

Updated

**Selectmen's Work Session and Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, February 12, 2024**

These minutes were transcribed by Angela Eldridge, Secretary. Selectman Martha B. Eldridge was in attendance, Selectman Jonathan H. Smith was in attendance and Matthew Sawyer Jr., Town Administrator, and T.J. Eldridge, Public Works Director, were also in attendance. The Work Session was held in the upstairs conference room. The Selectmen's meeting was held in the Bub Avery Gymnasium at Town Hall.

Selectman Jonathan Smith called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM.

Roll Call: Martha Eldridge, Jonathan Smith, Susan Simpson was absent.

Discussion:

Smith asked T.J. Eldridge when the fuel system would be in. T.J. advised that it was 2 weeks out when it was ordered last week and he also said he doesn't think it will need electrical work done. Smith asked how many days it will take to complete. T.J. said it would take a couple of days. Smith asked where they would get fuel in the interim. T.J. said they would be using CN Brown. The red folder documents were reviewed. Smith asked Matt what Municipal Management Association is. Matt advised that it is the Building Inspector Association Membership. Smith asked how much NHMA is yearly. Matt advised \$5000 but we do utilize them for legal advice. Smith asked if T.J. has noticed a change in auto pricing. T.J. advised the biggest jump is hydraulic hoses and tires. Discussion ensued. M. Eldridge asked how Bernie is doing. T.J. said he is doing good and progressing. Smith asked if the dump was the only facility using NH Co-Op. T.J. advised yes. Matt Sawyer Jr. advised that the Town Warrant is ready to be signed. The Town Attorney advised that they add a Warrant Article so that if the collective bargaining agreement fails, they can have a special meeting to figure out what to do next. He said we should have the moderator do it right after the collective bargaining agreement article if it is needed. Discussion ensued. Invoices were reviewed and signed. The Board received an email requesting late fees be forgiven on a check that was not cashed and the bill incurred late fees as a result. Smith made a motion to deny the request. The amount was \$33.54. M. Eldridge seconded. Motion passed. They briefly discussed the upcoming snow. T.J. said they are not expecting much but will be using the new blades. Smith read a letter to the DRA from the assessor regarding a request to change the assessment review year from 2025 to 2024 due to market trends as we would not meet the requirements for the ratio, and we would fail the assessment review. Smith made a motion to approve sending the letter. M. Eldridge seconded the motion. Motion passes. Matt mentioned that he had Kellie Skehan check the article on elections to be sure it was true with hers. She had no issues. Since Matt is on vacation next week, he suggested posting the Warrant now. All agreed. Matt will put a copy on the website, the bulletin board and all 3 post offices. M. Eldridge asked if Matt helps the Supervisor of the Checklist. He advised that T.J. got them new file cabinets and that he assisted in getting them new computers a few years ago but doesn't help in any other way. Discussion ensued. Smith made a motion to approve the Town Warrant. M. Eldridge seconded. Motion passed.

Chairman Smith made a motion to recess until 4:15PM. M. Eldridge seconded. Motion passed. The motion was made at 3:52PM.

Smith reconvened the meeting at 4:15 PM.

Smith opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Input:

Mr. Bowie asked about the fuel meter and the missing keys. He asked whose keys were missing, how it is managed and how much fuel we lost. Smith advised that no fuel was stolen. The area is under 24-hour surveillance. We don't know who left the key so that's why we are changing it so we can monitor it better. Bowie asked if the new system is hackable. T.J. Eldridge advised that the Lakes Region company we are using is a cloud-based program, but it is very accurate and if it could be hacked, there are no cash transactions. Discussion ensued. Smith said technology is here and unfortunately everything is hackable. Bowie mentioned the Texas skimming issue and his concern. Smith advised that there are no cards scanning. It will be a pin code and that will make it easier to track who is using it. Discussion ensued. T.J. mentioned that they check the meter quarterly so that is why they did not know the meter was running. The new system will also have a sensor in the tank as well. Discussion ensued.

Jen Spofford, Library Director, advised the library is offering tax prep services. She advised people to call 211 to schedule an appointment. She mentioned story time with Ossiipee Police Department and advised that Squam Lake is presenting winter animals next Thursday for all ages.

Accounts Payable & Payroll Manifest:

The Payroll Check Voucher total was submitted for the week ending 2/10/2024 with a pay date of 2/13/24 in the amount of \$45,498.92. Accounts payable/General Fund is \$213,899.08. Fire Precincts is \$149,034.58. School payment is \$990,928.00. Ambulance payment is \$37,398.61. Water accounts payable is \$1,163.03. Sewer accounts payable is \$964.00. The total was \$1,438,886.22. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting Minutes:

M. Eldridge made a motion to approve the minutes from the Selectmen's Work-Session and the Selectmen's Meeting held on 2/05/2024. Smith seconded. Motion passed.

Review of Red Folder:

The Board received a Clerical Abatement. Map 080, Lot 026, Sub lot 033- The camper was registered for the 2023 season. The abatement amount is \$246.00. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. Motion passed.

The Board received an elderly exemption application for Map 92, Lot 42. The assessor suggests denying. Smith made a motion to deny. M. Eldridge seconded. Motion passed.

The Board received a veteran's exemption application for 45 Huckins St. The assessor suggests approving. Smith made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded. Motion passed.

The Board received a veteran's exemption application for 16 Cherokee Lane. The assessor suggests approving. Smith made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded. Motion passed.

The Board received a veteran's exemption application for 63 Duncan Lake Rd. The assessor suggests approving. Smith made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded. Motion passed.

The Board received a veteran's exemption application for 20 Mount Shaw Rd. The assessor suggests approving. Smith made a motion to approve. M. Eldridge seconded. Motion passed.

The Board received a veteran's exemption and an elderly application for 10 Rainbow Dr. The assessor suggests approving the veteran's exemption and denying the elderly exemption. Smith made a motion to approve veteran's exemption and denying the elderly exemption. M. Eldridge seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business:

None Presented.

New Business:

None Presented.

Second Public Input:

Dallas Emery mentioned that school taxes are the highest and town taxes aren't really that bad. He doesn't understand why the school and county taxes are so high. No one goes to the meetings to ask why it costs so much. Smith encourages people to go to delegation meetings. Discussion ensued.

Smith mentioned that the trailer at Eckoffs discussed at a previous meeting was addressed. The owner is out of the country and has 2 weeks to move out the trailer upon his return.

Smith mentioned that Ossipee Mountain Road is in stellar shape for a dirt road. There are some potholes but that is to be expected.

Smith advised that the Rail bill has passed unanimously. It now goes for a vote to the House and then to the Senate. Emery asked if there are any fees. Smith advised no. It is to form a working committee that will meet to come up with a plan for a recreational trail for 10 miles. It won't be freight because it will cost too much money. Discussion ensued.

The next Selectmen's Meeting will be March 4, 2024.

Adjournment:

Being no further input, Smith made a motion to adjourn. M. Eldridge seconded. Motion passed.

Adjourned at 4:33 PM.

Jonathan H. Smith, Chairman

Susan J. Simpson (absent)

Martha B. Eldridge

To be approved at the next Selectmen's Meeting