

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 23, 2021

At the Selectmen's meeting held on Monday, August 23, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. the following people were in attendance: Peter Corey, Shawn White, and John Tholl.

Chairman Corey called the Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Others in attendance: Rob Larson, PW Director, Fred Ingerson, Water Superintendent, Melissa Farrow, Recreation Director, Bob Stiles, Tom Ladd, Edward Samson, Police Chief, John Ross, Jr., Fire Chief, Courtney Vashaw, Librarian,

Pledge of Allegiance

Old Business:

Bob Stiles – Water Line for Fred's Way – Bob was asking why are other people hooking up to small lines, and he was denied? Shawn had some questions for Bob about the hand-delivered map he left off. Bob said he is talking about the Quonset hut denial. Everyone else can hook up, and he was denied? Shawn said that Shane's was a water line/main that was installed all the way down the road by Ted Ingerson. Off that water line is separate spurs for the houses off that line. Bob's line is not like that because Bob's line goes through the NAPA property. Bob said it fed the lot in back of it as well. Bob said that all started when there was talk about putting the ambulance up there, and the water came off that line and served the NAPA and never got around for the back lot. It was just there. Bob said he did reserve a right of way across the NAPA property so he could hook on at a later time. Bob said someone brought him a denial for hooking on to the water. Bob said that there are 5 other lines with small hook ups, and Bob said the town should put meters on those like the trailer parks. Bob said that the Dunn line went through other people's properties and had at least five houses on that line. Bob is wondering what the problem with his line is. Peter Corey said his understanding was when we had this conversation last year, that the line Bob is talking about hooking on to is a service line to Napa, and the line is all on the parcel Napa is on. Bob said he reserved a right of way. Where does the line terminate now that goes up to the main? Bob said 30 feet out from his metal building on Bob's property. Rob said it terminates further back. Bob said no one told Rob that. There is a deeded right of way for the water and sewer going up there, and Bob said he gave a copy of that to Rob. Bob wants to know why was he discriminated against? Bob said he was within 4 feet of hooking on. Fred brought him a letter that said denied. Bob said he dug a well and put in a leach field instead. Bob said he gave Rob a copy of the deed, and Bob said he paid \$100 for an attorney to state in a letter that he had the right of way up there. Bob said he was discriminated against. Who owns the main? Bob said if you talk to NAPA, they say that Bob does. If anything happens to that main, Bob has to repair it. Napa knows that. Do they have something in their deed that says that? Peter said since

he has been on the selectboard for 5 years, every year we deal with one of these hokey-pokey water lines done in the past without any deference to the right way of doing things. The Water Ordinance was changed in 2017 so things are done the right way according to code so when NAPA and Bob are no longer here, the new owners know clearly who owns what and who has to pay to repair things. Peter said that we have created all of these issues by not putting lines in to the standard they should be installed.

The folks who bought the lot behind the liquor store, O'Neil wanted to put in a car wash and found out they couldn't because there is no water running down Fred's Way. Bob said there is a right of way going down through there. Shawn says this map Bob gave Shawn shows sewer manholes. Bob said that three feet from the sewer line is the 2-inch water line. Does that meet cross contamination standards today? What is Bob asking to have, water or sewer?

Peter said Bob has the means to do this correctly and properly. Bob said he feels it is correct. Peter said if Bob wants to bring water to the back lots, the appropriate way to do it is to bring an appropriately sized water main down Fred's Way so he can hook-on with a proper curb stop. It should not go across someone else's lot.

Bob asked how Mr. Morton's privately-owned water main down Hidden Acre Drive is different from what Bob wants to do? Their water line is not going through anyone else's property. When Bob Dunn sells that, does he have a right of way? That lot has a direct connection to the privately owned water line. That is a private development. Bob said that the town should install a water meter at the beginning of the development so we know if it is leaking. North Woods Estates is an example of a development who did it to correctly and to town standards. They ran the line down the road. Peter said there was the issue a few years when a line Bob installed off Jefferson Road ran through other people's property, and the current homeowner did not know that. There was issues with that line leaking. The reasonable expectation is that the homeowner owns the line to the curb stop. These are the problems we are trying to get away from.

Bob said he wants to have water to the back lots. What does he have to do? Shawn said he has some questions: Does Bob have a right-of-way? How far apart are the water and sewer lines? DES says they have to be 10 feet apart. The Board said they would like to see the water line run down Fred's Way rather than going through other parcels. Shawn said put a water line down Fred's Way in the right of way. Peter said that the problem is people have been doing things they shouldn't be doing. Planning board is at fault because when a developer puts in a crappy road, they let them and don't do anything about it. The Planning Board should be making the developers take out surety bonds to be sure the right size water lines and sewer lines go in. If Bob wants to develop his development, he should put the appropriate utility down the road. The questions the selectmen have are: Do all the deeds show easements for this? If everything is deeded, does it show who owns it and who is responsible for it? Bob asked if this the way the others are done, like Belanger's, Jefferson Road, Hidden Acre Drive? Shawn said this is how it is going to be going forward. We can't enforce this on things already done. Peter said the things

underground that people can't see are a nightmare. The town spends a lot of money on these issues, and these are always cropping up.

Rob said Bob does not have a water line in that easement. Bob said there is water and sewer in the easement. Rob said that Bob may be grandfathered as we changed the rules in 2017. Bob said it is six-inch sewer and two-inch water. The waterline was put in same time as the sewer line, 25 years ago.

Shawn wants to see the properties on the plan and who is going to be responsible for what. Bob said he will see that each one has it on their deed. Bob said that he is going to do lot line adjustments, but Peter said it sounded like it would have to be a subdivision. Bob said there would be four lots, and when they become actual lots, he will put in the water and sewer lines. The planning board should be addressing the utilities. When Bob does the sub-division, he needs to put in the proper utilities. Bob said he is willing to put a meter in.

Peter said 25 years from now when we are all gone and there are 4 houses up there, and this water line springs a leak who is going to repair that? Bob said everyone on that line will have an interest in that. Peter said all of these properties should have to be in a homeowner's association stating that. Bob said that he hasn't gotten that far yet. Bob said if he is putting a meter in, he thinks he is as legal as Demers and Meadow Mist Trailer Parks.

Peter said when developers build out their infrastructure it should be done properly so the town will one day take it over so those issues of breaks and leaks don't get borne by the property owners. A developer should put in proper utilities down the roads to the town standard so the town can take it over. Relieves the property owners of that burden. Bob wants to think about the today and now. Board's responsibility to think about the town, and adhere to best practices of installation of water and sewer.

Bob said he originally wanted to put in a campground, but the Planning Board would not let him. He hasn't done anything with this property for 20 years, but would like to at this time. Peter said Bob has the opportunity to do it right now. Bob said he feels if he puts in a meter he is legal, and we should make all the others do that as well.

New Business:

Department Head Meeting

Melissa Farrow – Recreation Department

--Summer program is wrapping up this week.

--Soccer program and after-school program will be starting in September.

--Melissa said she wishes we could get a bus and bus driver, as we spend so much on bus costs with WW Berry.

--Step Up Parents is a new program we worked with this year who assisted in payment of

participant's tuition. Kinship caregivers are relatives or close family friends who step up to care for, nurture and protect children who find themselves without a responsible parent or a safe place to live. Step Up Parents provides financial assistance to these caregivers in New Hampshire who are raising the children of parents with substance use disorder.

--Summer Feeding Program is another program we utilized this summer.

--Really enjoyed the Library Program that Katelyn Wood coordinated.

--Going to the Weathervane on Friday.

--Reaching out to Bethlehem and Littleton re: pool use and facility use for next year instead of always relying on Col. Town. Melissa will be meeting with the new director in Littleton. It never hurts to network and get new ideas.

Courtney Vashaw – Whitefield Public Library

--The Library and Recreation Department feed off each other's programs.

--The grant of \$2,937 allowed us to have Katelyn run her magnificent program and the library was able to be open 40 hours a week. Courtney said the grant paid for Katelyn's hours and the community donations paid for the programming. Katelyn is going to Colebrook full-time, but we are hoping her schedule will allow her to still help us out and try to get her back for next summer.

--Losing some of their help, so Courtney is looking for some part-time help. They want to be open more than 22 hours but less than 40 so we are looking what we can do.

--Dolly Parton Imagination Library will roll out in September, and every student in SAU 36 ages birth to age 5 will get free books delivered to their homes. This is a huge literacy initiative. We will work on getting families enrolled.

--Courtney said that they received a \$500 grant from the Coos County Commissioners to support the little free pantry. Their first question to her was is there any town fiscal support for the pantry? She said the pantry gets a lot of use. The Board said there are not any funds appropriated in the budget for this. Courtney was wondering about a letter from the town stating they are in support of the little free pantry. Rob said the town did provide in-kind work in helping to install the building. Peter said we don't want to burden people with having to write more letters. We did support the pantry with the in-kind work that was done.

--Courtney said she got the grant to update our circulation system. It normally costs \$6,000 and the grant will get us operational for the first year to pay for the fees that go along with it. This will allow us to keep accurate patron records and catalog our system. It may cost us more money in the long, but it will make things much easier. This will be live on December 6th. Make things mu

John Ross - Fire Chief

--Asked if it is ok to participate in the Firemen's Muster at the Lancaster Fair. Board commended them on their effort in doing this.

--Hopefully his new vehicle the 2015 Interceptor will be ready this week. Ron Sheltry is working on it.

--Asked about the American Rescue Plan funds. Peter said we will be discussing this at a Public Hearing on September 13th. We will take input that night on what we can spend it on. It has to be in accordance with the guidance. John said he will write up something for the meeting.

Rob Larson – Department of Public Works

--Airport Road will be closed on Thursday at the Pondicherry trail. We have a culvert caving in doing and will be doing an emergency repair. Rob has notified Presby, Chip Plant, town rescue services. Peter suggested that he contact the US Fish & Wildlife Service as well.

--We got our sludge permit approved for the wastewater facility and permit to haul sludge. Discuss with the board opening the receiving station for RV's. The regular sludge haulers we are all set up for. For the RV's, he has gotten calls from several people who would like to be able to use the facility for an RV disposal. Rob said he would like to use a credit card system and would only be available when they are open. Rob would like the approval for the credit card system. What do other facilities do? Rob said most people dump at the campgrounds they are at. The receiving station is located at the old process building. Shawn worries about the people driving the campers into the facility. H2O is good with this. If we can generate money, we can try it and see what happens. It will be a flat rate. Shawn suggested that the users in town who pay for town sewer get charged a lesser fee. We don't want it too complicated. \$10 discount if they bring in proof of there water bill.

--Rob and Jimmy are working with NRRA to review the price list for the transfer station. They are going to buy a scale so they can charge by the weight. The Board thought this sounds like it might be too complicated. Shawn said the scale has to be certified by the state, and Jimmy will have to go to training for it. It seems complex. Rob said we won't do that then, but we want to review the price list anyways. We don't want to get into the business of doing something that would be too difficult. Police Chief Samson said the more the prices creep up, then we are going to start finding it everywhere. If you have to pay \$40 to \$50 to get rid of a television, people are going to dump them somewhere. We already see, and it will just get worse.

--Kimball Hill is scheduled for paving 9/10 and includes the section just below John's house. The sidewalks in front of the gun shop and pizza place, that whole stretch, will be done on September 20th. It will be a concrete sidewalk.

--The ball field here at the legion will be paved when we do the parking lot for the fire station and that is going to be the week of September 20th, probably the day after Kimball Hill.

--Ballfield interior work for the rec building, bathrooms are scheduled for September to be completed. Will having running water and their bathrooms.

--Melissa said soccer season is coming up, can she schedule games on Wednesday? The Board said it is best not to schedule games at the Legion on Wednesday, due to the parking issues with the Legion bingo.

--Rob said we are finishing up the truck for hauling the sludge.

--Shawn asked about the pavement bids for the year. Rob said he will get the ones he got for Kimball Hill to the board. They are done by tonnage. Shawn said we should be getting quotes

for sand, stone, etc. The salt goes out on the state bid system. Shawn said when he did it, he would go around and get prices from every person.

--The fence for the retention pond will be here in September.

Fred Ingerson – Water Department

--On Liberty Drive we did a new service tap for a new house

--Lancaster Road tap that was fixed, and they got a new water line put in as the current water line was on the neighbor's right of way.

--Water project is done. Fred said he still hasn't heard anything on where we are at with that. Still some outstanding items they need to respond to. We need to let them know that we expecting the punch list items to be done.

--There has not been any more discussion on how the rest of the money is going to be spent. Mike Duffy has to get everything approved. It won't be done this year. We can try to get it out to bid this year. Rob said he will follow-up with Mike.

--The Union Street project was discussed. Steve Lafrance put numbers together for Union Street to share with DOT for \$1.2 million. That is up to Scalley's garage. Those are four years old now, and the numbers will be significantly more. Get a local company to bid on it rather than the large companies.

--Fred is working on a tool to fix the hydrants. The ones with black caps don't come off. They have never been exercised. Peter was told they are exercised twice a year. Brian Sweeney is making up a socket to fit on those and to try with an impact gun. Peter suggested checking around to see if one of the companies, like E.J. Prescott, might do that for us. It would be money well spent.

Edward Samson – Police Chief

--Summer is in our rear view mirror. The SRO's go back to school in a week and half. Good to have them fill in and cover shifts during the summer.

--Ed said everybody thought the interceptor SUV wasn't going to have any rust issues. Ed was surprised it was so rusty. We may want to look into doing undercoating in the long run to keep those.

--Discussed the speed signs – Ed said the cloud subscription is coming to an end. The annual subscription is \$1,600 a year. Ed wants to do some research on the blue tooth capability before we decide if we want to go forward with the cloud subscription. Ed said he not sure of the limitations on the blue tooth. It is good information we get and would be useful if we apply for grants, etc. The signs seem to be working in slowing down the cards. Ed said we have seen as many as 20,000 to 30,000 cars on a Friday afternoon pass through the sign up by the Dollar General.

--On the Emergency Management side, we discussed masks, and in consulting with Chief Ross see no reason to go back to the mask requirement in town buildings. Melissa said that the After School Program will mirror what the school district is doing.

--Shawn asked Ed to update the signage in the municipal parking lots.

Ordinances

Chief Samson said he found a Permissible Fireworks Ordinance that is used by the majority of the towns which will put in place a fireworks ordinance and has a permit application. It is fairly basic. The enforcement is for the first offense: written warning and/or revocation of permit; second offense: \$250 fine and revocation of permit; and third offense: \$500 fine and revocation of permit, and persons violating this ordinance for a third time will be prohibited from obtaining any further permissible fireworks. The hours are listed 10 am to 10 pm. There are different levels of permits for special fireworks, i.e. Mountain View Grand. It was discussed to include a \$5 permit fee. We will need to schedule a public hearing for this.

Chief Samson also presented a Disorderly Actions Ordinance. The one we currently have is very old. We will schedule a public hearing for this as well.

The Board decided to send a letter to DOT Bureau of Traffic requesting the installation of no parking signs along the southbound lane of US Route 3 from the fire hydrant just east of the Dunkin Donuts store in our village center to the intersection with View Street. We are experiencing a high incidence of large vehicles and vehicles towing trailers parking along that shoulder while the occupants patronize the Dunk Donuts. This causes southbound traffic to veer into the northbound lane creating a very unsafe condition and impedes the traffic flow.

Peter Corey said he looked into the ordinance for controlling junk. He looked at about 10 ordinances from cities or town. Peter shared a link to a NHMA Webinar, Controlling Junk: Junkyard Enforcement 101. He also shared two NHMA articles: Local Regulation of Junkyards and Junky Yards and Regulating Salvage Facilities: Balancing Community and Business Interests. It boils down to that he couldn't find a stand-alone ordinance separate from the zoning ordinance that addresses junk yards. State laws are well established. There is very little addressing junk yards. Town of Carroll did a nice job of trying to address nuisances in addition to junk yards. The Board is wondering if that can be a stand-alone ordinance or does it need to be part of the Zoning Ordinance? It was suggested that Judy reach out to the Town Attorney with this question as well as having her look at the ordinances Chief Samson prepared.

A motion was made by Shawn White to approve the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of August 9, 2021. The motion was seconded by John Tholl. All in favor, 3-0. Motion passes.

A motion was made by Shawn White at 8:45 p.m. to enter non-public session pursuant to NH RSA 91-A:3 II(e) and (l) and NH RSA 91-A:3 II(a). The motion was seconded by John Tholl. All in favor, 3-0. Motion passes.

The board adjourned from non-public session at 8:55 p.m. A motion was made by Shawn White to seal the meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by John Tholl. All in favor, 3-0. Motion passes.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.