

Selectboard Minutes

July 19, 2022

Present: Andy Artimovich
Jennifer Jones
Robert Mantegari
Jon Morgan
Russ Kelly

Artimovich called the meeting to order at 6pm.

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

Mantegari motioned, seconded by Jones, to approve the consent agenda covering public and non-public sealed minutes from the 7/05/22 meeting, treasurer's report (found at the end of the minutes), recreation manifest, land use change tax forms and warrants for 13 properties, Veteran's Tax Credit, appointment slips for inspectors of election for Carl Alder, Julia Anderson, Melissa Belskis, Elizabeth McConnell, Kathleen Beggin, Katie Coppola and Gabrielle Kelly and the following building permits:

- 3 Ponds LLC, 60 Three Ponds, Plumbing
- Hayley & Paul Breagy, 21 Longmeadow Drive, Minor Project – new roof shingles & underlayment
- Donald & Joyce Miller, 8 Ole Gordon Road, Electrical
- William & Jo Ann Beltre, 86 Lyford Lane, Building
- George Sutton & Linda Coan-Sutton, 15 Three Ponds Drive, Minor Project – finishing attic space for office space
- Robert Cole & Letty Bedard, 198 Middle Road, Demolition
- 3 Ponds LLC, 31 Three Ponds, Building
- CMS Sullivan, 8 Tanya Lane, Electrical
- CMS Sullivan, 13 Tanya Lane, Electrical
- 3 Ponds LLC, 31 Three Ponds, Electrical

All were in favor. The motion carries.

Chief Ventura was present to discuss National Night Out and his desire to inform the public about a few plans of the police department. He intends to promote the building plans which were designed before he took position as Chief. Ventura applauded the comprehensive work done by the engineering students at Norwich and the plans that were developed. Chief Ventura is hoping to begin the process of a new police building in 2023. He would like to begin showing the public what work has been done on the plans by enlarging the drawings to show the exterior rendition and the 2 floor plans. His goal would be to promote it at National Night Out to help educate residents about the work that has been done by a building committee and what the proposal looks like. Ventura also plans to gather numbers based on economic growth that may not have been considered when the plans were first drawn up.

Jones asked if the plans were 4 or 5 years old. Ventura responded it was a 2020 publication. He further explained the group did such a comprehensive job; the plan had projected numbers for 2023. Morgan asked if the group was still active. Ventura replied he is working on reactivating the group. Mantegari added that committee was paused until Chief Ventura got up to speed on the department, town, and the building plans. He further explained the group would like Chief Ventura to possibly visit the other sites that were examined as a possible location for the future Police Department. Ventura shared he would like to dispel a rumor about an indoor shooting range. He is not in favor of a shooting range in the lower level of the building. He feels it would be a liability for the town, residents would not appreciate it even if there was sound proofing done, and it could possibly draw officers to the PD for the wrong reasons.

The second item Chief Ventura shared his desire about promoting is bringing a K9 unit back to Brentwood. He shared he is not looking for a patrol dog. Ventura shared his desire would be for a drug dog and stated that Route 125 is a drug corridor. He also shared a K9 unit is great community policing tool. Ventura understands there is a significant outlay to starting the program. He has explained to his officers that if the town is to start a K9 program it would have to be 100% donation based. Ventura explained to the Board that the fundraising would run through the Association and not the PD budget. An association account has already been established at Service Credit Union according to Chief Ventura. The estimated start up cost is \$20,000 and Ventura estimates the yearly budgetary cost to be less than \$3,000.

Mantegari asked what the manpower cost would be to running the K9 program. He stated he believes it would be no more than \$3,000 based on a previous K9 the town had. Ventura responded the manpower cost would be built into his budget because the dog would serve a patrol function. He also explained the officer would not be a new officer, but one that is already existing. Ventura shared the \$20,000

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start up would cover the purchase and training of the dog and the build out of an existing Tahoe to transport the dog. Mantegari asked about a kennel. Ventura explained the dog would reside with the officer and there would be a requirement for the officer to receive 4 hours of pay per week for the care of the dog. He stated the officer would work 4 nine hour shifts in addition to the 4 hours of care and training. The training would be built into the training budget. Ventura went on to explain the \$3,000 yearly cost would be to cover vet care, toys, food, incidentals, training items and eventually controlled drugs for training purposes.

Mantegari stated he remembered added expenses from the last two dogs the town had. Jones asked what happened to those dogs. Mantegari responded one of the dogs went to a jail to guard the perimeter because the dog was better suited for that role than patrol. Mantegari explained the second dog left with its handler when that officer left the Brentwood PD. Clement added that typically the dog is not easily transferred to another handler. Ventura added that a K9 would help retain a good officer because the officer would sign a 5-year contract in addition to their 3-year contract. He explained if the officer left, he would have to buyout the dog, eliminating the loss of the startup money.

Mantegari asked how much money was budgeted for in previous years for the other K9 units. Clement responded it was about \$2000-\$2500 and vet care was donated by Mitchell Animal Hospital. Artimovich stated the biggest expense for the K9 is the loss of an officer patrolling for 4 hours per week and whatever time the officer is in training. Ventura stated he did not see a disruption in service when he started the K9 program the same way in Wakefield. Morgan asked if there are any grants available from the state. Ventura responded that there are not any for the start up of the K9 program, but he will be seeking grants for training. Mantegari asked if there would be a canine demonstration at National Night Out on August 2nd. Ventura responded there would be a patrol dog demonstration.

Ventura explained when he started the K9 program in Wakefield, the training occurred in the Boston area. He shared that since then, the company has branched out into NH with support from the Boston program. Ventura stated it will be less traveling for the training of a Brentwood K9. He also shared he already has an officer in mind to be the handler. Jones asked how the other officers feel about the program and that officer being chosen. Ventura responded that everyone is supportive. He also explained a K9 is not for every officer – those who have children or live in an apartment may not be a good option. Ventura explained there has been no animosity. Jones asked if the dog would be for just illicit substances. Ventura responded it would be for illicit substances, search and rescue, an article dog and in the future possibly certified in bomb detection which would be helpful at the track.

Chief Ventura explained that the town has not committed to anything yet. There is a female dog that has been chosen, but there has been no commitment and it hinges on the ability to raise the funds through donations. Jones asked what the timeframe would be for raising the funds. Morgan asked how old the dog is. Ventura responded she is 10-12 weeks. The goal would be to send the dog to training in the spring according to Ventura. Jones stated it appears the town previously had bite trained dogs while this would be a transition to a different type of dog. Ventura responded that was accurate and added he is not downplaying their importance. He just is not looking to go in that direction. Jones motioned, seconded by Morgan, to allow the police department to promote fundraising for a K9 program. All were in favor.

Chief Bird was present to discuss some needs for the fire department building. Bird explained the building is 10 years old and needs some repairs. An AC unit needed replacing which cost about \$3,500. During that repair, it was learned there was additional work that needed to be completed to keep the compressor functioning. That was an additional unexpected \$575 cost according to Bird.

The Generator Connection quote was provided to the board from Chief Bird for the backup generator maintenance. The maintenance required a solenoid to be replaced and a load test to be completed. Neither of these items were budgeted items. Bird is requesting money from the capital reserves funds for building maintenance to cover these repairs. Mantegari motioned to expend \$4,825.68 from the capital reserves funds for building maintenance for the fire department. Morgan seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Chief Bird informed the board that starting July 30, the fire department would begin their 24-hour rotations starting with 3 people. Bird explained he is still looking for the fourth person in the rotation, but it has posed challenges. Mantegari asked how many openings were in the area. Chief Bird responded he didn't have an exact number, but he shared area departments are still looking including Bedford and Laconia who are both looking for 10 new hires. Jones asked if there were still 2 openings in Brentwood. Bird responded there is one opening remaining because he was able to fill one spot with an in-house person.

Janice Wiers, library director, was present to discuss some needs for the library. She explained last year she was able to have 2 AC's replaced. This year, the third unit is having issues and cannot be used due to icing inside and outside the unit. The library has been forced to keep it off. Wiers requested \$5,300 to repair the unit. Additionally, she is requesting money for a split unit from impact fees. Wiers

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stated in twelve months there have been 10,000 visitors. There were 150 visitors in a 5-hour period recently. Mantegari asked how much money there is in impact fees for the library. Clement responded there is \$46,000 in impact fees. Mantegari shared his thoughts on the efficiency of a split unit in addition to the opportunity to use impact fees. Wiers was very receptive to the idea of doing split units but had hesitation because of the timeline in which to get the work done. Mantegari stated he believes he has at least 1 window unit he could allow the library to use. Morgan stated he has a large portable unit the library could use. Artimovich stated he also has a unit that could be put in as soon as Wednesday. There was some discussion between Artimovich and Mantegari about the cost of the splits. Mantegari requested Wiers get quotes for two split units. Artimovich suggested Heat Pro and Diamond Mechanical on Route 125 for quotes.

Clement shared that the communications subcommittee had their second meeting last Thursday. She stated they are looking for permission to use the town seal on the Facebook page they are hoping to launch in the September/October timeframe and for branding. Jones asked if the seal was copyrighted. Clement responded it is not copyrighted, but the town has a policy that the seal cannot be used without permission of the Selectboard. Mantegari motioned, seconded by Morgan, to allow the communications subcommittee use of the town seal for Facebook and branding. All were in favor.

National Night Out will be happening on Tuesday, August 2nd. Clement reminded the board members that there will be no board meeting as previously decided on, but at least 3 selectboard members will need to come sign the manifest by 4pm that day.

Clement presented the board with abatement forms for 29, 31, 33, and 35 Route 107. She explained that two meetings ago, land use change tax forms and warrants were signed in the amount of \$13,750. Clement further explained the first two units of that subdivision had land use tax forms and warrants in the amount of \$12,500. The developer has met with Jim Michaud, town contracted assessor, to discuss the issue. Michaud has provided a memo for the abatement of \$1,250 for each of the four units. Mantegari motioned, seconded by Jones, to sign the abatement forms. All were in favor.

Pricing for the additional linear feet of guardrail on the down stream side of the Mill Road Bridge was presented by Clement. The additional cost will be \$2,262. Mantegari motioned, seconded by Jones, to expend \$2,262 from the capital reserve fund for the bridge. All were in favor.

Kelly explained to the board that he had previously brought up the idea of ventilation for the town buildings possibly using ARPA funds, but it was not really discussed further after he brought it up originally. Jones asked if there was discussion with the prior board about utilizing the ARPA funds for ventilation. Artimovich stated he believes the ARPA funds have been spent. Jones questioned the \$200,000 she thought was available. Mantegari explained it had been allocated to the fire department. Clement explained the air purifiers the fire department utilizes are portable units and she believes the cost was about \$1,500 per unit. Mantegari asked if those same units could be used in the town hall. Clement responded they could purchase one for the conference room and one for the Sanborn room. Jones asked if other buildings had purification. Wiers replied they opted for cleaning services for one year using the funds, but there is no ventilation system. Jones suggested the air purification be examined prior to getting into the cold and flu season. Clement will research the pricing and the adequacy of square footage and then report back to the board.

Electricity prices was the next topic Kelly wanted to discuss with the board. Kelly would like to provide a resource for the town about saving energy and instructions on how to seek an alternate energy supplier. Clement had suggested Sue Benoit, the welfare director, to be a resource along with possible flyers that could be at the town office. Wiers offered the use of the library for any presentations that might be offered to residents. Jones added the increase is slated to be 112%. Artimovich stated NHSaves is also a reliable website that explains ways to save on electricity usage.

Kelly asked if the Seabrook alarm notification worked like it was supposed to following the false alarm situation a few weeks prior. Clement explained that if there was an actual event, Rick Murphy, emergency management director, would notify the PD. The PD would in turn notify Clement and she would work through the list of Selectboard members.

Morgan shared there is an economic development meeting at 6pm on Wednesday, July 20. The committee will be reviewing specific grant programs that currently have open application periods for economic development. He went on to discuss the PlanNH charette that was previously introduced a few meetings prior regarding the rec facility area.

Mantegari updated the selectboard on the Conservation Commission. He explained they are still working with families, landowners, and SELT to possibly conserve some land. Jones asked if there was a time frame. Mantegari explained there is no timeframe as there are negotiations, research that occurs and agreements that must be reached. He also explained there are different land uses – some that can be

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farmed and some that are wetlands and cannot be farmed.

Liz Faria, South Road, asked about driveways on Route 125. Artimovich responded that is a state DOT issue and the town has no say over those decisions.

Liz Faria, South Road, asked about the charette Morgan was speaking about. Morgan explained Plan NH is an organization that offers a program that meets for a weekend with the town and interested residents. The group takes ideas from residents and transforms those into a plan. Morgan gave the website as PlanNH.org and suggested people look into all they have to offer. Faria asked if it would be new expenditures for the town without any tax revenue. Morgan suggested the conversation about all the details be discussed “offline” in a more suitable setting.

Liz Faria, South Road voiced her concerns about Chief Ventura’s desire to display building plans and a K9 program. Jones responded that Ventura is aware he needs to get the town on board with the K9 Program. She also stated Ventura understands the building will need to go before the voters. Morgan responded there has been a committee for the new police building. Mantegari also responded there are plans and research that was previously done. He also stated he understands there will be a need for a warrant article.

Bill Faria, South Road, shared some of his thoughts about the future PD and the current fire station. He cautioned the board to ask fiscally responsible questions when people are requesting money.

Liz Faria, South Road, asked about the status of Covid. Jones responded that Rockingham County is currently low and has been for a few weeks.

At 7:09pm, Mantegari motioned, seconded by Morgan, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Tamera Peek

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| DATE: | | 7/19/2022 | | |
| General Fund: | | TD BANK | | |
| Previous Balance: | | 7,686,623.07 | | |
| Deposits: | | 249,016.13 | | |
| Payroll: | | 29,994.69 | DDP: \$28,778.20 | |
| | | | CHK: \$1,216.49 | |
| FICA: | | 7428.50 | | |
| to Impact Fees | | | Reg A/P Cks \$58,920.94 | NHRS \$ |
| A/P: Regular | | 58,920.94 | Swasey : \$ | CO-OP: \$ |
| GF to Rec CC | | | | |
| Returned Checks | | | | |
| To Impact Fees | | | | |
| Account Balance: | | 7,839,295.07 | | |
| Interest Earned YTD: | | 2,479.95 | | |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| Joyce A. Gallant, Treasurer | | | | |
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| Ambrose Kizza Deputy Treasurer | | | | |