

## Meeting Minutes

**CALL TO ORDER:** Roberts called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm, present are Select Board Members Roberts, Doucette, Prentice, Goodson, Behr, Town Administrator Myer, Ed Comeau, Nelson O'Bryan, Ellen Farnum, Willie Farnum, Bruno Siniscalchi, Sue Stowbridge, Maud Anderson, on Zoom Maureen and Jim Diamond, Linda Eldridge.

### CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

- Interest Waiver Request – Eversource
- Appointment to the Energy Commission
  - Gabrielle Watson
  - Ellen Farnum
  - Ted Morgan
  - Discussion to close the Transfer Station on Saturday due to the cold.

### NEW BUSINESS:

- EPA Grant Presentation - Transfer Station Improvement Committee, Willie Farnum read a letter regarding an EPA Grant application (copied below) requesting that the Select Board apply for an EPA grant for the Transfer Station Improvement Project. Mr. Farnum shared the new estimated cost of \$4,526,880 - this includes new items such as a glass pulverizer, among other elements. Sanborn Head was told to "go big" because that's what the EPA grant dictates. Chairman Roberts is concerned about future operating costs. A discussion ensued about the costs and savings by building the bundling system when we have to ship very far away. The Board thanked the committee for their hard work. Behr motioned to approve the town application for this EPA grant that the Transfer Station committee has brought forward. Goodson seconded. Discussion: Roberts raised the affordability of operating costs, but does want to say yes to applying for a large amount of grant money. Worries that it will further the tax burden in the future. Goodson shared that she believes there will be efficiencies gained in the design process. Mr. Farnum raised that the waste disposal issues are getting so expensive to ship, we have to change the way we operate. Also there are environmental benefits. Roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes. Farnum added that the Select Board should authorize the Town Administrator to sign the grant application. Goodson motioned to make the Town Administrator (Keats Myer) the authorized signer for grants to the EPA on behalf of the Select Board. Prentice seconded. Roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- ARPA Funds Discussion: Myer summarized what has been funded and/or committed to ARPA funds, and that approximately \$124,000 in ARPA funds remain. Doucette made suggestions on how to spend the remainder and discussed the need for the Town House to be repaired. Doucette researched grant opportunities, and found that the NH Moose Plate program might be a partial funder. Grants can be 1-20,000, with over 10K needing to be approved by Governor. Doucette added up bids to repair the Town House \$28,230. He was made aware that a petition article was submitted, but prefers to use grant money rather than taxation money. Doucette motioned that the town applies for a \$10K moose grant, and use \$18K from ARPA, Prentice seconded. Discussion ensued about whether to ask for more or not – could other grants be applied for? Possible there is another one. Roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes. Discussion ensued about how to spend the remaining \$71,576 – Doucette suggested moving \$70K in remaining ARPA funds to the transfer station improvement

project. Goodson seconded Roberts explained why he would say no – because there is time to make that decision later. Myer mentioned that we could decide to spend it on the TS project next year. Motion withdrawn.

- Conservation Commission, Nelson O'Bryan presented on a long running project to consolidate Chris Alt's properties which have conservation easements on them. Chris has a great number of Conservations easements (9) and he would like to consolidate into two easements. He has been speaking with the Forest Society. This has been in the works since 2018, the Forest Society suggests that the town assign its easements to the society before the work of the consolidation is done. The most stringent rules will dictate the entire group of easements. The house lot will be separate. Next steps are that the board will get a document to assign its interests to the Forest Society. Why would we want to do this? 1) it would reduce the amount of paperwork, and 2) the Forest Society will be in position to enforce any infractions on the easements. The Conservation Commission highly recommends going forward with this. No action is required tonight. There will, of course be attorney review. The expense comes out of Conservation Commission's budget.
- Septic Feasibility Study RFP – Goodson spoke to this – The RFP has been much simplified. A discussion on distribution, site selection and system design ensued. Doucette suggested that the Sewer Commission review prior to sending it out.
- Budget & Warrant
  - Near Final Draft – a draft is posted, but a more final draft will be forthcoming.
  - Contingency Discussion – Myer explained that we can only have a 1% contingency and what many other towns to is to create expendable funds that basically function as a contingency. The board has copies of the warrant and budget for review.
- Energy Commission Appointments – Roberts motioned to appoint Ted Morgan, Ellen Farnum, and Gabrielle Watson, Goodson seconded, roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- Roberts raised the issue of closing the Transfer Station on Saturday due to frigid weather and motioned to close transfer station on Saturday February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. Goodson seconded, roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:**

- Account Balance: \$4,250,038
- Motion to wave Eversource's interest because of a cancelled SB meeting. Goodson Seconded discussion ensued. Kim Trammell entered the meeting and shared more details regarding this. Roll call vote Doucette no, Behr no, Goodson no, Prentice no, Roberts no.

### **SIGNATURE FILE:**

- Roberts motioned to approve Select Board Meeting Minutes, January 26th, 2023, Goodson 2nd Roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- Robert motioned to approve Non Public - RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Meeting Minutes, January 26th 2023, Roll call vote Doucette abstain, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- Appointment to the Energy Commission:
  - Gabrielle Watson
  - Ellen Farnum
  - Ted Morgan
- Interest Waiver Request - Eversource

- Roberts motioned to approve Payroll: \$46,055.37, Goodson seconded, roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- Roberts motioned to approve the Accounts Payable: \$108,040.00 Goodson seconded, Roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.

**SELECT BOARD UPDATE:** worked on Moose Plate grant for Town House, met with Myer and Farnum and Sanborn head on Tuesday regarding the Transfer Station, attended a grant workshop hosted by Federal government: Northern Border Regional Commission, last year we were not eligible this year Carroll County is in “transition” due to increased unemployment. So now can apply for grants.

**Behr:** Attended Sewer Commission meeting on 1/30. Feels the commission will be great, they are proactive. They feel that Horizon missed a few things, and that there might be more available gallons of capacity, once they rectify, they will send to DES by the February 27<sup>th</sup>, and hoping for a response within a month. So many by the end of March would know what DES position is. Have sent out notices to owners to the properties to not use certain kinds of wipes as they damage the system. Family Day: Shannon is working on organizing this, fireworks and the band will be on July 1st, and Shannon would like Select Board input if the parade and family day should be on the 4<sup>th</sup>. **Behr motioned to have band and fireworks at the school on July 1st, and the parade and in the village with family day in the village on the 4th. Goodson second. Roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.**

Goodson: Attended TSIC meeting. And worked on the revised RFP.

Prentice: Worked with Shannon on afterschool sports and summer programming and what that has looked like in the past.

Roberts: Nothing to report.

**PUBLIC INPUT:** Maureen Diamond thanked the Transfer Station Committee and the Select Board for all their hard work. She asked about the change in the agenda, with Public Comment being removed at the beginning of the meeting. Prentice commented there is a lot of public comments throughout meeting. So it’s an efficiency thing. Maureen appreciated efforts to manage the meeting. Discussion ensued about changes to the agenda and public comments. Bruno Siniscalchi noted that for years it was a custom and a courtesy.

Ed Comeau strongly encouraging the Select Board to make sure other boards are posting their meetings accurately. If it is not properly posted it should be cancelled.

**NON-PUBLIC:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:** Roberts motioned to adjourn 7:42.

Letter read by Mr. Willie Farnum to the Select Board:

*I’m here tonight as Chair of the Transfer Station Improvement Committee to discuss the EPA grant application. It is our hope that the Select Board will accept this application and apply for the available funds.*

*Let me begin by saying that the Transfer Station Improvement Committee is not asking the town to raise any additional money for this project.*

*If this EPA grant is not awarded, we will try for other grants.*

*If no grants come through, we will work to scale the project so that it fits within the approved budget from the 2022 town meeting.*

*Here is some background information. The EPA grant is a competitive federal grant and seeks to fund large projects. The minimum request for this grant is \$500,000.*

*To qualify for the EPA grant, we added some new equipment totaling \$151,695. We also updated our previous equipment quotes. These had increased dramatically due to inflation. The original equipment has now increased by \$90,830. With an updated timeline on the project, we could now factor in the anticipated inflation costs of about \$300,000. The total for the equipment and inflation put us at the threshold to apply for the grant.*

*Our original project was to be a 1.4-million-dollar project. With \$493,000 coming from the USDA grant which was awarded to the town.*

*In January of this year the Select Board hired Sanborn, Head & Associates to engineer the project. We requested the engineering firm to submit new cost estimates that we could use in the grant application to the EPA. This was a difficult task for Sanborn, Head & Associates as they had not yet done the design of the facility.*

*When the estimates came in from the engineers, the Transfer Station Improvement Committee members were shocked at the dramatic increase in the costs. These costs increases are in the grant application.*

*Our committee feels that it is in the best interest of the town to move forward with the grant request to the EPA. The EPA grant is a non-matching grant, thus no additional money is needed from the town.*

*Again, we are not asking for the town to raise more money, we are asking the Select Board to apply for this grant to improve the transfer station.*

*This is an opportunity to make a long shot from half court, nothing ventured, nothing gained.  
Thank you for your time.*

*Willie Farnum  
February 2, 2023*

*Emery Roberts, Chair*

*Karl Behr*

*Richard Doucette*

*Kelly Goodson*

*Lianne Prentice*