



## **SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

**OCTOBER 17, 2023**

### **MINUTES**

Selectboard Members in Attendance: Dick Norcross and Frank Day. John Hicks was attending a meeting with the Oxford County Commissioners.

Attendees: Fire Chief, Richard Perreault Animal Control Officer, Cindy Eaton; Assessor, Bob Konczal; Assessor's Assistant, Hannah Hutchinson; Planning Board Secretary, Pamela Thomas; Public Works Director, Cliff Cousins; Tiffany Caswell; Dan Larson; Dana Forcier, Jr.; Chad Pine; Barbara Moulton; Ada Lane; Deborah Tait; Whit Lucy; Dwayne Thurston; Joe Egan; Patrick Lewis; Brian Merrill; Lori Brann; Paul Bourbeau; Hailey Boudreau; Lisa Hebert; Vincent Carbone; BJ Parker; Lois Johnson; Christina Gillespie; Judy McIlvaine; Joyce Gibran; Neal McIlvaine; Stuart Smith; Alice Fitzgerald; William J. Flynn; Laura Ameika; Michael Macomber; Terry Egan; Steve Nutting; Diane Smith; Albert Smith; Judi Tordo; Sooz Eland; Debby Almquist; Tom Sando; Terry Lochhead; Cory Drew; and Bruce Collins. Zoom Attendees: 449878; Dan Greene; Bill & Terri; Lynn; & Cynthia.

Chairman, Dick Norcross called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.

Dick motioned, Frank second to accept the Minutes of October 11, 2023 Selectmen's Meeting. Voted affirmative by a show of hands.

Payroll and payables were approved.

Animal Control Officer, Cindy Eaton was asked about the issue on Blueberry Lane. She said she has been in contact with the DA's Office. Frank read a letter from Lisa Herbert about the ongoing problem on Blueberry Lane, a written statement at the Animal Control Officer's request. Frank explained he wanted to bring this out in open meeting because talking with Lisa and other neighbors they are going round and round and not going anywhere. Cindy said she checked with the DA and the case is on file, not closed. Frank said another issue is the cul-de-sac at the end of the road. He doesn't think that it is Randy's and that he will be looking into it. Lisa said she felt they were at the point where something had to be done and that the Game Warden was called and the dogs are not supposed to be on her property. Cindy said she has not submitted anything to the DA as of yet, that she has to submit everything to the DA first. Lisa reminds us that we have an ordinance. Cindy said the Town Lawyer would need to prosecute a town ordinance issue. Discussion ensued.

Hannah Hutchinson, Assistant Assessor spoke on the assessing that has been done for the year. Dick questioned the increase and was told that one of the articles were worded in such a manner that

we contacted the Attorney to see if it had to be included and the response was yes, he thought so. The rate increase to \$17.80 per thousand equates to \$105.00 per hundred thousand. She explained the Stabilization program will be going away and next year will be via a tax return if you file one. Bruce asked when will we be getting a tax bill? Dick answered probably next week. Alvina said they will be posted to the web as soon as possible also. There are poverty abatements, homestead and veteran exemptions to help if you qualify for them. Bob Konczal , Assessor mentioned that Cornish is up 6%; Porter and Denmark are at 7%; Fryeburg is at 8% and Brownfield is at a 5% increase. School, County and Town appropriations are also factors. Hannah said the revaluation process is about 80% so far. There was a discussion on the possibility of turning the \$422,358.50 over should the fire department grant come thru.

Frank motioned, Dick second to accept (Assessors' Certification of Assessment) the way it is. Voted unanimously by a show of hands.

Frank reported that Oxford County is looking at a regional animal control officer. Cindy said it is a state agent. They go around and look at abuse issues. Frank said he just wants people to know that they are working on it.

Correspondence from Cindy Willets regarding to interest on her taxes and a deposit that was made. Frank said Wanda is looking into. Frank said he assumes Wanda and Cindy will settle it.

The informational meeting is on the topic of the four articles.

Frank explained that a group of people have hired a lawyer in regards to Articles 6 & 7, and claims that the Selectmen are not doing this properly because we didn't have the proper hearings before but we contacted our lawyer and he said it is alright to move forward. Article 1 has to do with the position of the Tax Collector/Treasurer changing from elected to appointed. Article 2 basically the same as one except for the Clerk/Registrar changing from elected to appointed. Article 3 Creates a committee of 4 people to be on a hiring committee. Article 4 is to correct an addition/typo for the ACO.

Terry asked about this being revoted on and was told that the amendment was outside the scope of the original article. Joe spoke on the intent of the amendment was to make sure that qualified people were hired. He explained when Deb Merrill left the Planning Board there was a choice between Carrie Garland and Erik Walker to fill the position. The Board selected Carrie Garland because she had a mile long resume but she hadn't lived here long. There was a conversation between Hailey and Joe regarding how long he has lived here. Joe said that the attorney for the town said the best way was to hold a special town meeting, they did not say the articles are illegal and if it goes to court it will cost this town \$40,000, and those people that hired the attorney and he believes they will win. Frank stood up and read the article Joe was talking about. Discussion ensued.

Dick Norcross said that the articles in the Brownfield News letter is not sanctioned by the town.

Dick motioned, Frank second to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 5:36PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Alvina Day  
Administrative Assistant