

TOWN OF HEBRON
SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 17, 2022

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Travis Austin (Police Chief), Bill Luti (Newfound Area School District Petition 5 Committee)

7:00 P.M. **COMMENCED MEETING:** Chair James commenced the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

7:00 P.M. **POLICE CRUISER:** Travis Austin approached the Select Board to discuss trading in the Ford Explorer police cruiser towards the purchase of the new 2022 Ram 1500 pick-up. Chief Austin informed the Board that the price offer of \$4,500 for the trade-in was more than fair. Selectman Moriarty moved to accept the trade-in value of \$4,500 of the Ford Explorer as proposed by Chief Austin, seconded by Vice-Chair Hazelton. The vote was unanimous.

Chief Austin reported that there seems to be more people around this time of year than in years past which has led to an increase in motor vehicle stops.

Chair James asked Chief Austin about installing the radar signs that were purchased this year. Chief Austin replied that the signs would be installed on Route 3-A in the spring and left there for the summer.

7:07 P.M. **PURCHASE AT THE FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Chair James discussed with the Board the commercial freezer purchased by the Hebron Fire Department and the inquiry to the Board for the town to contribute some funds towards the purchase. The Board agreed that the purchase was for the Fire Department only and the funds should be withdrawn from the Hebron Fire Improvement Fund. The Board felt the purchase should have been a warrant article if town funds were to be expended.

7:10 P.M. **ACTION ITEMS:**

- The Select Board signed the **accounting manifests**.
- The Select Board reviewed the **Fixed Pricing for the 2022/2023 heating season as proposed by Pemi Fuels: #2 Heating Oil for \$3.99 per gallon and Propane for \$2.09 per gallon**. Selectman Moriarty moved to accept the fixed pricing contracts with Pemi Fuels and authorized Chair James to sign the contracts, seconded by Vice-Chair Hazelton. The vote was unanimous.
- Ms. Sanborn relayed to the Board that the organization that was highly recommended that the Highway Department be a member of is the NH Public Works Mutual Aid Program where services and use of equipment is shared when needed during weather emergencies or disasters. This was discussed at the last Hazard Mitigation Meeting. Selectman Moriarty moved to authorize Chair James to sign the **NH Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement**, seconded by Vice-Chair Hazelton. The vote was unanimous.
- The Board reviewed the **Terra-Map Mapping Services Agreement** with Hebron, NH for updating the town tax maps as changes occur. Ms. Sanborn noted that the Board signed a one-year agreement for map changes and a CD with the tax map changes. The new map pages were purchased separately. Chair James recommended the three-year standard package as the annual cost be level funded for the next three years. Vice-Chair Hazelton moved to accept the three-year standard contract for map updates, seconded by Selectman Moriarty. The vote was unanimous.

7:15 P.M. **DISCUSSION:**

- Ms. Sanborn informed the Board that a request from a **taxpayer that will be meeting with a representative from Avitar Associates of New England, Inc.** (assessing firm) regarding property assessment figure inquired about a Select Board member attending the meeting as well. Chair James agreed to attend the meeting.
- Ms. Sanborn reported to the Board that Alison York, Administrative Assistant, created a **form for new employees to sign** during the hiring process regarding the responsibility for town owned equipment and the understanding that the equipment issued would be given back to the town at the time of retirement/resignation/firing. The Board reviewed the form. Selectman

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Moriarty inquired about the type of equipment given to employees. Chief Austin gave an example of portable radios. The Board asked Ms. Sanborn to include the town equipment in the secure access key card form.

7:24 P.M.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- **Letter from Camp Pasquaney** regarding the opening and closing dates of the camp.
- Newfound Area School District **SB2 Meeting Dates and Deadlines.**

7:29 P.M.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- Chair James updated the Board on the **applicant interested in the Town Treasurer position.** Ms. Sanborn commented that it would be beneficial if the applicant could shadow the current Treasurer to get a better understanding of the position. As the budget could not handle the additional person, Chair James stated that \$20 per hour should be budgeted next year.
- The Select Board scheduled the **department head meeting** for December 6, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.
- Selectman Moriarty reported to the Board on the **Hebron Common Landscape and Playground Committee** meeting. Selectman Moriarty reported that the meeting was very enjoyable, and the group was excited about the scope of the project. Selectman Moriarty stated that Fred Kohout was interested in becoming a member of the committee. Chair James moved to nominate Fred Kohout to the Hebron Common Landscape and Playground Committee, seconded by Selectman Moriarty. The vote was unanimous.
- Selectman Moriarty discussed with the Board the **proposed formula change with funding the Newfound Area School District (NASD) and the financial impact to Camp Wicosuta and the other summer camps.** Vice-Chair Hazelton suggested sending the summer camps the article written by Bill Luti (NASD Article 5 Committee, Hebron Representative).
- Selectman Moriarty asked Ms. Sanborn about the status of the **2022 Tax Rate.** Ms. Sanborn replied that she had not heard from NH Department of Revenue Administration. Ms. Sanborn informed the Board that she had spoken with Terry Murphy (Commissioner, Bridgewater-Hebron Village District) regarding an issue with the upload of documents to the tax rate setting portal and this would delay the setting of the tax rate.
- Chair James informed the Board of a **suit filed against the State of NH Department of Revenue Administration** regarding the state failing to meet the 1997 Supreme Court's Claremont II decision that declares the use of local property taxes with varying rates to pay for the state's obligation to provide its students with an adequate education was unconstitutional. Mr. Luti commented that the court may not make a decision fast enough on the suit which may result in additional funds to be raised by the donor towns this year. This case will end up in Supreme Court. Chair James informed the Board that the Coalition 2.0 (supports donor towns) was looking for additional funds to support the legal fees for this new suit.
- Selectman Moriarty inquired about the status of the recent **suit against the Town by Newfound Serenity, LLC.** Ms. Sanborn updated the Board on submitting the document served to Chair James to town counsel. Town Counsel needs to file by December 8 to the court.
- Chair James updated the Board on the **Fiber Optics project** and recommended moving \$32,454.65 into the Fiber Optic account to cover the matching funds for the project. Vice-Chair Hazelton moved to authorize the funds to be moved to the Fiber Optic account, seconded by Selectman Moriarty. The vote was unanimous.

7:55 P.M.

PETITION ARTICLE 5 COMMITTEE UPDATE: Bill Luti approached the Board to give an update on the next step preparing for the Deliberative Session for the Newfound Area School District. Chair James expressed the importance of getting the voters interested enough to increase attendance at the Deliberative Session. The Board asked Ms. Sanborn to reserve the basement of the Union Congregational Church for a public meeting on December 8, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. The Board thanked Mr. Luti for the work he has done regarding this matter.

8:23 P.M.

FIBER OPTICS PROJECT: Chair James informed the Board that Hubb 66 is interested in installing the fiber optics cable to the town buildings and throughout the town in July 2023. Chair James informed the Board that the equipment required for the town buildings to be connected to the fiber optics lines would be installed on December 12, 2022 in the Town Office Building.

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- 8:25 P.M. **DRIVEWAY PERMIT – PROPOSED LIBRARY/ COMMUNITY CENTER LOT:** Chair James informed the Board that the driveway location would be changing for the proposed Library/Community Center and an application for Driveway Permit needed to be submitted to the State of NH Department of Transportation. Vice-Chair Hazelton moved to authorize Chair James to sign the State Driveway Permit for the proposed Library/Community Center, seconded by Selectman Moriarty. The vote was unanimous.
- 8:28 P.M. **NON-PUBLIC SESSION:** Chair James moved to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3(a), seconded by Vice-Chair Hazelton. Rich James - yes Paul Hazelton - yes Pat Moriarty - yes
- 8:40 P.M. **OUT OF NON-PUBLIC SESSION:** Chair James moved to come out of non-public session, seconded by Vice-Chair Hazelton. Rich James - yes Paul Hazelton - yes Pat Moriarty - yes Chair James moved to seal the minutes for five years, seconded by Vice-Chair Hazelton. Rich James - yes Paul Hazelton - yes Pat Moriarty - yes
- 8:43 P.M. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The Select Board reviewed the Select Board Meeting minutes of November 3, 2022 and made the following change: page 2, first bullet, first sentence – insert “a culvert supplier” after “Arrow Central”. Vice-Chair Hazelton moved to accept the Select Board Meeting minutes of November 3, 2022 as amended, seconded by Selectman Moriarty. Vice-Chair Hazelton and Selectman Moriarty voted in favor of the motion; Chair James abstained. The motion passed.
- 8:45 P.M. **MEETING ADJOURNED:** Vice-Chair Hazelton moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m., seconded by Selectman Moriarty. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Sanborn
Town Administrator

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