
Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration
- New Hampshire Municipal Association. Katherine Heck is main contact at NHMA: [NHMA Staff | New Hampshire Municipal Association \(nhmunicipal.org\)](#) who might be able to help us receive some Federal Disaster relieve moneys. WF Called 9-18-23
- NRRRA and New Hampshire the Beautiful. Other agencies that might be able to help with some funding for equipment.

Next Steps - We need to see where the timeline is on each of the funding that we have - USDA and the Town Warrant article 12, See what the DRA says. I think that we have until the end of 2026 to use these funds. We have a plan almost complete from Sanborn and Head. (For the full project envisioned)

TSIC will be having a meeting on Monday 9-25-23 With the agenda question where we go from here, and will bring recommendations to the Selectboard

Digital Storage of Deeds and Property Cards: Digital storage of deeds and property cards – he connected with our IT company, we have solid back up - every night. So Schaeffer feels comfortable that we can move towards digital records. Myer will develop a digital storage policy statement.

Town Office Entryway Gable Discussion: Myer updated Board on costs for signage, from \$250 (PVC material) - 320. Samples coming tomorrow.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- Bank Balance: \$3,328,520.
- Myer is working on budget, interviewing for new assessing clerk.

SIGNATURE FILE:

- Prentice motioned to approve Select Board Meeting Minutes, September 7th, 2023, Schaeffer second, roll call vote, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes.
- Prentice motioned to approve Nonpublic Meeting minutes, September 7th, 2023, RSA 91-A:3,II (a), Session #1, Nonpublic Meeting minutes, September 7th, 2023, RSA 91-A:3,II (a), Session #2, Nonpublic Meeting minutes, September 7th, 2023, RSA 91-A:3,II (d), Session #3, Schaeffer second, roll call vote, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes.
- Prentice motioned to approve Select Board Meeting Minutes, September 12, 2023, Schaeffer second, roll call vote, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes.
- Prentice motioned to approve Nonpublic Meeting minutes, September 12th, 2023, RSA 91-A:3,II (e), Sealed, Schaeffer second, roll call vote, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes.
- Prentice motioned to approve Land Use Change Tax Bill, Map 211, Lot 52, Land Use Change Tax Bill, Map 205, Lot 26, Schaeffer second, roll call vote, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes.
- Prentice motioned to approve Abatement, Map 214, Lot 154, Sub Lot 10, \$59.77, Abatement, Map 214, Lot 154, Sub Lot 18, \$122.90 Abatement, Map 216, Lot 34, \$221.00 Abatement, BMSI Flagged Properties, Schaeffer second, roll call vote, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes.
- Prentice motioned to approve Driveway Application, <ap 408, Lot 52, Sub lot 3, Schaeffer second, roll call vote, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes.
- Prentice motioned to approve Accounts Payable: \$358,510.69, Schaeffer second, roll call vote, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes.
- Prentice motioned to approve Payroll: \$43,696.07, Schaeffer second, roll call vote, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes.
- Cash Used: \$8,155,711.19,

SELECT BOARD UPDATE:

Behr: Attended the Library Trustees meeting on 11th. And is working on relocating the Town house electric meter.

Schaeffer: Reviewed the tech contract and is recommending Lakes Region Computer be awarded the town's Tech support contract. Schaeffer motions to accept the Lakes Region Computer proposal in the amount of \$1,175 per month. Behr second, roll call vote, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes.

Prentice: worked on the planning board meeting to finish the subdivision regulations revisions – it was a lot of revising. And worked on the personnel policy.

PUBLIC INPUT: Gabrielle Watson noted that the audit was completed for the Town Office building and has a number of recommendations – the energy committee will review and make a recommendation to the board. There may be grant money available for recommendations that cost money. Also raised the possibility of solar for the Town Office building.

The committee is moving forward with the community power project, and they will be hosting two public hearings in the fall in October and November. The question will be does the town want to go forward with community power, to save money and have more choice?

Just held a successful “button up” workshop with 24 people attending online and in person. There is a link on the town website. They are researching EV chargers for the town parking lot, Zach will be attending their meeting next week - EV fires are much rarer than gas car fires. Out of 100K – 150 gas cars will have fires, and for EVs it's 25 out of 100,000.

Jim Diamond on Zoom: He is disappointed about the EPA grant news, but Willie is right, keep applying and looking for funds. Very much appreciate the effort they put into it. Noted, if they hadn't applied, we certainly would not get the grant.

Willie Farnum: Planning board – new subdivision regulations. Asked if they are holding a public hearing, Prentice said yes. Also asked why the hummingbirds are still here, they should have flown 20 days ago.

Ed Comeau: Noted that Ossipee is doing the same thing with some version of a community power program. Watson stated that 25% of the state is using this model.

Comeau asked is we'd be voting on the personnel policy. Yes. He raises this to remind the board that they must formalize it. His last question is the internal affairs policy - reminding the board how important it is. Prentice responded that the chief is working on the policy. Comeau asked if the Board will review and adopt. Myer noted attorney stated Select Board does not adopt police department policy. Ed Comeau begs to differ with our attorney. He would say the board should review.

NON-PUBLIC: RSA 91-A:3 II (d) - Prentice motioned to go into nonpublic under RSA d 7:12 Prentice motioned to come out of nonpublic session at 7:20, Behr second, roll call vote, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes.

Motion to adjourn: Prentice at 7:23

Lianne Prentice

Steve Schaeffer

Karl Behr

