

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 13, 2021

At the Selectmen's meeting held on Monday, December 13, 2021 at 6:15 p.m. the following people were in attendance: John Tholl, Shawn White, and Peter Corey.

Others in attendance: John Ross, Jr., Tom Ladd, Don Laplante

Fire Chief/Health Officer John Ross, Jr. said pursuant to NH RSA 128:3 the Whitefield Board of Health Meeting is called to order at 6:15 pm. Chief Ross explained that they have made changes to the health officer statutes, and we are required to have a health board consisting of the Board of Selectmen and John Ross as Health Officer and Chief Executive Officer. Deputy Health Officer Alan Smith could not make it tonight. It is required by the updated statutes that we have a Deputy Health Officer.

Covid 19 Update: Chief Ross said we had two shot clinics at the high school over the past few weeks, and over 500 shots were given between boosters, covid vaccines and flu shots. Booster Blitz was held in the area last weekend, which had a good turnout as well. John said he is monitoring the outbreaks in this area and the CDC guidelines. We have seen an uptick in cases, and have transported about 5 Covid patients recently. Chief Ross monitors and keeps a tally of the daily cases.

Septic Issues: Chief Ross said that he has worked on two cases this year with properties with cesspools, and he is constantly working on Air BnB's listings with the wrong number of bedrooms listed as compared to their septic system approvals. Mr. Corey mentioned a property on Union Street with a cesspool. Chief Ross said that cesspools are not legal and there is no grandfather clause for those.

Trash Issues: Chief Ross said this continues to be an on-going issue, but most places are cleaned up when he addresses them. He has resolved three of them heading into the winter.

No other business. Board of Health meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Chair Corey called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Don Laplante of the Conservation Commission

Don said they have a couple new members they would like to appoint to the Conservation Commission. Valerie Yelton has sold her house and moved out of town. The Commission would like to replace her with Lisa Courcy, who lives up on Crane Road. Don knows her as she is a neighbor. She retired a couple of years ago and lives up here full-time. She used to be the

head of the nursing department at the college she was teaching at. She would be a great one to have on the committee.

The other one is replacing Ken Jordan. Dave Chase, who lives on Elm Street. Don does not know him personally but the other members do know him. Good addition to the board.

The Board signed the appointment forms for Lisa Courcy and Dave Chase to be appointed to the Conservation Commission.

Don said the Commission would also like to set up an account called the Conservation Fund with the Town Treasurer. This would allow any money that is appropriated and not expended to be rolled over into that fund. RSA 36-A:5 states any part of money appropriated to the Conservation Commission in any year and any gifts of money received pursuant to RSA 36-A:4 may be placed in a Conservation Fund and allowed to accumulate from year to year. The Town Treasurer would have custody of all moneys in the Conservation Fund. The disbursement of conservation funds shall be authorized by a majority of the conservation commission. Don said that this would allow them to grow their funds and have money available for any projects that might come up. Don said we are required by law to have a Natural Resource Inventory developed. The last one was done 10 to 15 years. John Severance developed that. We have hired his partner to work with us on this project. Her fee is \$5,000, which exceed their budget. Don said we worked with Eversource because they had some mitigation funds available and Eversource is going to cover the entire cost of the project. She is in the process of putting the steps together for the NRI and will have it finalized during the spring and summer. We did use \$1000 of their budget to purchase a couple extra days of her time to do more extensive work on wetlands. Don said it would be good to have funds available if we get into another situation such as this. It will also allow them to keep any bequests they may get. Don said we are looking at some type of fish ladder out at the airport. The bridge is raised so the fish can't travel from the brook to the pond and vice versa and affects the spawning. If we are able to accumulate our unused appropriations, we might be able to pay for those type of things. It appears that no special vote is required to do this. The Board said they had no objections. Shawn wondered where the wetlands study will be done, and Don said that we are waiting to hear back from her on what she comes up with in the NRI. Shawn suggested adding these updated maps to the town's website.

The Board approved having Chair Corey sign the Eversource Oversize/Overweight Permitted Load Municipal Authorization Form. This allows Eversource in emergency situations when a mobile unit must be installed quickly to transport with short notice including overnight and on weekends. For that reason, they are asking the Towns to provide advance permission utilizing this form to transport the mobile substation units through town in such emergency. Under non-emergency circumstances Eversource will provide notice well in advance, but quick action may be crucial to prevent long-term, widespread outages. Eversource will make best-efforts to reach

out to the towns before emergency transport, but having the authorization in advance can help minimize electric service disruption.

The Board approved and signed the Federally-Funded Equipment Acquisitions Policies & Procedures.

Budgets:

The Board reviewed the budgets for: Executive, Election & Registration, Financial Administration, Legal Expense, General Government Buildings, Insurance, NHMA Dues, Welfare, Culture & Recreation, Debt Service, Banc Concerts.

The Board will have a work session at their next meeting on Monday, January 10, 2022 to review and finalize the proposed budgets.

John Tholl made a motion to approve the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of November 29, 2021. The motion was seconded by John Tholl. All in favor, 3-0. Motion passes.

John Tholl made a motion to approve the Selectmen's Work Session Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2021. The motion was seconded by Peter Corey. Shawn abstained as he was not in attendance. Motion passes, 2-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.