

**Board of Selectmen
January 26, 2022**

Present: Mark P. Duffy, Chair; Richard C. Edwards; Kenneth G. Fifield; Dino A. Scala, Town Administrator; and Toni Bodah, Secretary.

Mr. Duffy called the posted meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. **Mr. Duffy moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (b). Mr. Edwards seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Fifield – ‘aye’; Mr. Edwards – ‘aye’; Mr. Duffy – ‘aye’. The motion passed 3-0, and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.**

The Board returned to public session at 7:00 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board agreed to conduct 2 interviews for the position of Chief of Police on Monday, January 31, 2022. Mr. Duffy led all in the Pledge of Allegiance. Sgt. Trevor Cherry joined the session in progress.

1. Appointments

a) Rick Dill re: Tax Map 47, Lots 34 & 38 – Mr. Scala advised that Mr. Dill is unable to attend this evening’s meeting, but may attend a meeting in the future. He confirmed to Mr. Edwards that the Town does own both of these properties, which are tax-acquired. Therefore, it may not be appropriate for the Town to grant permission for the snowmobile club to utilize these properties for trails. The former owner of the properties still has nearly 2 years to redeem same. Mr. Scala will advise Mr. Dill that the Board will not grant use of the properties at this time.

2. Unscheduled Matters/Public Comment #1 – None forthcoming.

3. Unfinished Business – None scheduled.

4. New Business

a) GWRC Management Agreement Renewal – Mr. Scala explained that this agreement renewal should have been signed a number of years ago, but an executed copy cannot be found. Execution of this agreement this evening would extend the existing relationship until December 31, 2022. This relationship, in part, allows the GWRC to seek/obtain grants. The Town would still have the ability to sell the property (eventually) as long as the new owner agrees to adhere to the terms of the grant(s). Mr. Fifield noted that the building provides services that are not available elsewhere. Mr. Edwards would not want the Town bound to hold onto any property. **Mr. Edwards moved to approve the Management Agreement with the GWRC as presented. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

b) Sewer Warrant 2021-2 – Mr. Edwards moved to approve the Sewer Warrant for the 2021 second issue in the amount of \$45,771.92. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0. Mr. Edwards noted that the State has ok’d the Town moving forward to replace the pumps in the spring.

c) Conservation Commission RFP – Mr. Scala shared an RFP that the Conservation Commission plans to publish for work at conservation property off Harmony Drive. This project includes development of a parking area, as well as restroom facilities.

5. Proposed Capital Reserve Expenditures – None forthcoming.

6. Correspondence

a) Clearview Community TV – Clearview’s quarterly report was provided for the Board’s information. Mr. Duffy questioned whether there has been any communication with Spectrum regarding renegotiation of our contract. Mr. Scala has attempted several times without success; however, he has begun review of the existing contract. He cannot, however, find reference to Spectrum’s responsibility to build out the entire town. Mr. Edwards strongly believes that was part of the contract, which responsibility Spectrum has not fulfilled. New government programs may result in the necessity for cable companies to complete 100% build-out. Mr. Scala will pursue.

b) Seth & Kaelynn Garland – Seth & Kaelynn express appreciation for kindnesses shown during the arrival of Baby Averie!

c) Union Railroad Station – Kudos to the Heritage Commission for their successful efforts in getting the Union Railroad Station listed on the National Register of Historic Places! Mr. Scala noted that the Station will be featured on the cover of the 2021 Annual Town Report.

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

8. Administrative Matters

a) Town Administrator’s Update

--Deliberative Session: It’s prep time for the February 5th, 9 a.m. session at Town Hall, which will be immediately followed by the School’s deliberative session. Elections will be held on March 8, 8a.m. to 7 p.m., also at Town Hall. Please contact the Town Clerk with any questions.

--As the current Town Attorney has advised of his anticipated retirement, Mr. Scala has started the process of contacting potential replacements.

--Ossipee Concerned Citizens (Meals on Wheels) has submitted their annual report, noting that 11,684 meals were served to Wakefield residents in 2021. This is a great organization!

--DPW is quickly going through the salt pile, given the current winter conditions. This line will likely be overspent. In addition, the price of salt has increased. It may be necessary to increase the relevant line at Deliberative Session.

--Mr. Scala met with a Sanbornville Water Precinct rep regarding the schedule for spring work on a large water line project. This will begin in late March/early April, to be completed in mid-2023. Our Fire, Police and Public Works Departments are all aware.

--The Gafney Library expansion project looks fantastic!!

b) Conservation Commission Membership – The Commission is requesting that the Board move Rob Hewins from Alternate to Member. **Mr. Edwards moved to approve Rob Hewins as Member of the Conservation Commission, as recommended. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

c) Building Permit Releases – None forthcoming. However, the Board executed a letter to the family of Peggy Richards, in acknowledgement of her recent passing.

d) Payment Manifests – Mr. Edwards moved to approve PR #1 in the amount of \$93,759.78. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Mr. Edwards moved to approve AP #2 in the amount of \$184,036.71. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

e) Minutes – Mr. Edwards moved to approve all minutes, public and non-public, of January 12, 2022. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

f) Selectmen's Work Session

Mr. Edwards advised that Mr. Bean and the engineer have discussed the bridge on Witchtrot Road. The project should progress smoothly for an early spring start. No action/discussion regarding the Maple Street Bridge until Witchtrot is all set. Briefly discussed the history of the bridges in Union. Mr. Fifield noted it would be nice to be able to utilize the right-of-way to Route 16 in emergency situations.

Mr. Scala distributed speaking roles for warrant articles. Articles #2 and #3 need to be assigned. Basically, he assigned roles to the liaison of each category and included a few notes that each speaker could utilize. Mr. Scala referred to Article #4 (Bridge CRF) and recommends it be increased by \$25,000 (to \$100,000) at Deliberative Session. This, combined with the existing CRF balance, would cover the cost of the Witchtrot Road project. Mr. Scala confirmed to Mr. Fifield that even if we increase this article, the Board could still ultimately decide to utilize undesignated funds. The Board is in agreement to increase this article to \$100,000 at Deliberative Session. Mr. Edwards will speak to Article #3, and Mr. Duffy will speak to Article #2. Mr. Scala noted that the bridge has been ordered and will be paid from the \$190,000+ balance. He added that the Town Moderator will have this working document.

Mr. Fifield moved to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Mr. Edwards stated he will be speaking soon regarding a process in the lower level to lighten the current burden on the public. He will make a list for discussion. Things are currently going well downstairs. Mr. Scala noted that Mr. Vinagro visited today. He also had some ideas, which Mr. Scala will bring to the Board at the next non public session. Mr. Duffy is very pleased with the current staff, especially given the Covid situation. **Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.** The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Toni Bodah, Secretary
Approval of Minutes:



Mark P. Duffy, Chair



Richard C. Edwards

Kenneth G. Fifield