

Selectboard Minutes

May 17, 2022

Meeting convened at 6:00 pm

Present: Andrew Artimovich
Jennifer Jones
Robert Mantegari
Russ Kelly

Artimovich called the meeting to order.

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

Chief Ventura was present to recognize Officer Chris Spitalere and Officer Jeremy Worcester. Chief Ventura recognized Officer Worcester for his work recently in getting 122 grams of heroin and 10 grams of methamphetamines “off the streets” following a motor vehicle stop for defective equipment. Using his training, Worcester was able to assess the situation and recognize the information the operator of the vehicle was stating was not adding up.

Officer Chris Spitalere was recognized by Chief Ventura for his work that resulted in 2 felony arrests following an interaction with three subjects in the process of stealing catalytic converters from vehicles of a closed business. This interaction resulted in a foot chase of one subject and ultimately the apprehension of all three subjects involved with the assistance of other agencies. These individuals were part of a ring stealing catalytic converters from NJ to Maine. Spitalere’s training and attention to his surroundings helped with these arrests. Both officers were presented with meritorious service awards and accompanying pins.

Chief Ventura spoke to the board about the radios currently being used by the police department. He explained they are not sufficient. Following research of the current equipment, it was realized the radio equipment is outdated and as of 2019 stopped being supported by Motorola. Ventura explained the radios cannot scan which prevents officers from knowing what might be occurring in another town and could impact Brentwood. He explained there are five (5) radios that need to be replaced. He is requesting funds to cover the cost of three (3) radios now and two (2) radios next year. Karen Clement, Town Administrator, explained there is money available from the special detail fund. Jones asked if it could be used for purpose. Clement responded the fund is for cruisers and related equipment. Ventura is requesting up to \$12,000 to replace three radios. He went on to explain the newest radio is from 2005 and three radios are from 1997.

Mantegari motioned, seconded by Jones, to use up to \$12,000 from the detail revolving fund to purchase 3 police radios. All were in favor. The motion carries.

Mantegari motioned, seconded by Jones, to approve the consent agenda covering the treasurer’s report (found at the end of these minutes), building permits, recreation checks, public and non-public minutes from 5/3/2022. Artimovich – aye; Jones – aye; Mantegari – aye; Kelly – aye.

Clement presented the board with a document outlining funds to be released to the state for animal population control fees program. Mantegari motioned, seconded by Jones, to release \$2,450.50 to the State of NH. All were in favor.

Clement presented information from the recreation department about updating the parade route. She explained it would be about a 1.5-mile route that begins at the highway shed and ends at Swasey School. Clement continued explaining the new route would have two positions to allow for kids and walkers to join the parade. Rec Director, Andy Gray, has spoken to police, fire, and the highway department. All departments are in favor of this proposed route. Jones asked if there was any concern about parking. Clement responded attendees could use the highway shed or the Pilgrim Church for parking.

Artimovich asked about viewing the parade because many people would previously stand at Lindy’s and the library. Jones stated the straight route was acceptable if they are confident there is adequate parking. She asked where bicycle owners and walkers would park. Clement explained they could park on side streets. Jones added that if PD approved the route, they must have considered traffic implications. Clement explained the rec director was looking for approval so he could file for the state permit.

Lois DeYoung, Crawley Falls Road, was present to speak on behalf of the parade committee. She explained Lindy’s has been spoken to and they have been invited to participate in the food aspect of the social happening at the end of the parade. DeYoung added the loop has no access points and the new route will provide a safer route with additional access points in the event of an emergency. Mantegari asked

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a question about which Swasey entrance the parade would use. DeYoung responded it would be the first entrance. She added there would also be parking available at Swasey School and following the parade there would be food and games. Artimovich asked if the school has been asked when they would be ripping up the parking lot. DeYoung assured the board they have been spoken with already. Mantegari confirmed the date would be Monday, July 4th. Kelly asked about parking on side streets. DeYoung responded side streets, as well as some of the cul-de-sacs could be utilized for parking.

Mantegari motioned, seconded by Jones, to accept the parade route the recreation department submitted. All were in favor.

Jim Michaud, Route 125, explained the parade committee hopes to get businesses involved in the parade as well.

Mantegari shared the date for National Night Out will be Tuesday, August 2nd.

Jones proposed a change to the Covid guidance. She shared that several months back the Center for Disease Control (CDC) changed how numbers for Covid were being reported. Previously they were reporting on transmission of covid but have changed to report on community level of Covid. The idea is to have a more realistic look at how Covid is affecting communities with hospitalizations and bed utilizations more than just the number of cases. Jones explained that with the change, most of the country went to green. She shared the levels are green/yellow/red. Jones further expounded Rockingham, Grafton and Sullivan counties have flipped red in the past week, as well as areas of VT, ME, MA.

Jones continued with her explanation of updated CDC guidelines of red areas which include universal masking, encouraging vaccinations, ventilating, and social distancing. She requested the board consider zoom access for meetings and public postings at the town buildings of the CDC guidelines that masking is recommended. Artimovich requested Clement check on the guidelines for zoom now that the emergency order has been lifted. Kelly asked for clarification on the use of zoom for it being for attendees and not board members.

Jones motioned, seconded by Kelly, to post current Covid community levels and CDC mask recommendations at the town office. Mantegari voiced his concern about misinformation and covid/mask fatigue. He shared he does not believe dispersing health information is the town's responsibility. Artimovich stated he believes Jones is recommending mask usage for town employees. He requested Clement weigh in on that piece. Clement explained she spoke with all town employees, and they responded that they would like to make that choice for themselves. Jones offered clarification that she is not looking to mandate masks, just to offer information on what the current information is for NH. Mantegari again expressed his concerns about recommendations before it went to vote. Jones – aye, Kelly – aye, Artimovich – aye, Mantegari – nay. Motion carries 3-1. Artimovich requested Clement add this to each agenda going forward. Jones stated she will connect with Clement about what to post since guidelines are updated every Thursday.

Jones requested Clement get back to the board about the possibility of using zoom for the public board meetings. Clement then referenced guidance information from NH Municipal Association on the use of zoom for public meetings. She read, “there is no prohibition in the statute on allowing the public to access the meeting by means other than physical attendance, so long as physical attendance is permitted.” She went on to share “if the public body chooses to allow a public comment period for both those who attend remotely and those who attend in person, both groups should be treated equally.” Jones made a motion to allow zoom participation while the town remains in high community covid. The motion was seconded by Kelly. Jones – aye, Kelly – aye, Artimovich – nay, Mantegari – nay. Motion is deadlocked 2-2. The topic will be readdressed when Morgan returns.

Jones asked Artimovich the reasoning behind the no vote. He responded it was due to the issues that occurred during previous uses including the difficulty of running a meeting while administering the use of zoom, in addition to the banter in the comments section. Artimovich added there were issues with porn being displayed as well during a ZBA meeting.

Artimovich asked members to recap on the committees they are part of. Kelly stated he missed the library trustees meeting due to scheduling conflicts but did attend the 2½ hour ZBA training.

Jones asked if there was any follow-up regarding the solar at the school. Clement responded she is still looking into regulation changes.

Liz McConnell, library trustee, stated the committee was reviewing septic documents, researching amphitheater plans, and if ramp meets the ADA requirements.

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Liz Faria, South Road, spoke during public comment about her feelings on the Brentwood newsletter and the board's role. Faria feels the board sanctioned a communications committee while only part of the town knew about it. She also voiced her concern about the consent agenda and the board's ability to agree to things outside of public meeting. Faria finished her comment asking Jones if the communications committee was started with an intention to take over the newsletter. Artimovich responded that Jones addressed the formation of communications committee and it being separate from the newsletter at the last meeting. Jones stated she believes the newsletter should not have a point of view and be strictly for information sharing. She continued by explaining that the communications committee was first discussed a year prior to the previous board with a goal of having a joint calendar and information sharing. Jones used the examples of warrant articles and zoning amendments as 2 topics which could be shared by the communications committee on social media prior to an election.

Artimovich responded to a comment from Liz Faria regarding meetings not being opened to the public. He stated that meetings continue to be open to the public. He explained the consent agenda covers minutes, building permits, treasurer's report, and recreation checks. Artimovich stated the minutes continue to be available to the public online, as is the treasurer's report as part of the minutes. Faria questioned the mail not being available to the public anymore. Artimovich explained that has never been read as part of the meeting.

Melissa Litchfield, Eleanor's Way, expressed her feelings of disappointment regarding the posting of recommendations of the CDC. She believes the motion is a step backwards and totally disregarded what the town health officer stated. Litchfield shared information she learned from the State House recently. She pointed out that someone at the town will be required to stay on top of posting current information every week and she believes it will be creating fear. Jones responded to Litchfield's comments.

Becky Dunham, Block Drive, asked a question regarding when the communication committee would be meeting and if direct communication would go to those who volunteered. Clement responded there is a plan in the works for a meeting to occur the week of June 13th or June 20th. She explained the date will be posted on the website and in the upcoming newsletter. Dunham asked if the volunteers would be contacted directly. Clement responded they would be.

At 6:52pm, Mantegari made a motion to enter non-public meeting for reputation and hiring. The motion was seconded by Jones. Artimovich – aye; Jones – aye; Mantegari – aye; Kelly – aye.

At 7:26pm, Mantegari motioned to come out of nonpublic and seal the minutes from the non-public meeting. Jones seconded the motion. Artimovich – aye; Jones – aye; Mantegari – aye; Kelly – aye; Morgan – aye.

At 7:26pm Mantegari made a motion to adjourn. Jones seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Tamera Peek

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WEEKLY TREASURER'S REPORT			
DATE:		5/17/2022	
General Fund:		TD BANK	
Previous Balance:		2,687,310.14	
Deposits:		47,760.83	
Payroll:		24,310.75	DDP: \$24,019.58 CHK: \$291.17
FICA:		6052.20	
to Impact Fees			Reg A/P Cks \$56,981.67 NH Retirement \$
A/P: Regular		255,664.67	Swasey : \$198,683.00 CO-OP: \$
CC pd to Rec from GF void checks			
Account Balance:		2,449,043.35	
Interest Earned YTD:		2,222.24	
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Joyce A. Gallant, Treasurer			