



SELECTMEN'S MEETING

NOVEMBER 14, 2023

MINUTES

Selectmen in Attendance: Dick Norcross and Frank Day. John Hicks was attending the Oxford County Commissioner's Budget Meeting.

Attendees: Fire Chief, Richard Perreault; Animal Control Officer, Cindy Eaton; Brian Merrill; Dan Larson; Vinny Lanovara; Barbara Mouton; Deb Tait; Dana Forcier, Jr.; Ada Lane; Whit Lucy; Pat Sarracco; Vincent Carbone; Bruce Collins; and Joe Egan. Zoom Attendees: Lori Brann; SJS; & Hb.

Chairman, Dick Norcross called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Dick motioned, Frank second to approve the Minutes of November 3, 2023.

Frank motioned from the executive session that they had on November 9, 2023 and Dick 2nd, to increase Buddy's pay \$1.00 more per hour.

Payroll and A/P Warrants were approved.

Fire Chief, Dicky Perreault reported that he spoke with the Sherrif's Office a couple of times, they had 4 mutual aids, 9 motor vehicle accidents and 4 fire calls, for a small town they have been busy. They finished up the FEMA for Dec disaster and now, he & Lynn will start working on May's disaster. He reported that he finished up the generator grant and asked to bring the building committee back together after the first of the year. He'll be inspecting the fire extinguishers. They purchased tracks for the UTV. He thanked Frank and John for attending the class in Fryeburg. He's taken the necessary Health Officer and 911 Training invited everyone out for the upcoming Community Dinner.

Frank reported for Public Works that Cliff is looking for ideas for putting a roof off the Salt Shed for the grader, broom, and rake to keep them under cover. They have 5 bays and 6 trucks, a backhoe and a grader. They have a little shed for citizens of Brownfield to get buckets of sand and used the 4X4 International last storm with no issues. Bruce asked about a written policy for salt-sand use, Dick said they will look into it.

Animal Control Officer, Cindy Eaton reported 2 missing dogs and some missing cats. Frank asked Cindy whether she had any complaints about the barking dogs, and she said no. She said she has called the State multiple times, he has a farm, there is nothing you can do about it. Dan Larson mentioned hoodrats stealing anything they can get their hands on. Brian also said two days ago there were dogs running around behind his house. Discussion ensued.

Frank reported that Alex, a student at the University of New Hampshire sent an e-mail regarding the intersection of Route 5/113 and also, a lady named Hope, would like some signage, lights, or a round-a-bout at the intersection. Vinny Lanovara said posted speed signs are too high.

Franks said that Tom Cass is a topic to discuss with Wanda because they don't know anything about this property at this point.

Dana Batchelder-Quint Cemetery on Potato Hole Road quote/proposal for \$213 per occurrence (\$426/year). This would be added to his mowing for next year we'll check and see if we have money for this spring.

Patrick Bryant, in regards to Broadband for the Matrix proposal says it is on hold for a while. Dana Forcier, Jr., said that Spectrum already received a grant to do it.

The website was updated per Terry Egan for the Comprehensive Plan information.

Mike Vane, CEO filed the Building Permits Survey with the US Census Bureau.

Frank suggested that perhaps Michelle could review the MSAD Student List.

Frank reported that Brian Merrill had said the dogs barked all night October 28th and 911 said they would contact the ACO. Brian says that the ACO should have to use a town issued phone. Cindy said that they will not make her answer the phone and there's not enough memory with it.

There was a lengthy discussion when Vinny Lanovara asked if the referendum vote is settled, Dick answered that it was, and Bruce asked what is going to happen now? Dick said that there will be another election. Pat Sarracco said there seems to be conflicting information in the community and wants clarification. Dick said the positions remain elected. Joe said this is not accurate because the annual town meeting voted not to make these elected positions and majority vote agreed with that along with the amendment. It was stated that the amendment was outside the scope of the article. Joe said there is a chance that it could be challenged and it doesn't mean that it is going to be challenged, and who's going to challenge it? Vinny said the amendment changed the purpose of the article and discussion ensued. Debbie inquired as to how many positions this was for. Answer, 2.

Another lengthy discussion was when Bruce asked about the \$400,000 article. Joe explained that there were two possible grants that the town was going to apply for. One for the fire house and one for the community center and that there was concern that there would be competition for the grant, that it was recommended to only apply for one because we were not going to get two grants so the Selectboard chose the fire department. Joe said they wrote that (article) to show them that if we ever decide to pursue a grant for the community center the town is behind them. He said it didn't say they were going to and it didn't say they did, so for them to interpret that and say, oh we've got to budget money, budget money for what? There is no grant, there is no approval to proceed with renovating the community center so that \$400,000 should not have been budgeted for. Alvina said it shouldn't have been in the articles then, Joe said she was wrong and respectfully disagreed with that and also reminded Alvina that he was talking to the Selectboard. Dick said, that the people that brought the article up should have explained that so they wouldn't have voted for it. He said he did because a woman behind him asked what we are on the hook for and he said nothing. There is no reason for them to budget for a grant and there is no plan to pursue it. Frank ask what about the fact that we asked our lawyer, why do we have a lawyer if we can't trust what he tells us. Frank said the lawyer read the article and said, he has to go by what the article says. Frank said there is no way they would want to put a \$400,000 burden on the tax payers if they didn't have to. Discussion turned heated and the meeting ended at 6:08PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alvina Day, Administrative Assistant