

Selectboard Minutes
September 17, 2024

Present: Jenn Jones, chair
Andy Artimovich
Jon Morgan
Paul Kleinman
Letty Bedard

At 6:00pm, Jones called the meeting to order.

The Board signed the payroll and accounts payable summary register.

Kleinman motioned, seconded by Morgan, to accept the consent agenda which consisted of public minutes from September 3rd, the non-public minutes of September 3rd, an amendment was made to reflect that Artimovich was not present, the treasurer's report (found at the end of these minutes), and the following building permits:

- Kirk & Carrie Riden, 76 Dudley Rd, Minor Project
- Zahid Corp, 374 Route 125, Minor Project
- Owens Corning, 61 Pine Road, Electrical

All in favor. Motion passed.

At 6:03pm, Jones opened the meeting up to public comment.

Mark Kennedy, speaking as a private citizen, informed the Selectboard of his resignation from the Rockingham Planning Commission, stating that he feels the position would be better filled by a Planning Board member. Kennedy states that he will have this discussion with the Planning Board at their next meeting, September 19th.

Kennedy, Land Use Administrator, would like to request additional microphones, up to 4 stationery and one handheld. Kennedy explained that the Planning Board is a large group, 7 members and up to 5 alternates, with 2 support staff, applicants presenting plans, and they welcome public comment. The Board discussed microphone and placement options, as well as the receiver capacity. Bedard will speak with the Board consultant.

Bedard asked about the status of the podium that the Planning Board was having built. Kennedy and Bedard will discuss at the Planning Board meeting, September 19th.

Jones closed public comment at 6:10pm.

The Board discussed COLA and merit. The Board is in receipt of a memo from Three Bearings Fiduciary Advisors which predicts inflation over the next year in the range of 2.3-3.6% with an estimate of 2.9%. Bedard stated she would suggest using the 2.9%. It was explained that COLA was given across the board and merit was based on performance review. Clement met with Department Heads today, at that meeting they suggested a 3% COLA and up to 2% merit based on the memo from Three Bearings. Artimovich is in support of the suggested 3% COLA and up to 2% merit. Bedard asked if this vote would stop the Board from looking at general wage adjustments, the Board agreed it would not. Hearing general consensus to support the suggested COLA and merit Artimovich motioned, seconded by Kleinman to approve a 3% COLA and up to 2% merit, all in favor, motion carried.

The Board discussed the current remote work policy. Currently 4 employees utilize the ability to work remotely. Bedard stated that she understands the remote work policy stemmed from Covid, however she feels it is no longer serving the

Selectboard Minutes
September 17, 2024

community. Bedard added that she would still like to allow for exceptions and special cases. The Board agreed that most positions within the Town Office are community positions, and it is difficult to meet with the community from home. Clement stated that she would like staff members who are doing meeting minutes to have the ability to do that from home with no interruptions. Clement stated that that was done pre Covid. The Board asked if that was a set half day or if it was for a set number of hours. Artimovich moves that the current remote work policy be removed, remote days will now be at the emergency discretion of the Chairperson and up to 4 hours of minutes can be done remotely. The Board discussed a start date for the new policy. The Board agreed to November 11th. Artimovich motioned to have employees return to in person work, with the exception of people transcribing minutes who can have up to 4 hours per session at home, and at the emergency discretion of a chairperson, to begin November 11th, seconded by Bedard, all in favor, motion carried.

Clement provided the Board with a recommendation from the Planning Board to accept phase I of Three Ponds' roads. Clement clarified that the Homeowner's Association is responsible for the maintenance of the sidewalks. Clement explained that this would mean the Town is responsible for the maintenance, the plowing and salting of the roads to include Three Ponds Drive, Tuck Circle, James Circle and Sunset Lane. The Board asked Robinson if the roads were up to Town standards, Robinson stated that they are. Robinson expressed concern that the company that has been plowing the development has been plowing the snow into the roads, the Board agreed that the Town has a snow removal policy and that may need to be conveyed to that company. Bedard stated that feels strongly that the Town should be collecting impact fees for Highway. Bedard will do some research and bring this back to the Planning Board. The Board discussed whether they are required to take over new roads are not. Bedard stated that in the Planning Board rules and regulations it states the Town "may" take over the roads. Clement stated that to her knowledge Mill Pond is the only development that the Town does not maintain because the roads are too narrow and do not meet Town standards. Artimovich motioned to accept Three Ponds' Phase I roads, seconded by Kleinman. Artimovich – aye; Morgan – aye; Kleinman – aye; Bedard – nay; Jones – aye; motion carried, 4-1.

Clement presented the Board with a pole license PSNH doing business as Eversource for 1 new pole on Dalton Road. Morgan motioned to sign the pole license, seconded by Kleinman, all in favor, motion carried.

At the last meeting the Board signed off on a pre disaster mitigation plan, initials are required on the bottom of each page from the 4 members that signed.

Clement provided the Board with a vet credit for a surviving spouse. Motioned by Artimovich, seconded by Morgan, all in favor, motion carried.

The Board discussed the quote for stump grinding at the Rec Center. The Rec Commission is concerned the stumps will make that area impassable for community events and activities, such as The Peach Project. The Commission is also hoping to create at the very least, some temporary parking. The quote received is approximately \$25,000 and states it would result in a 60x80 parking area. A 60x80 parking area allows for approximately 12.5 cars. After some discussion it was decided not to move forward at this time, other options and more quotes are needed.

Artimovich attended the Library Trustees meeting, they are working on their budget, attendance is up.

Morgan attended the School Board meeting last night; they discussed financing the solar project. They will be doing a bond anticipation note application for \$662,000.

Economic Development will be meeting Thursday, September 19th at 6pm.

Morgan presented the Board with a proposed service agreement from grant writer Nancy Conner from Conner Consultants. The proposal is for a trial run of 3 months. The service agreement is for 8-10 hours per week at a cost of \$2,720/month. Ther

Selectboard Minutes
September 17, 2024

services provided would not be specific to Economic Development, Conner will look for opportunities for all Town departments. The funds to support this were allocated in the Economic Development budget. The Board would like Town Counsel to review the service agreement. Artimovich motioned to move forward with the service agreement after review by Town Counsel and the edit to address the Selectboard, seconded by Bedard. All in favor, motion carried. Artimovich amended his motion to include that Clement can execute the contract between meetings once reviewed and changes are made, seconded by Bedard. All in favor, motion carried.

Bedard attended the Conservation Commission meeting, Bayside Distribution was present to discuss potential wetlands impact. The Conservation Commission is monitoring easements and looking for volunteers.

Bedard asked for an update on the internet. Clement stated that the contract was reviewed by Town Counsel and Fidium's Counsel is currently reviewing the changes requested.

Bedard stated that as part of the Municipal Complex Committee she is working on an FAQ page for the Town website.

Jones stated that the Budget Committee will hold their final site walk at the library next Monday, September 23rd. The Budget Committee had a meeting last night, where they discussed the CIP update and altering the budget planning schedule. Historically the larger budgets, Police, Fire and Highway have been presented to the Boards late in the budget timeline. Clement stated this was due to the timing of when the Town received the new rates for medical insurance and the large number of employees in some of those departments, medical insurance now has its own budgetary line allowing for some flexibility. Clement worked with Jack Mitchell, Budget Committee Chair, this week to make the budget schedule more accommodating.

Artimovich asked Clement if she had spoken with Chief Bird regarding the change in ALS services in the area. Chief Bird is scheduled to meet with Bedard and Morgan at 6pm on Thursday regarding the situation.

At 7:13pm, Artimovich motioned, seconded by Bedard, to enter nonpublic for personnel, legal, safety and security. Artimovich – aye; Morgan – aye; Kleinman – aye; Bedard – aye; Jones – aye. Motion passed.

At 8:25, Morgan motioned to come out of non-public and seal the minutes, seconded by Artimovich. All were in favor. Bedard then motioned to adjourn, seconded by Morgan. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jillian Benedix

Selectboard Minutes
September 17, 2024

WEEKLY TREASURER'S REPORT				
DATE:			9/17/2024	
General Fund:			TD BANK	
	Previous Balance:		5,077,155.84	
	Deposits:		100,523.42	
	Payroll:		36,487.55	DDP: \$35,997.55
				CHK: \$490.00
	FICA:		8618.32	
	A/P:		268,910.74	Reg A/P Cks \$13,910.74
				Swasey \$255,000.00
	Pd Admin CC			NHRS \$
				CO-OP: \$
	Transfer to Impact Fees		(\$3,618.00)	
	Account Balance:		4,860,044.65	
	Interest Earned YTD:		117,440.74	