



## SELECTMEN'S MEETING

MARCH 7, 2023

### MINUTES

**Selectmen in Attendance:** Dick Norcross, Ricky Emery; and John Hicks.

Attendees: Department heads, Fire Chief, Richard Perreault; Code Enforcement Officer, Michael Vane; Rec Director, William Tracy; Animal Control Officer, Cindy Eaton;

Dana Forcier, Jr.; Hailey Boudreau; Vincent Lanovara; Frank Day; Patty Barber; Pamela Thomas; Carrie Garland; Sonia Frye; Cynthia Willetts; Mitchell Dondero; Steve Nutting; William J Flynn; Dan Larson; Joe Egan; Terry Egan; Doug Heroux; Suzie Eland; Lisa Thompson; Bruce Collins; Matt Coen; Chase Coen; and Judi Tordo.

Chairman, Dick Norcross opened the meeting at 5:30 PM.

**Payroll and A/P Warrants** were reviewed and approved after a short discussion on an invoice for vehicle maintenance.

**The Minutes of the February 14, 2023 Meeting:** Dick motioned, John second to approve the minutes. Voted affirmative by a show of hands.

Dick Norcross reported on the Rec Dept and Snowmobile Club's sledding party on Farnsworth Road had about 170 people there and also the first sled-dog race went well and the people were happy to ride through the woods, they will do it again next year. He said there will be another sledding party this weekend. The Snowmobile Club has a lease with the Burnt Meadow Mountain Ski Area to use the building for a club house and recreation facility for outside recreation.

Code Enforcement Officer, Mike Vane reported he had zero building permits, zero septic permits, and 2 plumbing permits. He said John at the Market expects to be opening in about two weeks. He submitted a letter concerning a dangerous building on Plantation Lane; he recommends that it be removed from the lot immediately.

Willy reported basketball finished up. Spring sports signups will run until March 17; they have a sledding party this weekend and thanks all the volunteers that helped with the event last time; Rec is planning on an Easter egg hunt on April 9 with baskets, gave away a couple of bikes last year and hope to do so again. A fundraiser event is planned for the end of April, the fitness room is full of equipment, some needs to go to the dump

and he hopes to get some new things per a survey that he has. They will be having some special meetings for Brownfield Days with the Friends of Recs.

Dicky Perreault reported on a structure fire in Denmark and a fire call here at the same time, thankfully our call was only a pipe that came out of the stove. He has his grant ready to go with the Selectmen's letters, Sherriff's letter, and two Senators. Dick asked whether they would be going for the same money this time and Dicky said yes because there are only 15 projects. John asked whether the Community Center would compete for that money and Dicky said, yes. John said that he thinks he acted prematurely without knowing the facts. He recommends focusing on one project at a time, the Fire Station Emergency Center and back off on the Community Center. He asked whether the other board members agree with that and Dicky said that he thinks they should go for a different round for the Community Center and not compete with themselves for the same grant. Discussion ensued. Matt Coen questioned whether it has been confirmed that they will be competing. Matt said he thinks the fire department takes precedence. Joe said they don't want to compete with the Fire Department and explained that the town would have to prioritize. Terry says there is nothing that says you can only submit one application. Dick said he will call Caline himself tomorrow, he does not want them competing. Our fire department building was built in 1949, Matt said he is a little upset that there has been no input from the committee. Dick said they will have a meeting soon.

Patty Barber read from a 3-page document concerning the Mountain Division Railroad and the plan to tear up the tracks and replace it with a walking trail.

Terry Egan for the Mountain Division rails to trails, informed the Board of Selectmen that Senator Rick Bennett has submitted a bill into the Legislature to accept the recommendation of the Council and Senator Bennett is asking for this Board to submit a letter of support. The responsibility will fall on the municipality for maintenance costs.

John motioned, Rick 2<sup>nd</sup>, and it was unanimously voted by a show of hands, to schedule and post the following public notice: Public Notice, Town of Brownfield: The Board of Selectmen will be meeting on March 14, 2023 @ 9:A.M., at the offices of Kelly, Rimmel & Zimmerman, 53 Exchange Street, Portland, Maine for the purpose of meeting with the Town Attorney to participate in the alternative dispute of resolution conference required by Rule 16B M.R.Civ.Proc. with respect to the matter of Merrill v. Town of Brownfield, Oxford County Superior Court Docket No. AP-22-04. It was agreed that the BOS would not hold an evening meeting on this date.

Sonia apologized for not being able to attend the previously scheduled meeting and asked what are the question to bring to the attorney? John responded, the questions for the attorney are, how do the inconsistencies that are brought to the board that affect the governing of Brownfield from when it happened to now; does it affect the new comprehensive plan; do we have a problem, and how do we fix it or do we need to fix it? In response to the question about a quorum going from 4 to 3, Cynthia Willetts said

they are absolutely correct in 2018 they changed to make it an odd number. After contacting the attorney, they voided all of the votes and motion to void, motion to revote, and a motion step by step going back. In 2015, there were problems with people not attending the meetings so they couldn't get anything done. They had a few meetings with four members and four votes. Eventually they voted to go back to the 2007. When they did that, she said they forgot that you have to keep history. Cynthia said everything was done as the attorney told them to do to correct what was done. Now the Planning Board is using the 2007 bylaws. John said that it is not who did what, it's what happened. Discussion ensued. Sonia said she doesn't understand the objective, is the Selectmen against the plan and don't want it to go through, what is expected? John said it doesn't matter what he thinks of the plan, he wants the town's people to have the facts. John tried to make a motion but it did not get a second and people started talking and Dick stopped the discussion, he said the Board of Selectmen need to discuss it again themselves. Cynthia Willets asked whether anyone had a document right here that created the committee and she said when it was finished, the comprehensive plan was given to the planning board for review. Bruce Collins was allowed to say that when there was a quorum of three there were public hearings so he questions the legality of what was done. He had to prove that the comprehensive plan did, indeed exist. He also said the by-laws were in violation of the 1992. Dick said that the reason to send it to an attorney is to prove that it is fixed. Judi Tordo said that it sounds like it was all fixed. Dick said hopefully it was, the Board will discuss it and go from there.

Bill Flynn asked whether there is a safety committee and Dick said that it is not active now. He then asked if we are recycling now and he was told that we are not currently recycling due to the freezing in the containers and cost to reship it. Third, he questioned why a commercial hauler is dumping on the ground and why our employees are having to move it? Dick and Rick explained that it makes it easier at this time for the employees to do it.

Vinny Lanovara asked about a 2-draw filing cabinet for budget committee files. The Board will take it under advisement.

The Board voted by show of hands 3-0 to enter into executive session for personnel at 6:59PM. Dicky Perreault was asked to stay. At 7:25PM the Board came out of executive session and reentered the meeting.

At 7:25 PM, John motioned, Rick second to adjourn. Voted affirmatively by a show of hands.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Alvina Day, Administrative Assistant