

Minutes of the Selectboard Meeting of
Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 6:30 pm

This meeting was conducted via teleconference using ZOOM, in order to maintain appropriate physical distance under COVID-19 precautions. Members present: Roger Arnold, Chair; Mary Layton, Vice Chair; Claudette Brochu; Marcia Calloway (joined the meeting at 6:53 pm); Robert Gere; Miranda Bergmeier, Assistant to the Town Manager.

There were about 14 people in the audience.

Also participating: Amy Stringer, Cheryl Lindberg, Peter Orner, Jaan Laaspere, Charlotte Metcalf, Alex Northern, Matt Swett, Neil Fulton.

1. Approval of Agenda. SB members agreed to hold a special meeting to address the Beaver Meadow Bike/Ped grant on Wednesday, June 2, 2021. Layton **moved** (2nd Gere) to approve the agenda, as amended. **Motion approved unanimously (4 to 0; Calloway not yet present).**

2. Public Comment. Amy Stringer asked about a comment on a police survey regarding an officer misgendering a resident. Cheryl Lindberg said the Listers have filed the grand list abstract and are mailing out notification letters regarding the new property valuations. Peter Orner said he and others who support the Beaver Meadow Rd. (BMR) sidewalk project would like more guidance about what issues the SB is concerned about regarding the BMR sidewalk, so Orner and his group can prepare for the June 2 Special SB meeting.

*Calloway joined the meeting in progress at 6:53 pm.

3. Consent Agenda. Brochu asked a question about the handwritten entries on the A/P warrant. Bergmeier said that Becky Grammer in the Finance Office had found errors on the warrant after printing, so she made handwritten corrections and made journal entries in the system to correct the errors, because the report could not be reprinted. Calloway asked if the corrections were made in the accounting system so they would be accurate going forward. Lindberg said that if the journal entries were made to correct the errors, the information is correct in the system going forward. SB members discussed whether to approve the A/P warrants. Layton **moved** (2nd Gere) to approve the consent agenda, minus correspondence from Chris Katucki. **Motion approved (4 yes, 1 abstain – Brochu).** Calloway expressed concern about the town's sign ordinance, which is likely unconstitutional and said the ordinance should be amended as soon as possible. SB members agreed to take up this matter at a future meeting. Layton **moved** (2nd Calloway) to accept correspondence from Chris Katucki. **Motion approved unanimously.**

4. Executive Session to Discuss Town Manager Performance. SB members agreed to defer this item for a future meeting, given the absence of Durfee from the meeting.

5. Town Manager Report. SB members agreed to defer this item for a future meeting, given the absence of Durfee from the meeting.

6. Operational Plan for '21-'22. Calloway discussed her draft operational plan memo, which will be included in the SB packet for the 6-9-2021 meeting. Calloway described her process in drafting the plan, including her research. SB members thanked Calloway for her work and discussed the memo. SB members agreed to send Calloway their written suggestions for edits to the plan.

7. Approve "Fit Up" Costs for 2021 Ford F550 Purchase. Layton **moved** (2nd Gere) to authorize

the expenditure of up to \$58,200 from the Highway Equipment designated fund for the cost to outfit the new F550 for the Department of Public Works with a body, plow, wing, sander and controls.

Motion approved unanimously.

8. Discussion of Policing Study, Reforms, & Process. SB members discussed what output they'd like to see in the upcoming police study process. Layton said she'd like us to expand the concept of community to include marginalized groups. Brochu wants to see police data analyzed for greater clarity and understanding. Calloway wants to talk about how people define safety, and what police functions might be out-sourced, and what are willing to pay for. What are our public safety needs and are they being met? SB members discussed the possibility of hiring a facilitator for community discussions. SB members discussed the necessity for acquiring complete and accurate data on police. SB members agreed they need to have a plan for the process. SB members agreed to submit memos for inclusion in the next meeting packet. Jaan Laaspere read aloud a letter signed by 30 residents urging prompt hiring of a fourth police officer. Laaspere said he will submit the letter for the next meeting packet. Charlotte Metcalf spoke in support of having an adequate police force and looks to the SB to explain why we have not filled the vacant police position.

9. Equipment Safety Grant for Fire Dept. Calloway asked if the designated fund has sufficient funds for the proposed purchase. Arnold said yes, they do. Layton **moved** (2nd Brochu) to approve the expenditure of up to \$8,000.00 from the Fire Equipment Designated Fund for the purchase of PPE jackets and pants, which expenditure may be reduced by \$1,000 if the Town is awarded a VLCT PACIF grant. **Motion approved unanimously.**

10. Fire Engine Replacement. Arnold introduced the topic and pointed out documents in the SB packet in support of the purchase. Fire Chief Alex Northern said that an extra \$18,000.00 would allow the purchase of an APU, which will cut down on the truck's fossil fuel use. Matt Swett explained that the APU would save 67 gallons of diesel fuel per year, which would take decades to pay for the \$18,000 cost of the APU. Because of this, the Fire Dept. does not recommend buying the APU. Swett said the proposed truck could run on 20% biodiesel. Gere asked if the APU could be retrofitted, if not initially installed. Neil Fulton said that yes, it could be retrofitted. Layton **moved** (2nd Gere) to approve the expenditure of up to \$546,049.00 from the Fire Apparatus Designated Fund for the purchase of a new Rescue/Pumper to replace the department's existing 2000 pumper. **Motion approved unanimously.**

11. Adjourn. Brochu **moved** (2nd Gere) to adjourn. **Motion approved unanimously.**
Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

By Miranda Bergmeier

Approved by the Selectboard on June 9, 2021

Roger Arnold
Selectboard Chair

Next Meeting – June 2, 2021 – Meeting at 6:30

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