

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 27, 2020

At the Selectmen's meeting on Monday, July 27, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. the Selectmen participated via Zoom:

Stanley Holz is at his home in Whitefield, maintaining social distancing.

Peter Corey is at his home in Whitefield, maintaining social distancing.

Shawn White is at his home in Whitefield, maintaining social distancing.

Chairman Holz called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Selectman Shawn White said he asked for the Summit to attend the meeting tonight to discuss the sewer issues at the Summit and to give us an update. Doug Shearer, Chairman of the Board and Shannon Lynch, Director at the Summit, participated via Zoom. Shannon said that they had their public hearing today for their grant application with USDA. They are looking to put in a catch basin system with a strainer with their own manhole. They will move ahead with the project even if they don't get the grant. It was asked if anything can be done to prevent it from happening. Shannon said they have a strong education program for their staff. Shannon said she has not been made aware of any recent problems or issues. Rob Larson, Public Works Director, said it is much less now. It has subsided quite a bit. The problem currently is the disposal wipes, but that is happening all over town and in other towns. Rob said they have done a good job with their education. The Board thanked the Summit.

Pat Ryan of 3 Main Street participated via Zoom. He wants to speak about the parking lot. Pat said that this past year Mr. Loiacono, who lives at 5 Main Street, wanted a telephone pole moved at the intersection of the parking lot and their two properties. Someone from the town came down and approved it. Pat said that when Eversource came to move the pole, they took out a stone boundary marker which was never put back so it is no longer there and they would like that replaced.

Pat said the other issue is the Town has a right of way between 5 Main street and 7 Main street going up the alley way. Pat said that Mr. Loiacono has materials lined up all along the right of way. Pat says that right of way has been included in the deeds all along. Pat said the Town has to designate that 16-foot right-of-way somehow. Pat said he feels the Town needs to take that right-of-way back for the townspeople. Pat said he had a hearing today at the Court for a restraining order.

Stan said he will refer the issue with the boundary marker to our Public Works Director, Rob Larson. Mr. Larson said he will check with the DPW and see what they recollect. Pat said he would like the right of way marked out as well. Stanley said he was not aware of the 16 foot right of way as we have only dealt with the 40 foot right of way. Stanley said we will look into it. Who owns the 16 foot right of way? Pat said it says Loiacono (5 Main Street) and Cavanaugh (7 Main Street) own it. Ed said the Police Department has not seen proof either way. Ed said where the deed says it is split between those two properties, it is not the town's property. Pat said he is trying to fix the problem. Pat said he would bring up the paperwork he has and leave it off here at the town office. Stanley said we have to see it and

review it. Peter Corey said he doesn't recall discussing this so he does not know if the town has a bona-fide right of way or not. Shawn White said he would have to look at it again. Shawn said if it is a town right of way then it becomes a public right of way so traffic can go through there. Pat said the town doesn't plow it and either do the landowners. Stanley said it is not the only access point. Pat said it is very tight going through there. Stan asked Pat to drop the paper work he has. Pat said he will, and the most important thing is to put the boundary marker back where it was removed from. Rob Larson said that he will take care of the boundary marker.

Tom Ladd stated he had issues with hearing the meeting at the beginning so he is questioning if it was a public meeting. The 12 people in attendance could all hear the meeting. Stanley said Judy has the minutes from the meeting as well. Melissa Farrow suggested logging out and trying to log back in again to see if that helps at all.

Department Head Meeting

John Ross, Jr. - Fire Chief

John said he is working closely with the school in trying to reopen the school in the fall. He told Melissa that he would get her the first aid supplies she needs.

Ed Samson, III - Police Chief

--Ed said the PD has had a busy summer. The dispatch issues we discussed last meeting are on-going. There was a meeting last Wednesday in Lancaster, which the DOT commissioner came up to. At this point they have formulated a team of people to start working on that project. They are not going to disappear immediately. They are going to give us plenty of time to work on a plan. The Governor did give approval to hire the vacant dispatch supervisor position. Ed said we will be probably be coming to town meeting looking to start a capital reserve fund.

--The speed signs have been ordered. Ed spoke with the company and because of COVID, the order is delayed--they were supposed to be shipped last week. They are in the works.

--Ed said the quarterly status report for the prosecutor position will be forthcoming.

--The new hire is working out well--he has to take the final test for the Academy. He just had to do the law package. He has been taking the classes remotely.

-- We are waiting to see how the schools will open up in the fall.

--Shawn asked Ed if we have a status on the campers in the parking lot behind the bank. Ed said he spoke with the owner, it is all the same owner. He keeps them registered and keeps them moving around. Ed has reached out to him again, and if they are not removed soon we will have them removed.

Melissa Farrow - Recreation Department

--Melissa said things have been going well. Courtney came in from the library with books the kids could check out. They are going to the Col. Town pool on Fridays. They are trying the Rialto tomorrow. The Patchwork Players came today. Melissa had a Twin Mountain resident ask to register their child. She said they are not at capacity so Melissa felt it would be o.k.

--Melissa said the sewer alarm go off frequently downstairs. She also has an issue with the water smelling funny. She was told to let the water run, but she has been using bottled water and not letting the kids drink the water. She had one of the kids told her the water doesn't taste good. She was wondering what the status of the sewer pump is. Rob Larson said that the sewer pump is going to be replaced and that will take care of the alarm situation. If the water problem persists a filter may help that problem, just to be installed under the sink. Shawn said we had an issue with that early on--it has a mixing valve. It can happen when you don't use the hot water run a lot. Shawn said they would let the hot water run to drain it and flush it out.

--Melissa said she may extend the program a week if they don't go back to school on September 8th.

--She will keep in touch with Fred and Rob on the water issue. Rob said he is going to investigate this again tomorrow.

Fred Ingerson - Water Department

--The water project has been moving along good - the pipe has been pushed through and they are still continuing on Jefferson Road--they are working on the temporary water so they can finish the main line. The Water Department has been helping them locate service lines and other mystery lines and valves. There was a break on Jefferson Road on a service line before the curb stop, it is an old galvanized two-inch line, which was repaired last week. There is a leak on Jefferson Road on a shared line. Hopefully this week we can tie that service line into the temporary water line.

--Rob said one of the lines that was discovered on Jefferson Road had been leaking for a long time.

--Rob said that the water sewer hook-ups at the Legion field range from \$25,000 to \$11,000 including the landscaping. Fred did some homework and probably for less than \$3,000 for piping we can do the job ourselves. We may do it in two stages, do the water first then the sewer. It would probably be done in the fall. We would do a meter pit by the rec building so we can winterize it and shut it off. Melissa said there is money in the baseball budget. Rob said we could at least take the labor out of that line item.

Rob Larson - Department of Public Works

--Rob would like to get the RFP for wastewater treatment facility out. He said he did add the distribution system as an addendum. The Board was ok with Rob putting out the RFP. He will have to change the due date. Rob is all set with going ahead with that.

--Moving forward with Highland Street demo.

--Moving forward with the trailer disposal on Old East Road.

--Melissa asked about a status on the Hazen Road bridge. Rob said we are moving forward. The pre-cast has been ordered and paid for today.

--Melissa asked if the highway guys could weed whack that area down back. Rob said we are going to be looking at expanding that parking lot down there because we have to open up the parking for the voting.

--Shawn asked about the sidewalk crossing by the gun store. Can we get that painted? That is one of the busiest crosswalks. Rob said we have been waiting for Park Construction to get done in the downtown, and they are done so we can paint it tomorrow.

--Stanley said he invited Courtney Vashaw, the librarian, to participate on behalf of the Whitefield Public Library.

--Courtney said she is grateful to be here especially with the Covid stuff going on. She has been in contact with other folks going through the same thing. Courtney said we are trying to move from Phase II into Phase III allowing patrons back in the same building. We have a lot of elderly patrons who aren't comfortable using the computer. We want to get people back into the mix. Coos County region has been staying pretty stable. We are taking guidelines from the state. We are requiring masks to be worn. We have been advised to do appointments, which will only last 20 minutes. Hopefully that will start on August 3.

--The mobile book program was great at the summer recreation program. Melissa said the kids loved it.

--Courtney said she has been giving away books for free, as the library is still getting donations of books. She has been taking a lot of donations and putting them in a bin and 70 books have gone out from there. They are trying to stay engaged with the community. They are doing a log of sign-ups on line with people. We pay into the Libby/Overdrive system at one of the lowest rates, and our patrons have benefited from that. Courtney said they have done huge amounts of deep cleaning. Carpets have been done and a lot of cleaning in the building. They agreed to partner with Weathervane this summer and through a nice network of things the theatre gave the library a \$300 donation. They wanted to give the library a portion of what they made on a recent fundraiser. That money will fund our summer reading program. We have been trying to partner with community organizations. We want to get materials and books into people's hands. She printed off a lot of tax forms and does google searching for people. She said they are doing a lot of good work but different work. We will see what the schools do in the fall. Peter said he commends the library for the creativity, effort, and energy keeping the library going.

--Peter said we have had on-going discussions redoing the steps. Courtney said that we desperately need the steps to be done. We had some bids come in last year. We asked for a CAD drawing of what it would like. We want the stairs to be closer to code. We want to keep the historic facade. Courtney said they had one new bid and she had to remind them what code was. It desperately needs to be done.

They are really bad. It was in the works in the spring, but things have ground to a halt. There is \$6,500 in the library maintenance budget to do this. She feels it can be done for that. They are going to stay with granite. Peter said there are companies in the Barre, VT and Concord, NH area that have granite people--that is there business and know the codes. The original request was very local.

Rob said some of the issue was people were busy last year. He is going to reach back out to Whipple's Masonry. The biggest issue is the conceptual drawing. They just want to get it right.

--Courtney had a question for Mossy if we do get back to patrons in the building--can he get us some more masks and sanitizer? Mossy said that he can order through the state any time. They had 25 cloth masks dropped off today. Stanley said the hospitals get tons of cloth masks dropped off as well.

John Ross said he sent the Board a copy of an offer he received from the Town of Dalton for the tanker. He has also got an inquiry from a department in South Carolina. They are going to get back to us with a bid so Mossy would like to hold off until we get that. If the bid is more money than what we have currently been offered, the Board authorized John Ross to accept that offer. John said he will let the Board know, and we have to give the broker 10%.

Selectmen Committee Reports

Stanley Holz, EDC

--It has been a much slower pace as there is no in-person meetings. Jared is continuing to work on the park concept. They are also working on getting bids for the business signs.

Shawn White, Airport

--Airport - Shawn said they spoke about the CARES act grant that was received and it is pretty much a reimbursement grant so what they spend they will get reimbursed for. They are looking at buying airplane fuel so they are looking at purchasing fuel and getting reimbursed for that. They talked about new plow equipment. The tractor is over its age and they are looking at replacing that. They are also looking at updating the phone system. John Ross, Jr. asked about the big fuel tank out there and when it would be moved. Shawn said it should have been moved already.

Peter Corey, Planning Board

Peter said that the Planning Board has seen a brisk level of activity with development permits, new homes, additions, mostly second homes has been the trend. There is a problem with Air BNBs becoming a problem with neighbors getting annoyed with cars, septic systems being overused, noise. There was a resident complaining about a property on Forest Lake. Peter said some point in the not too distant future will have to come to terms to allow Air BNBs to continue so neighboring properties and water systems are not impacted by excessive use. Campers and people living in campers are cropping up everywhere. Peter said people are taking advantage of not paying taxes and using the campers as second homes or are actually living in their campers. There have also been complaints about the size of the land area that was filled in off Hall Road and whether it exceeds the alteration of terrain limits. Scott

said we need to see what other towns are doing with the Air BNBs. We need to get language and determine how to insert it into the guide.

A motion was made by Shawn White to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2020 Selectmen's Meeting. The motion was seconded by Peter Corey. Roll call vote: Holz: Yes; Corey: Yes; White: yes. All in favor, 3-0. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Peter Corey to enter non-public session at 7:45 p.m. pursuant to NH RSA 91-A:3, (II) b the hiring of any person as a public employee. The motion was seconded by Shawn White. Roll call vote: Holz: Yes; Corey: Yes; White: Yes. All in favor, 3-0. Motion passed.

The Board adjourned from non-public session at 8:10 p.m.

Shawn said that Mrs. Lufkin got in touch with him stating they did not get contacted about the location of the fire hydrant in the Dunkin Donuts parking lot. Shawn said he would follow-up with Mr. Larson.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.