

TOWN OF HEBRON
SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 3, 2022

PRESENT: Pat Moriarty, Rich James, Paul Hazelton, and Karen Sanborn, Town Administrator

OTHERS PRESENT: Travis Austin (Police Chief), John Fischer (Fire Chief)

2:30 P.M. **OPENED MEETING:** Chair Moriarty commenced the meeting.

2:30 P.M. **NON-PUBLIC SESSION:** Vice-Chair James moved to enter into non-public session pursuant to NH RSA 91-A:3, (c), seconded by Selectman Hazelton. Pat Moriarty - yes Rich James - yes Paul Hazelton - yes

3:05 P.M. **OUT OF NON-PUBLIC SESSION:** Vice-Chair James moved to come out of non-public session at 3:05 p.m., seconded by Selectman Hazelton. Pat Moriarty - yes Rich James - yes Paul Hazelton - yes Vice-Chair James moved to seal the minutes for five years, seconded by Selectman Hazelton. Pat Moriarty - yes Rich James - yes Paul Hazelton - yes

3:07 P.M. **INFORMATIONAL PUBLIC HEARING ON PETITIONED WARRANT ARTICLE FOR NEWFOUND AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT:** Selectman Hazelton reported to the Board on the informational meeting held by the Newfound Area School District on the petitioned warrant article proposing to change the funding formula among the seven towns in the district. Selectman Hazelton noted that the meeting was very informative with many comments from taxpayers concerned with the impact on the quality of education given to the students by changing the funding formula. If the formula changes, additional funds would have to be raised for the Newfound Area School District to rent the Bridgewater-Hebron Village School.

3:15 P.M. **UPDATE ON PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING:** Chair Moriarty reported on the Public Hearing held by the Planning Board for property owners applying to put in a recreational vehicle campground. Chair Moriarty reported that many property owners on Groton Road came to the meeting to express concerns with a RV Campground in a residential area. Concerns were expressed regarding the proximity to the Cockermonth River and the flooding of the river on an annual basis. Chair Moriarty informed the Board that the Planning Board did not rule on the application, but may requested for an independent study-engineer's opinion on the project.

3:30 P.M. **FIRE DEPARTMENT – UPDATE:** Chief Fischer approached the Select Board to give an update on Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid – dispatch relocation, update the 2022 Comstar ambulance service rates, survey for Medicare, Hazard Mitigation Plan update, and working on specifications for a new ambulance.

Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Association – Chief Fischer reported on the Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Association meeting as each member town's Fire Chief is on the Board of Directors. The property where LRMFA is located and performs dispatching for the towns

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is being sold and headquarter will be relocated in Laconia. The association has been assured that all moving expenses and set-up in the new building will be covered by the State of NH.

Ambulance Service Rates – Chief Fischer handed the Board the Comstar billing rate sheet to review and noted that the last time the billing rates were increased was 2020. The Chief reviewed the proposed increase to the rates and noted that many insurance companies negotiate specific prices for services performed by the ambulance provider. Chief Fischer reported that the collection rates from Hebron and Groton residents are good, but the department has a difficult time locating the out of state residents and visitors to collect the fees. Vice-Chair James moved to approve the increase to Comstar ambulance billing rates by 20% over the 2020 rates, seconded by Selectman Hazelton. The vote was unanimous.

In-house data tracking for monthly Fire Department calls – Chief Fischer reviewed with the Board the data tracked by the Fire Department on a monthly basis as part of the Medicare Survey being conducted.

Ambulance Service – Chief Fischer expressed to the Board that he feels cross training between the Fire Department and EMS Department personnel is necessary in order to provide round the clock coverage. Chief Fischer informed the Board that six new people have enrolled in the EMT course.

Hazard Mitigation Plan – update – Chief Fischer reported that the grant for updating the Hazard Mitigation Plan will not expire until late 2023. The town will pay for the project and then be reimbursed by the state.

Engine 1 fire truck – Chief Fischer reported to the Board on the condition of the frame on the Engine 1 fire truck. Chief Fischer informed the Board that the frame is scheduled to be repaired mid-February in Alexandria, NH and is scheduled to be out of service for a week.

Ambulance replacement – Chief Fischer relayed to the Board that he has been delaying ordering a new ambulance due to the future of the ambulance service business. Chair Moriarty stated that it would take two years for the delivery from the time it was ordered. Selectman Hazelton commented that it may only be a matter of time before regionalization of the ambulance service will be the direction many towns head.

4:10 P.M.

DISCUSSION:

- The **proposals received Fiber Optics Project** were from Phoenix Communications, ex² Technology, and Hub66. Chair Moriarty reported that the proposals were submitted to Nik Coates, Town of Bristol Town Administrator, as this project involves other towns and organizations.
- Selectman Hazelton reported on the **Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting**. Selectman Hazelton informed the Board he obtained more information to help with the proposed Library/Community Center Project at this meeting.

4:18 P.M.

CORRESPONDENCE:

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- **Letter from NH Department of Revenue Administration** – 2021 Hebron Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) – the USPAP report submitted by Avitar Associates for the 2021 Town of Hebron Update complies with applicable laws and regulations.
- **Letter from NH Department of Environmental Services** – Proposed Title V Operating Permit TV-0060 for the Hebron-Bridgewater Regional Refuse District

4:20 P.M.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- Chief Austin approached the Select Board to discuss the **police cruiser proposal**. Chief Austin reported to the Board the limitations posed by the current situation throughout the country with purchasing a new vehicle. New vehicles, especially police cruisers are limited as there is a chip shortage as well. Chief Austin reported that if the purchase was put in at this time for a police cruiser, the delivery would be the end of 2023. Chief Austin informed the Board that there are enough funds in the Police Capital Reserve Fund and the Police Special Detail Fund to purchase the new cruiser. Chief Austin proposed purchasing a pick-up truck to replace the Ford Explorer cruiser. The Select Board is authorized as agents to expend from the funds. Ms. Sanborn informed the Board that a vehicle purchase had previously been done before a town meeting ~~due necessitated by~~ ~~to~~ the condition of the vehicle. The purchase was the International TerraStar for the Highway Department. The Select Board held a public hearing to allow for the public to comment. Vice-Chair James moved to authorize Chief Austin to proceed with the purchase of the police truck and schedule a public hearing for this purpose, seconded by Selectman Hazelton. The vote was unanimous.
- The **proposed Solar Ordinance** was discussed by the Board as the public hearing by the Planning Board is scheduled for Wednesday, February 9, 2022. Many residents in town disagree with how the ordinance limits solar arrays on their property. The Board felt the hearing would be well attended.
- Vice-Chair James handed the Board a suggestion for **a small roof structure over the HVAC units** on the exterior of the Town Office Building. The Select Board approved the purchase of window awning canopy's to protect the units.
- Ms. Sanborn reported to the Board that Nancy Brooks (owner of the Hebron Village Store) expressed concerns with the numerous snowmobilers requesting to use the stores restroom facilities and the pressure put on the store's septic system. Mrs. Brooks was looking to **share the costs of a porta potty** with the town as done in the past. The Board agreed to share the costs of the porta potty with the Hebron Village Store as long as the Hardy Country Snowmobile Club agrees to keep the access to the unit clear of snow and ice.

4:50 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Select Board reviewed the Select Board Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2022, January 20, 2022, and the January 20, 2022 meeting with department heads. The Select Board made the following corrections to the January 20, 2022 with the department heads minutes: page 1, last sentence under *Tax Collector* – change “adjusted” to “added” and page 2, under Compliance Officer – add after the last sentence “As a member of the Conservation Commission, Don stated that he has recused himself from this discussion.”. The Select Board made the following corrections to the

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January 20, 2022 minutes: page 2, second bullet under *Discussion*, last sentence – remove “satisfied”. Vice-Chair James moved to accept the Select Board Meeting minutes of January 19, 2022, January 20, 2022 as amended, and January 20, 2022 with department heads as amended, seconded by Selectman Hazelton. The vote was unanimous.

4:58 P.M. **MEETING ADJOURNED:** Vice-Chair James moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:58 p.m., seconded by Selectman Hazelton. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Sanborn
Town Administrator

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