

Board of Selectmen
Minutes July 20, 2021

Convened at 6:00 pm

Present: Ken Christiansen, Chair
Robert Mantegari (arrived at 6:09pm)
Andrew Artimovich
Jon Morgan

Absent: Jonathan Frizzell

Christiansen called the meeting to order. The board opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board met and reviewed payroll, accounts payable and signed the register. The Selectmen reviewed and signed the Recreation register which consisted of 8 checks.

Joyce Gallant was in to present the weekly Treasurer's report. Please see last page to view the report.

Clement presented a letter of credit to be signed from the planning Board to release \$22,500 for Dymont Realty due to substantial completion of the project. Mantegari made a motion, 2nd by Artimovich to sign the letter of credit.

Kip Kaiser, Building Inspector, had the following building permits to be approved this week:

- Gary Densen, 109 Crawley Falls Road, new dwelling: signed by Board.
- Matthew Campione, 34 Peabody Drive, electrical for basement remodel: signed by Board.
- Peter Kamberelis, 72 Haigh Road, install 22 KW generator: signed by Board.
- Tim Anderson, 25 Peabody Drive, plumbing for 2 bathrooms: signed by Board.
- First Baptist Church, 201 North Road, new barn roof: signed by Board.
- Machaon Bonafede, 131 Pickpocket Road, pool with decking and fence: signed by Board.
- Edward Scleich, 50 Prescott Road, new deck, and staircase: signed by Board.
- Julie D'Eon, 108 Lake Road, finish room above garage: signed by Board.
- Tim Anderson, 25 Peabody Drive, replace exhaust fans, devices, install shower cans: signed by Board.

Mantegari made a motion, 2nd by Morgan to approve the public minutes of 7/6/2021 as written. All in favor. The motion carries.

Mantegari made a motion, 2nd by Artimovich to approve the non-public minutes of 7/6/2021 as written. All in favor. The motion carries.

Notes:

- 1) National Night Out is at the BRC 8/3 from 6-8pm. This is a BOS meeting night. Do you want to meet at 4pm so that you and your families can attend this event?
 - a. Artimovich made a motion, 2nd by Mantegari to have no agenda and meet at the Town Hall at 5pm on 8/3 to sign the Manifest. All in favor. The motion carries.
- 2) All wetlands' permits have been issued by NH DES. They are valid for 5 years from the date of issuance. Clement stated that we are ready to move forward on Mill Road Bridge as soon as we have a contractor.
- 3) Reviewed assessments in Windsor and Abbey. Assessments range from \$266-288k. The difference accounts for about 200sq feet of finished living area plus a ½ or full bath added to the basement. Christiansen said

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that there was a resident from 13 Abbey, Laura Nigro, who was at the last meeting and was unhappy about her abatement denial, however, it is within range.

- 4) Gardner Street is a current road name in Exeter. Developers have proposed Tanya Lane (she is a granddaughter).
 - a. Mantegari made a motion, 2nd by Artimovich to have the road called Tanya Lane. All in favor. The motion carries.
- 5) We are closing out the FD covid vaccine grant. Payroll expenses totaled \$46,724.44. Please vote to increase the FD budget by this amount.
 - a. Mantegari made a motion, 2nd by Artimovich to increase the FD budget by \$46,724.44. All in favor. The motion carries.
- 6) Our mowing contract expires this year. There is an RFP in the mail for a new 3-year contract. Morgan asked when they need it back and Clement said 8/17.
 - a. Morgan made a motion, 2nd by Mantegari to approve the RFP to be released for a 3-year mowing contract starting in the Spring of 2022. All in favor. The motion carries.
- 7) Clement presented a settlement document to re-sign as the original document did not include the document number.
 - a. Mantegari made a motion, 2nd by Artimovich to sign the settlement document. All in favor. The motion carries.
- 8) Clement presented 2 Police SOPs to sign.
 - a. Mantegari made a motion, 2nd by Artimovich to sign the 2 Police SOP's. All in favor. The motion carries.
- 9) Clement spoke about the Police Department's officer of the month program and said that Chief Wicks would like to give that officer Chief Arcieri's old car for the month, however it does not have a radar, so Chief Wicks would like to request \$1500 out of the detail fund to pay for the radar.
 - a. Artimovich made a motion, 2nd by Mantegari to use \$1500 from the detail fund for the radar. All in favor. The motion carries.
- 10) Clement said that Kip Kaiser completed a site walk of 414 Rte. 125 and confirmed that the owner is in violation of his site plan. Kaiser would recommend the BOS issue a cease-and-desist order and ask that the owner makes an appointment with the Planning Board.
 - a. Mantegari made a motion, 2nd by Morgan to issue the cease-and-desist order. All in favor. The motion carries.

Joe Bird, Fire Chief was present to give an overview of where the staffing issues in the FD currently stand. Bird stated that he currently has 32 members with 2 full-time and 1 per-diem. The full-time work 6am-6pm for a 42hr work week. Bird said he has 2 brand new people and stated that the call staff are invaluable. Bird said they are starving for staff at this time, and he has a gap in coverage Monday – Friday. Bird said the call volume has increased from 308 calls in 2019 to 399 calls in 2020 and 480 calls in 2021. Bird said there are 47 missed calls in 2021 with either 1 or 0 people on duty. The heaviest time for calls is 7am – 7pm and out of 480 calls we missed 21 daytime calls and 18 nighttime calls. Morgan asked how much staff have increased from 2019 to now and Bird said by 1. Bird said he is supposed to have 4 per-diems and only has 1. Mantegari asked how many missed calls there were in 2019 and 2020 and Bird said he would get those figures for the Board. Bird said the State has 172 openings. Christiansen asked what the solution would be, and Bird said he does not have one – he decided to come back with 2 people during the day and rely on call department at night. Christiansen asked if increased salary range will help, and Bird said we need to start comparing to bigger towns if we are going to get anyone. Christiansen asked what the on-call rate of pay is, and Bird said the range is \$12-\$19 per hour. Artimovich said if we are 3 per-diems short that is our problem. Bird explained that the weekends are brutal with only 1 person by themselves. Morgan asked to see a comparison between other towns and said that it has risen by 50% in 2 years, so we need to see calls

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missed for previous years. Artimovich stated that the amount of people in town during the day has increased people working from home with covid and asked if Bird had considered regionalization? Bird said the costs are still going to be there, that we are all doing calls simultaneously or back-to-back, that would cut down on equipment not personnel expenses. Bird said he would like to propose to Chiefs in the area to share per-diems. Mantegari asked if missed calls include the mutual aid calls and Bird replied no, separate. Morgan asked what other towns are doing in terms of compensation. Mantegari asked to understand what our numbers do for our town vs mutual aid. Morgan said he would love to get us to zero missed calls and Bird said that 4 (per-diem) is not going to get you to zero, but much closer. Mantegari asked if we go to Exeter or bigger towns and Bird said it is very rare, maybe 3 times last year. Bird said we are going to be very lean on staff for August and September and he wants the Board to be informed with no surprises.

Wayne Robinson, Road Agent was present to discuss the Liberty truck. Robinson explained that the truck has a broken fuel line which he had towed to Liberty last Thursday by Al's towing. Robinson called Liberty's service department yesterday and they explained that the truck is under warranty and will be fixed when the parts arrive. Robinson said he will enquire if they cover the cost of the towing bill. Mantegari asked how much we paid for the truck and Christiansen said \$176k. Robinson said we have 3 other trucks we can use, and the Liberty truck is due for a service at 8k miles.

Christiansen asked for any comments from the public and Laura Nigro, 13 Abbey Road approached the board after asking for a one-on-one with Christiansen which was denied. Christiansen said that a Board is made up of 5 people and that speaking to him directly is not speaking to the Board. Nigro said she had spoken to Mr. Tozier, a representative from KRT and had compared her mother's condo to other end units and feels that the appraisal was not fair. Nigro said KRT did not accept her abatement paperwork and did not listen to her appeal. Nigro asked the Board what they think of this company and Christiansen said they are certified professionals, licensed by the State of NH. Clement said that she had asked Nigro at the July 6th meeting if she would be interested in meeting with KRT when they come to the Town later in the month and Nigro said she did not want to meet with them, in which case Clement said the only other thing available to her is to file an appeal with the BTLA. Nigro said this would cost more than to pay her taxes. Christiansen said there is no movement. Nigro said they have not done their job properly on her mothers' property, that they wrote incorrect information on their denial letter. Morgan said he empathizes with her situation, however Nigro had an opportunity to discuss with KRT and denied that. Morgan continued that we are not assessing professionals and that is why we hired KRT, that the recourse would be to have a meeting with them or file an application with BTLA. Morgan said that Nigro had those options and those options do not include this Board. Artimovich stated that after Nigro's last presentation he had asked Clement to review all properties on Abbey and Windsor to which she found that there is only \$22k between the highest and lowest, that this was not an egregious error by someone. Mantegari said when you look at properties it could be the location on the development that is included in the assessment, closer to road vs further back? Mantegari reiterated that we do not know as we are not assessors.

Bill Faria, 209 South Road said he is encouraged to hear the Fire Chief and that he is not a fan of huge hourly increases, however he had heard our wage structure is low with low retention. Faria said we should consider increasing the hourly rate to keep people here, to man the department with 4 full-time and per-diems. He said we are losing money and losing calls and average \$1k when we miss a call. Faria said he urges the Board to support Bird and increase wages. Mantegari replied that we are short 3 per-diems and there are 172 open positions in the State.

Elizabeth Faria, 209 South Road asked if the Police Department is now fully staffed, and Christiansen said yes. Faria asked 6 full-time and 5 part-time and Christiansen agreed.

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At 7:17pm Mantegari made a motion, 2nd by Artimovich to go into nonpublic session per RSA 91-A:3, II (c) reputation. Mantegari – aye, Artimovich– aye, Morgan – aye, Christiansen – aye. The motion carries.

At 7:31 pm a motion was made by Artimovich, 2nd by Mantegari, to come out of nonpublic session and seal the minutes. Mantegari – aye, Artimovich– aye, Morgan – aye, Christiansen – aye. The motion carries.

At 7:31 pm a motion was made by Artimovich, 2nd by Morgan to adjourn. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Parkhurst

WEEKLY TREASURER'S REPORT

DATE:	7/20/2021		
General Fund:	TD BANK		
Previous Balance:	6,988,627.48		
Deposits:	86,267.17		
Payroll:	23,031.80	DDP: 22,460.12	
		CHK: 571.68	
FICA:	5489.96		
to Impact Fees			
A/P: Regular	372,376.85	Swasey: 220,265.00	CO-OP:
Non-A/P			
void checks	-		
From MMA			
TO MMA			
Account Balance:	6,673,996.04		
Interest Earned YTD:	288.2		
MMA:			
Unrestricted			
Balance:	0		
Total Invested			
Funds:	0		
Interest Earned YTD:	1253.26		

Joyce A. Gallant, Treasurer
Jonathan Ellis, Deputy Treasurer