

Selectboard Minutes
January 14, 2025

Present: Jenn Jones, Chair
Andy Artimovich
~~Jon Morgan~~
Paul Kleinmann
Letty Bedard

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

The Board signed the payroll and accounts payable summary register.

Artimovich motioned, seconded by Bedard to accept the consent agenda which consisted of public minutes from January 7th, two sets of non-public minutes from January 7th, one of which is sealed, and the following building permits:

- 24 Commercial Drive, LLC, 24 Commercial Dr, Plumbing
- Theodore Field Jr., 106 Prescott Road, Electrical
- Irwin Family Trust, 5 Merrill Circle, Electrical
- River Run Development, LLC, 12 Taylor Circle, Plumbing
- Irwin Family Trust, 5 Merrill Circle, Electrical
- River Run Development, LLC, 10 Taylor Circle, Plan Examination

All were in favor. Motion carried.

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

Doug Marino, Mill Pond Road, Planning Board member, updated the Board regarding the Rockingham Planning Commission.

Jim Berlo, Scrabble Road, had comments regarding encumbrances.

Elizabeth Faria, South Road, had comments and/or concerns regarding the South Road and 125 intersection, the lights in that area, vehicle safety laws in New Hampshire and the Town Administrator's start date.

Jones closed public comment at 6:12pm.

The Board discussed encumbering funds for PFAs free fire gear. The total for this purchase was \$47,883.13, \$24,000 of ARPA funds were applied, the Fire Department is looking to encumber the remaining \$23,883.13. The Fire Department has unspent monies remaining in their 2024 budget due to open positions. The Board discussed that these monies would have been spent in 2024 if the order had come in. Artimovich motioned to approve encumbering \$23,883.13 to be used toward the purchase of PFAs free fire clothing that was ordered in 2024, seconded by Kleinman, all in favor, motion carried.

The Board discussed encumbering Conservation funds to pay for a consultant. After some discussion the Board felt it would be best start with NHMA; Jones also suggested asking the voters, stating it would be "cleaner." Jones will check with the Town Administrator starting Monday as well as NHMA.

The Board discussed encumbering funds for a drainage project, quotes were received August 9, 2024 for \$3990 and \$3850, the recreation commission is looking to encumber \$6400. After some discussion Kleinman stated that he would feel more

Selectboard Minutes
January 14, 2025

comfortable discussing this with NHMA as a contract was not signed, the Board was in agreement.

The Board discussed encumbering funds for the Highway Department's salt contract. The Board discussed if the funds would go in the capital reserve fund or the budget, or a combination. After some back and forth Bedard motioned to encumber \$30,000 for salt. Artimovich would like actual numbers from the past 5 years, Bedard stated that the prior year averages ranged from \$50,000-\$60,000. Artimovich stated he would agree to \$40,000. Bedard retracted her motion. Kleinman motioned to encumber \$35,000 for the Morton Salt contract, Artimovich seconded. Artimovich, Kleinman and Jones – aye, Bedard – nay, motion carried 3-1.

The Board discussed the earned time policy that was put in place in 2024. The Board apologized for carrying over 80 hours rather than 96 hours for Fire employees. The Board has paid out 1 special exception for employee Benedix who in the absence of a Town Administrator was unable to use earned time. The Board heard back from 1 employee when they asked if there were any special exceptions they should consider. The Board was asked to consider if they would like to amend the policy and if they would like to hear the employee's request. The Board was in agreement that they would be willing to discuss the policy in the future if needed. The Board heard Town Clerk/Tax Collector Woss' request. Woss had a planned vacation in December, due to unforeseen circumstances with one of her employees Woss was unable to take her vacation. Artimovich suggested allowing Woss to carry over the additional 40 hours to be used in 2025. Kleinman motioned to allow Woss to carry over an additional 40 hours of earned time to be used in 2025, seconded by Artimovich, all in favor, motion carried.

The Board was in receipt of one bid in response to the RFP for the 2025 revaluation. The bid was submitted by KRT, the company that did the prior revaluation, the bid was reviewed by Jim Michaud, the Town Assessor. The bid is good for 60 days from today's date for \$155,000 for 244 parcels. There is currently \$143,000-\$145,000 in the capital reserve, the Board will consider asking the public for the remainder at Town Meeting. Due to a late state the completion date is estimated to be September 12th.

Morgan arrived at 7:11.

Berlo and Bedard were present for the ad hoc budget communications committee. Berlo stated this is a citizen's document and discussed with the Board ways to get their information out to the public without it being associated with the Selectboard or Budget Committee. Jones asked how the public would know the information was accurate. Berlo and Bedard seemed to agree to the Budget Committee confirming the numbers are accurate. No decision was made as to how to get the information to the public.

Rebecca Dunham, Regional Associations, has 3 recommendations and is looking for Selectboard support. Regional Associations has reviewed their application process, Dunham explained that applicants were notified after Town Meeting but before April 15th; the applicant would then have to request the check in writing. Dunham would like to automatically issue the checks once approved at Town Meeting and would like the Regional Associations Committee be notified when the checks are issued. They Regional Associations Committee would also like to have a separate meeting in January to approve their minutes and be able to post them on the website in a timely manner. Bedard motioned, seconded by Artimovich, the Board accepts the recommendations of the Regional Associations Committee to amend their process, and approve the dispersment of funds. Artimovich, Bedard, and Jones – aye; Kleinman abstains, motion carries.

Dunham announced she will be stepping down as Chair of Regional Associations, she will finish her term on the committee. Laura Hajjar will take over as Chair of Regional Associations.

Kleinman stated that the Conservation Commission had a great presentation on dam removal recently.

Selectboard Minutes
January 14, 2025

Artimovich reminded everyone to please license their dogs.

Motion by Morgan, seconded by Artimovich to enter nonpublic for hiring, reputation, legal (b,c,l.) Roll call vote: Artimovich -aye, Morgan – aye, Kleinman – aye, Bedard – aye, Jones -aye. Motion passes. Nonpublic convened at 7:44 PM.

At 8:17 PM, Artimovich made a motion to leave non-public session, seconded by Morgan. All were in favor, and public meeting reconvened. Artimovich made a motion to seal the minutes, seconded by Kleinman. Roll call vote: Artimovich - aye, Morgan – aye, Kleinman – aye, Bedard – aye, Jones -aye. Motion passes.

At 8:17 PM, Artimovich made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Morgan. All were in favor, motion passes and meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jillian Benedix