Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 22, 2021

At the Selectmen's meeting held on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. the Selectmen participated via Zoom:

Stanley Holz is at his home in South Carolina, maintaining social distancing.
Peter Corey is at his home in Whitefield, maintaining social distancing.
Zoom Attendees: Bob Loicano, Scott, Tom Ladd, Rob Larson, Bruce Brekke, Barbara Pinkham, Chris, Terry Lufkin.

Chairman Holz called the Meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Barbara Pinkham, a cemetery trustee wanted to discuss a letter she sent in January to the Board. Barbara said there was a question if we were certain the trees are on cemetery property. Barbara said they have no ideas where the boundary lines are. Barbara said that we had the issue last year with the trees on the Ricker property. We have not been able to determine the boundary lines for that property. She has spoken with Judy about locating a deed. Rob said when we did the trees for the Ricker's we had a surveyor look over the deeds and they found where the boundaries were considering those 3-4 properties. Rob said the surveyor could probably continue on with that work and we could hire him to locate the rest of the boundary. Stanley said that is what we will have to do before we can address tree removal. Barbara said if we find that there are a number of trees either on or near cemetery boundary lines that look like need some attention, does the Board want the cemetery trustees to add thousands of dollars to their cemetery request? Stanley said we need to take it systematically, first we have to determine if the trees are on the cemetery property, and then we have to discuss options as far as trimming, some may have to be removed. We do not want to add to this to cemetery budget at this point because it is a total unknown. It is best to leave it off at this point. Peter said for this year because we don't know whether we have any obligation with respect to the trees until we establish the boundary. If it appears they need to be dealt with, it would be wise to get a couple of quotes for next year's budget. Barbara asked if it would it be worthwhile to examine the property deeds of all the privately-owned residences on Pine Street to see what we can determine? Rob said the surveyor will address that. Barbara said we don't have the money to pay a surveyor big bucks in the cemetery budget. We can pay a few hundred dollars. Stanley said we don't know what we can find in the records. There has to be a record. Pine Street cemetery is the first one in the Town of Whitefield. Barbara is talking some time ago whether the records actually exist. Peter said it has to be clearly surveyed and property lines clearly delineated and that is going to have to be done by a professional surveyor who will research deeds and titles. It won't be cheap. When we get to the town meeting because this is a circumstance when we locked the budget in place we were not aware of, Peter said we may need to add $4000 to the cemetery budget to get that done.

Stanley said he would think $5,000. In reference to the piles of rocks and stones, Rob said the stones are the ones up at Park Street cemetery. The stones were dumped by the town some years ago, and they are along the outside entrance or border to the heritage trail at the top of the slope. Rob said they were put there for a reason—to delineate the edge of the slope. Barbara said the trustees just want the stones leveled. She is not expecting the Town to remove the stones. They are concerned with how really crappy the piles of stone look as the weeds are starting to grow into them. We just want someone to come up and level them so they don't look like big pimples on the landscape. Rob said he told Barbara they would do that in the spring. Barbara said he has been talking about this for two years. The trustees just want to get it done. Stanley said it will be done in the spring to level the stones. Rob said he has a home for the stones, but he can't do it until spring.

Bruce Brekke, Town Moderator, attended the meeting to review the town warrant before the town meeting on March 9th. Bruce said he has been up to the high school, and there is plenty of room. We are going to use the bleachers and have chairs spread out for the meeting itself. There should be plenty of room. Bruce envisions it to set up like the McIntyre, and we have enough room to do that. Exit and entrance will be on the same side. Bruce thinks we are all set. Stanley asked about an alternate arrangement for people who won't wear masks? Bruce said we will find a place for people to vote who don't want to wear a mask. What do you do if someone doesn't want to wear a mask at the meeting? Bruce said he is probably not going to let them. Stanley suggested we speak with Chief Samson to come up with a plan for that. Peter asked about supplies and PPE supplies. Bruce said that we have everything we need left over from the past two meetings. Bruce is going to inventory those materials this week, but he feels we have enough of those materials. Bruce is going to contact the poll workers to be sure they are going to attend. Bruce thinks we will be ok.

Bruce asked about provide transportation during the day. Can we set up some type of shuttle service? Stanley said ideally. we would have a van that could carry people. Peter thinks it opens up a can of worms. The vehicle would have to be sanitized after each trip. Bruce is thinking just for the day voting, but it is up to the Board to decide that. Peter said people can vote by absentee ballot. Peter said there are not many people who walk to the town hall to vote. The trip to the high school is about three miles. It is not perfect, but it is the hand we have been dealt. Stanley said maybe we could put it on the web site that people can get absentee ballots. It is not logistically possible. Not sure how to implement it.

Bruce asked the Selectmen if they are planning on attending during the day? Peter said he will be there half the day. Shawn is planning on it as well. Stanley said he can't be there. Bruce said we need at least one selectman there during the day. Peter said he and Shawn will work it out so at least one of them is there during the day.

A motion was made by Peter Corey to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2021 Public Budget Hearing and Selectmen's Meeting. The motion was seconded by Stanley Holz. Roll Call Vote: Holz: Yes; Corey: Yes. All in favor, 2-0. Motion passes.

A motion was made by Peter Corey to enter non-public session at 7:00 p.m. pursuant to NH RSA 91-A:3, II(a) the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a public meeting, and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. The motion was seconded by Stanley Holz. Roll Call Vote: Holz: Yes; Corey: Yes. All in favor, 2-0. Motion passes. Shawn White joined the non-public session at 7:01 p.m.

The Board adjourned from non-public session at 7:29 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.