

Selectboard Minutes

March 7, 2023

Present: Andy Artimovich, Chair
Jennifer Jones, Vice-Chair
Robert Mantegari
Jon Morgan (via zoom)

At 6:03pm, Artimovich called the meeting to order.

Mantegari read the Town Report dedication aloud. The 2022 Annual Town Report was dedicated to Albert “Skip” Belanger. The honoree spoke to those gathered and shared he was surprised and a little embarrassed as he believes there are other worthy recipients. Belanger thanked his wife for her support. Artimovich presented flowers to Belanger’s wife, Sandra.

The Board reviewed payroll and accounts payable then signed the register.

Mantegari motioned, seconded by Jones, to allow Morgan to attend remotely. All were in favor.

Morgan motioned, seconded by Jones, to accept the consent agenda which consisted of public minutes from 02/28/2023, non-public sealed meeting minutes from 02/28/2023, recreation manifest, treasurer’s report (found at the end of these minutes), and the following building permits:

- Beebe Family Living Trust, 335 South Road, Minor Project – bathroom remodel
- Span Family Trust, 31 Peabody Drive, Plumbing
- American Tower, 152 Route 27, Electrical

Jones – aye; Mantegari – aye; Morgan – abstain; Artimovich – aye.

Daphne Woss, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, was present to share some information about the upcoming March 14 election. She shared the election set-up will be Monday afternoon at 3pm at Swasey. Woss welcomes assistance with set-up.

Woss requested the Selectboard members be available the week following elections for possible recounts. She stated that ballots have been reprinted without the SB2 question.

Woss explained there has been a lot of discussion on social media and questions being directed to her about a specific candidate running for a Selectboard position who also serves on the Planning Board. She explained the candidate is aware he would need to step off the Planning Board if elected to Selectboard. Woss explained RSA 673:2 and 672:5 outline the guidelines which must be followed.

Morgan reminded the public the Selectboard appoints members to committees each year following elections.

Jones responded with her understanding of the RSA and explained the candidate could be the Selectboard’s representative, but could not serve in both capacities.

Liz Faria, South Road, asked how the vacant Planning Board position would be filled. Jones responded it would be filled by a Planning Board vote. Artimovich added it would be filled by a current alternate.

Lois DeYoung, Crawley Falls Road, asked if town counsel was consulted about the candidate. Artimovich responded there was no need to spend money at this point, as the election has not yet occurred.

Karen Clement, Town Administrator, shared New England Dragway was invited to attend tonight’s meeting. Due to a scheduling conflict, they could not make it. Due to time restraints, Clement suggested the board name a designee to meet with New England Dragway (NED) representatives and Chief Ventura in the coming week. Clement explained NED planned to attend the March 14 meeting to discuss their permit which is slated to begin April 1. She reminded the board there will not be a meeting on March 14 due to town elections and with the short timeline before races are slated to begin, they believe it is necessary to have a meeting with NED prior to the next selectboard meeting.

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Mantegari motioned, Morgan seconded, to name Jones to represent the board at the New England Dragway meeting. Jones – aye; Mantegari – aye; Morgan – aye; Artimovich – aye.

Rebecca Dunham, Regional Association Committee Chair, was present to offer her recommendations to the Selectboard. She explained this is the fourth year the committee has utilized a standard application process. Dunham believes the form has proven useful. She offered an overview of trends and shared that according to NHCF, New Hampshire residents were generous to charitable organizations in 2022. Dunham made her recommendations to the Selectboard on how the money should be allocated based on services provided to Brentwood residents, the financial standings of the organizations, along with other factors. She also requested the Regional Association Committee budget be increased to \$18,000 next year.

Mantegari motioned, seconded by Jones, to approve \$17,297 be distributed to the following:

- Austin17 House in the amount of \$4,740
- Community Children’s Fund through Exeter Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$940
- Rockingham Nutrition/Meals on Wheels in the amount of \$2,040
- Southern NH Services (SNHS) formerly Rockingham Community Action in the amount of \$5,647
- TASC in the amount of \$690
- Waypoint in the amount of \$3,240

Jones – aye; Mantegari – aye; Morgan – aye; Artimovich – aye.

Artimovich thanked the committee for their work.

Laura Hajjar, Regional Associations Committee Member, shared her appreciation for the process and for Dunham’s hard work. She expressed the ease of making of decision.

Dunham shared she would be in contact with Clement about terms of office and contact information for those approved to receive funds.

Mantegari stated there is a new Health Officer issue he will be investigating. He explained he would be connecting with necessary departments. Clement requested Mantegari email her with his availability to coordinate an inspection in the next few days.

Mantegari stated he has been to 313 Route 125 twice in the last week to check the water. He explained the business has contingencies in place including an expansion tank and holding tank. Morgan asked if it was installed. Mantegari replied it was not yet installed, but they were working on getting the necessary permits. Mantegari confirmed there is running water.

Jones shared the school business meeting is Friday, March 10 at 6pm. There will be childcare available.

Artimovich had no committee updates.

Morgan had no committee updates.

Liz Faria, South Road, asked what the NED meeting was about. Jones responded it was regarding permitting and road/traffic safety.

Michelle Siudut, Middle Road, requested the January 17, 2023, minutes be amended because the statement by Jack Mitchell regarding the exemptions was not made as a member of budget committee. Siudut stated the suggestions were not voted on by the budget committee. Mantegari motioned, seconded by Jones, to reopen the January 17, 2023, minutes and remove the wording “budget committee chairperson” in paragraph 3 on page 1 and replace it with “not speaking on behalf of the budget committee”. Jones – aye; Mantegari – aye; Morgan – aye; Artimovich – aye.

Liz Faria, South Road, claims she has received total compensation for each employee in the past. She asked how she could get that again this year. Artimovich responded it would be part of the review process for employees in 2023. He explained there was nothing handed out and documented this year. Artimovich went on to explain she has the insurance budget and the payroll budget. Clement explained, in the past, the document released was the proposed budget figures with the max benefits of what the employees are eligible for. She explained an employee’s medical election is not public information as it is protected information. Clement explained that in previous

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years, the budget committee requested information and was provided information based on employees accepting a family medical plan, family dental coverage, max benefits for short-term disability and life – not actual elections.

Jones asked if the budget committee requested that this year. Clement responded she was asked for employee's total compensation package. Faria argued she was given that information in the past. Clement responded it was benefits eligible packages not what each employee was electing. Jones stated it sounds like if the budget committee wanted some kind of document like years past, Clement could produce it. Siudut claimed she requested that information and it was denied. Clement responded the request was for employee's total compensation packages. Jones stated she feels there was some misalignment of requests.

Lois DeYoung, Crawley Falls Road, requested an explanation of how the SB2 question error occurred, how it was rectified, and the cost associated with it. Artimovich responded this was addressed at the last meeting with the exception of cost, as the invoice has not yet arrived for the ballots. Jones responded historically the SB2 question was a ballot question. A few years ago, the RSA changed Jones explained. Additionally, she offered, the wording of "warrant" in the RSA caused confusion. DeYoung asked how the town became aware of the situation. Clement responded that a resident called the Town Clerk over the weekend and she in turn reached out to Karen who worked with counsel to rectify the situation. DeYoung clamored for a thank you to the Brentwood Newsletter for bringing this to the town's attention.

Michelle Siudut, Middle Road, speaking as a budget committee member requested a copy of the front page of the warrant that was posted. After some discussion and clarification about what was being asked for, it was determined Siudut is requesting a copy of the warrant posted on February 27. Siudut inquired why the form she received for the school was blank. Clement responded that it was what was provided to her and explained she does not handle the school piece. She explained it would be up to the school board to correctly post that information.

Siudut asked where the warrant was posted. Clement responded at the town office and the polling location which is Swasey School.

Liz Faria, South Road, asked how the town attorney could be changed. Artimovich responded it would be business of the Selectboard. The town utilizes free resources from Primex or NHMA in addition to an attorney.

Michelle Siudut, Middle Road, asked if the warrant was legally posted since it was not put on the town website. Mantegari responded it is put on the website as a courtesy.

Having no other public comment, Artimovich asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mantegari motioned, seconded by Jones, to adjourn. Jones – aye; Mantegari – aye; Morgan – aye; Artimovich – aye. The meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tamera Peek

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WEEKLY TREASURER'S REPORT				
DATE:			3/7/2023	
General Fund:		TD BANK		
Previous Balance:		5,717,715.18		
Deposits:		218,965.45		
Payroll:		34,265.42	DDP: \$32,320.09	
			CHK: \$1,945.33	
FICA:		8104.79		
A/P:		21,677.44	Reg A/P Cks \$21,677.44	NHRS \$
			Swasey \$	CO-OP: \$
GF to Impact Fees				
Admin CC Pd		(2,075.15)		
Trans to Rec CC		(\$100.00)		
Account Balance:		5,870,457.83		
Interest Earned YTD:		23,775.12		
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Joyce A. Gallant, Treasurer				