

**Board of Selectmen  
March 9, 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 6:18 p.m. **Mr. Duffy 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’; Mr. Duffy – ‘aye’.** The motion passed unanimously, and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.

The Board returned to public session at 6:58 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board authorized a 2% increase (\$31.21/hour) for Cynthia Bickford. **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’; Mr. Duffy – ‘aye’.** The motion passed unanimously, and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.

The Board returned to public session at 7:05 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board authorized an increase to \$22.35/hour (step 2) for Officer Bart Bentz. Those present at this time included Police Chief Michael Fenton; Wayne Robinson, Parks & Rec Director; and Marc Taliaferro.

**1. Public Hearing under RSA 31:95-b re: \$24,000 Small Rural Tribal Grant** – Mr. Duffy opened the public hearing at 7:06 p.m. Chief Fenton presented an overview of the grant, which would be used to purchase body-worn cameras. This is a dollar-for-dollar matching grant. Chief Fenton plans to maintain the current Watchguard system as equipment needs replacement, in an effort to ensure that each officer has this equipment. In response to a question from Mr. Fifield, Chief Fenton advised that the Town’s portion of the grant would come from the equipment line.

Mr. Duffy asked for public comment. Mr. Taliaferro is in favor of use of body cameras. **Mr. Fifield moved to accept the grant as presented. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.** Mr. Duffy closed the public hearing at 7:13 p.m.

**2. Appointments**

**a) Police Chief Fenton re: RFP for PSB Surveillance Equipment** – Chief Fenton presented proposals received in response to PD’s recent RFP, which the Board opened as follows:

Hackworth Fire	- \$8990
Downs Communication	- \$16,775
Fiber Next	- \$20,737.95
Minuteman Security	- \$22,948.48
Knight Security	- \$11,404
Arcomm Communications	- \$20,538 [may not have been the # read at the meeting]
Setronics	- \$11,669

Chief Fenton will examine the proposals and come back to the Board with a recommendation at a future meeting.

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

--Mr. Fifield noted that many people turned out for the election. One article dealt with legalizing Class C fireworks. Perhaps the Board should work with Chief Fenton to create a Town ordinance that would allow for issuance of a permit to display Class C fireworks. Such a process should start with the Police Department, with guidelines/requirements (to include insurance). Then contact should be made with the Fire Department on the day of the display to ensure favorable weather conditions. Once an ordinance is drafted, a public hearing could be scheduled. We must keep the health of the lakes in mind, as well as safety.

**4. Unfinished Business**

**a) Appointment of Town Counsel** – Mr. Scala presented a spreadsheet including information on 3 law firms interviewed. All specialize in serving municipalities. Mr. Scala recommended the Board accept the proposal of Drummond Woodsum, partially based on their staff/towns served ratio. He would not recommend use of a retainer. Both NHMA and SRPC are good sources for guidance. Mr. Scala anticipates the 2022 budget will be sufficient to support the increase in hourly costs. **Mr. Fifield moved to accept the proposal of Drummond Woodsum as recommended by Mr. Scala. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

**5. New Business**

**a) Facilities Use Agreement** – Dani Fillipon would like to run the SCAMP program this year. **Mr. Edwards moved to approve the facilities use application as presented, waiving the \$200 associated fee, pending receipt of the relevant insurance binder, and authorizing Mr. Duffy to execute this document on behalf of the Board. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

**b) Report on 2022 Election/Warrant Articles** – Mr. Scala reported that yesterday's voter turnout was calculated at 26%, which is slightly higher than average. Although Article #2 received 52% of the vote, 60% was required in order to pass. Article #3 passed with 64%. Article #23 (key fob system for the Public Safety Building) was defeated. Town Counsel has advised that Article #26 (regarding family members serving on boards/committees) is vague and unconstitutional on its face. However, it was supported by the voters; therefore, the Board must take this into consideration when making appointments to boards/committees.

Mr. Duffy referred to the amount of support for the multi-generational facility, adding that it has a good chance of success if the numbers are cleaned up. He asked whether Parks & Rec is able to use the Paul School gym during the summer. Mr. Robinson advised that the school has been generous in allowing use of the gym when the space is available; however, that space is often used during summer renovations. This summer the gym floor will be replaced—thus no availability.

**c) Memo from Brock Mitchell, DPW Director** – Mr. Scala read a memo from Brock Mitchell outlining the department's need to replace the F250 due to rust. The crew has been using a 10-wheel dump truck, which is not reasonable for many projects. He has found a 2022 Silverado 3500 dump crew with a new Fisher plow for \$63,720. Adequate funds are available in the CRF (including the 2022 appropriation). Mr. Edwards can support this purchase since the funds are available in the CRF.

**Board of Selectmen**

**March 9, 2022**

**Page 3**

Mr. Fifield noted that it is unfortunate that we were not able to plan for this purchase; however, it will solve a problem. Mr. Scala stated that this purchase may push our replacement schedule out by a year or two. **Mr. Edwards moved to approve the purchase of the 2022 Silverado 3500 dump truck with plow as presented. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.** The Board executed the purchase order and accompanying warrant.

**6. Proposed Capital Reserve Expenditures** - None scheduled.

**7. Correspondence**

**a) Randie Fox Resignation** – Ms. Fox has submitted her resignation from the Parks & Rec Commission. **Mr. Edwards moved to accept the resignation of Randie Fox from the Parks & Rec Commission, with regret. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

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

--Mr. Robinson commended the Board for its appointment of Michael Fenton as Police Chief—he is looking forward to working with him!

**9. Administrative Matters**

**a) Town Administrator's Update**

--Mr. Scala expressed gratitude to all involved in making yesterday's election successful.

--We had issues with power yesterday, due to the wind. Mr. Scala will contact a local electrician to provide a tutorial on our power/generator system. He will include Mr. Fifield and Fire Captain Brad Beveridge.

--Mr. Scala will be scheduling weekly meetings with our new Police Chief. Once a month they will be visiting businesses/coffee shops in order to connect with the public.

--The bridge for the Witchtrot Road repair is ready. Construction is anticipated to occur in May. We anticipate use of warning signs 3-4 weeks prior to construction. Mr. Scala provided a contract with Michael Bean for this project. Mr. Edwards stressed the need to acquire all necessary permits. The Highway Road Projects CRF will be used for a portion of this project. Mr. Edwards stated we will then need to decide what to do about the bridge in Union. Mr. Fifield asked whether Town roads will be posted soon. Mr. Edwards has discussed this with Brock Mitchell. The State has posted Route 153, which limits access to many Town roads. Mr. Edwards read aloud from the relevant RSA, citing those vehicles that are exempt from these limitations. He stated that if we are going to post, all other vehicles should not be allowed to utilize the posted roads. However, he expects the Town roads will be posted on Monday. **Mr. Edwards moved to approve the contract with Michael Bean. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

--The SWP project will start around April 1. A pre-construction meeting was recently held, and a public hearing will be held tomorrow night in the opera house. Plans are available for viewing at Town Hall.

--Mr. Scala obtained Mr. Duffy's signature on various information for the auditors.

**b) Building Permit Releases** – None forthcoming.

**c) Treasurer's Reports for January** – Provided for the Board's information.

**d) Tax Collector's Month/Year Comparisons February** – Provided for the Board's information.

**e) Payment Manifests** – Mr. Edwards moved to approve PR #04 in the amount of \$96,270.98. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Mr. Edwards moved to approve PR #05 in the amount of \$102,013.21. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Mr. Edwards moved to approve AP #06, a void in the amount of \$2863.30. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Mr. Fifield moved to approve AP #07 in the amount of \$830,086.66. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

**f) Minutes** – Mr. Edwards moved to approve all minutes of February 23, 2022, including those of 3 non public sessions. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

**g) Review of Sealed Non Public Minutes** – Tabled to a future meeting.

**h) Selectmen's Work Session**

--Discussed the 'No Parking' signs to be posted on Meadow Street for vehicles with boat trailers. We should be able to address the parking area near the public safety building when the snow leaves and the ground is ready. Mr. Edwards will be in contact with a wetlands scientist. Mr. Scala advised we had to make application to the State to erect 3 signs. Discussed tweaking the verbiage on the signs to allow fishermen to utilize the spaces early in the day. We may have some other parking options soon. According to a text from Mr. Mitchell, the signs have not yet come in.

--Mr. Duffy noted that we will begin the next meeting with organizational matters. We also need to plan some workshops: Transfer Station Ordinance, Building Inspection process and fees, etc.

Mr. Edwards moved to adjourn at 8:43 p.m. Mr. Duffy seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Toni Bodah, Secretary

Approval of Minutes:

  
Mark P. Duffy, Chair

  
Richard C. Edwards

  
Kenneth G. Fifield