

**Board of Selectmen  
August 12, 2020**

**Present:** Richard C. Edwards, Acting Chair; Kenneth G. Fifield (via phone); Dino A. Scala, Town Administrator; and Toni Bodah, Secretary.

Mr. Edwards called the posted meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. **Mr. Fifield moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A;3, II (a). Mr. Edwards seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Fifield – ‘aye’; Mr. Edwards – ‘aye’. The motion passed 2-0, and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.**

The Board returned to public session at 6:34 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board voted to authorize an increase to \$21.97/hour for Officer Loghan Major. **Mr. Fifield moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A;3, II (a). Mr. Edwards seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Fifield – ‘aye’; Mr. Edwards – ‘aye’. The motion passed 2-0, and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.**

The Board returned to public session at 6:37 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board voted to authorize an increase to \$24.07/hour for Officer Matthew Martino. At this point Mr. Edwards called for a recess, during which time the Board moved to the Opera House.

Mr. Edwards called the session back to order at 7 p.m., leading those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those present at this time included: Jim Miller and Ted Taylor (videographers); Mike Ledonne; Bob Ledonne; Ken Gatto; Joel Pallidino; Bill Kane; Neil Rowe; Larry Moody; Shirley Murphy MacCormack; and Sgt. Mike Fenton.

**1. Appointments**

**a) Bill Kane, VP of Towle Farm Community Corp (“TFCC”) –** Mr. Kane introduced other TFCC residents present and referred to the letter from the TFCC attorney, previously distributed to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Kane referred to the Selectmen’s meeting in July at which Mr. Rowe and Mr. Moody insisted that TFCC does not actually own Towle Farm Road. Mr. Kane stressed that TFCC has been taking care of that road for many years. Apparently in 1993, TFCC failed to file paperwork in a timely manner. This paperwork was eventually re-filed and TFCC was in tact again. “The” was added to the new corporation’s name, with a new ID #. However, TFCC did not lose rights deeded by Bill Ames, who’s intent was to deed the property and beach rights to area residents. Both corporations have since been merged and the State of NH has recognized that merger. Mr. Kane stressed there is no doubt as to who owns those roads. The current lawsuit involves 1 TFCC member who has not paid dues and has nothing to do with ownership of the roads.

Mr. Kane stated that the idea of dissolving Bonnyman Road and making Towle Farm Road the main road is not a new one, and TFCC members have never been in favor of the proposal. TFCC maintains the boat ramp and the beach, on which it also pays taxes and insurance. The boat ramp is used by everyone on the lake. Members of TFCC participate in weed watching/lake hosting. Mr. Kane referred to a joint project involving TFCC and AWWA to mitigate run off.

Mr. Edwards referred to lake quality being paramount. Therefore, he asked whether Mr. Kane can understand why the Board would entertain the current proposal. Mr. Kane responded positively. Mr. Edwards noted it may be so expensive for the Town to fix Bonnyman Road that it would be more reasonable to improve Towle Farm Road, which project he stated would not go through the Towle Farm

community, but rather around it. Mr. Kane, stressing that TFCC's refusal of the project has nothing to do with personality conflicts, indicated that either project (fixing Bonnyman and/or improving Towle Farm) would cost in the area of \$500,000. Mr. Edwards stressed that we must consider what is best for the taxpayers.

Mr. Kane stated the project would go through the community and added that most residents are horrified at the idea of having that section of road open to the public. Mr. Edwards noted the Board would like everyone on board with the project prior to making any decisions. He stressed we must try to save the lake in the most cost-effective way.

Mr. Gatto stated that Towle Farm Road is an integral part of TFCC. While residents may not enjoy a view of the lake, they have enjoyed a quiet road. He stressed that at least 3 of the lots on Towle Farm Road are not in favor of the proposal. Mr. Gatto referred to another project with AWWA in 2010/2011 to mitigate run-off. He added that there are other means to mitigate various issues, and questioned the anticipated cost to improve Towle Farm Road. Mr. Edwards referred to the DPW Director's estimate of \$200,000-\$300,000. Any change to Bonnyman Road would involve the State and would cost at least double. He stressed again that the Board of Selectmen is willing to entertain the proposal but only if all are in favor of it. Mr. Scala clarified that the amount cited was for materials only.

Mr. Gatto is pleased that the Board is interested in caring for the lake. He is also aware that the Board must take many factors into account. However, if the Town were to take Towle Farm Road, the current residents of that road would pay the highest cost—forever.

Ms. MacCormack referred to boulders coming out of the road as a result of trucks travelling on Bonnyman Road. She spoke to having nearly been hit near a blind corner on the road. She has asked the Road Agent for signs but was told it would not help. Ms. MacCormack stated it is time for 'them' to give something. She is willing to give up 10' of her property to get Bonnyman Road straightened out. She has seen children in open golf carts on the road. Ms. MacCormack stated the police have been notified, but they can't always be on that road.

Mr. Moody stated that the Town has a difficult decision to make. It would not require taking anyone's land if the back road were used. It would address safety issues as well. He is glad the Board is able to hear both sides of the story.

Mr. Miller spoke to the Zoom audience, asking for comments/questions. "Sue" stated she is not a property owner. She stated that the quality of the lake is very important; however, we must be more concerned with safety. Bonnyman Road is literally caving in. "Lorna" is a property owner on Towle Farm Road and is in favor of the Town taking over that road to save the lake. She added that the road is poorly maintained by TFCC. "Ed's iPad" owns property on Bonnyman Road. The road is eroding in 2 places, and water is undermining the road. "Greg Laverdure" owns property on Towle Farm Road and is not in favor of the proposal.

Mr. Gatto added that Towle Farm Road is not a straight shot to connect to Bonnyman Road. He noted that solving a safety issue on Bonnyman Road should not create a safety issue on Towle Farm Road.

Mr. Fifield stated that the Board needs time to digest all information. He encouraged anyone interested to supplement this information by sending a letter to the Board. Mr. Edwards stated it is the job of the Board of Selectmen to listen to all and to consider all information. He would like to see a vote taken of all involved. The Town is trying to help provide a safer environment and to address water quality.

## **2. Unscheduled Matters/Public Comment #1**

--Mr. Rowe questioned whether Attorney Sager has been contacted regarding a potential conflict of interest. Mr. Scala advised that Attorney Sager's private case has been settled; therefore, he would be able to represent the Town without a conflict of interest. Mr. Rowe stated that ownership of the road should be confirmed.

--Ms. MacCormack asked whether someone could view the property to see where the road is being undermined. Mr. Edwards advised that the DPW Director has viewed the site and believes the rocks are being moved from the rise and fall of the water, thereafter being moved by traffic.

--"Sue" (from Zoom) stated that Bonnyman Road is very dangerous, adding that there will be an accident.

## **3. Unfinished Business** – None scheduled.

## **4. New Business**

**a) Purchase Order \$33,809.95** – This represents the purchase of the new police vehicle. Mr. Fifield moved to approve the purchase order as presented. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.

**b) Purchase Order \$11,331** – This represents the cost to outfit the new police vehicle. Mr. Fifield moved to approve the purchase order as presented. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.

**c) Redemption of Map 48, Lot 25** – The former owner has redeemed this tax acquired property. Mr. Fifield moved to execute the deed for redemption of Map 48 Lot 25, as presented. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.

## **5. Proposed Capital Reserve Expenditures**

**a) Highway Road Projects \$5622.40** – This expenditure relates to shoulder gravel for Oak Hill Road. Mr. Fifield moved to approve this \$5622.40 expenditure as presented. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.

**b) Highway Road Projects \$380.08** – This expenditure is for material purchased by R&D from Pike Industries. Mr. Fifield moved to approve this \$380.08 expenditure as presented. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.

**c) Invasive Species ETF \$4375** – This expenditure reflects the amount previously approved by the Board for the Great East Lake host program. **Mr. Fifield moved to approve this \$4375 expenditure as presented. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.**

**d) Cemetery Maintenance ETF \$1442** – This represents the cost of material for roadwork done at the Stonehedge Cemetery. **Mr. Fifield moved to approve this \$1442 expenditure as presented. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.**

**6. Correspondence** – None scheduled.

**7. Unscheduled Matters/Public Comment #2** – None forthcoming.

**8. Administrative Matters**

**a) Town Administrator's Update**

--Mr. Scala noted that operations at Town Hall are 95% back to normal, adding that the citizens have been great. Mr. Edwards referred to needing to call to enter the lower level. Mr. Scala advised that the connector entrance to the lower level is now open. The next step (and the last one) will be to open the outside door to the lower level. The purpose of its being locked is to minimize the congestion of people entering from both the connector and the main door.

--Mr. Scala presented recommendations to write off \$10,346.37 in outstanding ambulance bills and to send \$999.99 in bills to Experian. **Mr. Fifield moved to approve the write offs and Experian as presented. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.** Mr. Scala briefly reviewed the process used prior to writing off any bills, including the option of entering a payment plan.

--Mr. Scala and Sgt. Fenton picked up PPE for the upcoming elections. Mr. Scala will be working with the Town Clerk to set up Town hall in conformance with all requirements.

--Mr. Scala reminded the Board that the Primary is scheduled for September 8, for which the Board members have a number of responsibilities.

**b) Treasurer's Reports for July** – Provided for the Board's information.

**c) Tax Collector's Month and Year-to-Date Comparisons** – Provided for the Board's information.

**d) Building Permit Releases** – None received.

**e) Appointment to Heritage Commission** – Mr. Fifield moved to appoint Craig Farley as an alternate to the Heritage Commission for a term through March 2023, as recommended by the Commission. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.

**f) Payment Manifests** – Mr. Fifield moved to approve PR #17 in the amount of \$88,179.09, as presented. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.

Mr. Fifield moved to approve PR #16 in the amount of \$84,280.58, as presented. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.

Mr. Fifield moved to approve AP #21 in the amount of \$1,020,741.95, as presented. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.

g) Minutes – Mr. Fifield moved to approve the minutes of the July 29, 2020, public session, as presented. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.

Mr. Fifield moved to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2020, public session, as presented. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.

Mr. Fifield moved to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2020, non public sessions, as presented. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.

Mr. Edwards moved to adjourn at 8:19 p.m. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Toni Bodah, Secretary

Approval of Minutes:

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Mark P. Duffy, Chair

  
Richard C. Edwards, Acting Chair

  
Kenneth G. Fifield