

**Board of Selectmen
August 24, 2022**

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

Mr. Edwards called the posted meeting to order at 6:16 p.m. **Mr. Duffy moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Mr. Fifield seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Fifield – ‘aye’; Mr. Duffy – ‘aye’; Mr. Edwards – ‘aye’.** The motion passed 3-0, and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.

The Board returned to public session at 6:32 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board authorized an increase for Brock Mitchell to Step 12 (\$87,235.37/year or \$41.93/hour). **Mr. Duffy moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (b). Mr. Fifield seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Fifield – ‘aye’; Mr. Duffy – ‘aye’; Mr. Edwards – ‘aye’.** The motion passed 3-0, and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.

The Board returned to public session at 6:33 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board authorized the hiring of Dylan Fales and Kaylee Wallingford as counselors for the after school program at \$10.30/hour. **Mr. Duffy moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Mr. Fifield seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Fifield – ‘aye’; Mr. Duffy – ‘aye’; Mr. Edwards – ‘aye’.** The motion passed 3-0, and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.

The Board returned to public session at 6:50 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board voted to endorse a revised pay chart for the Police Department, the implementation date for which is pending. **Mr. Duffy moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a) & (b). Mr. Fifield seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Fifield – ‘aye’; Mr. Duffy – ‘aye’; Mr. Edwards – ‘aye’.** The motion passed 3-0, and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.

The Board returned to public session at 6:51 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board discussed the suggestion to waive the 2-month waiting period for health insurance for new employees, although no action was taken. **Mr. Duffy moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Mr. Fifield seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Fifield – ‘aye’; Mr. Duffy – ‘aye’; Mr. Edwards – ‘aye’.** The motion passed 3-0, and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.

The Board returned to public session at 6:59 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, Police Chief Michael Fenton updated the Board regarding staffing issues within his department.

Those present now included Police Chief Michael Fenton. Mr. Edwards led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Appointments

a) Chief Michael Fenton re: PSB Roof Bids and Disposition of Cruiser #3 – Chief Fenton advised that all bids were reviewed, and he is recommending the Board accept the bid of Peter DeSalvo Contracting. Chief Fenton has checked all references, which include many towns. This bid was neither the lowest nor the highest, but in any event, Chief Fenton believes it is the best option for the PSB. Mr. Edwards spoke to the quality of the shingles to be used. **Mr. Fifield moved to accept the bid of Peter DeSalvo Contracting in the amount of \$85,898. Mr. Duffy seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

Chief Fenton is seeking permission to scrap Cruiser #3, which is not safe and beyond repair. Mr. Duffy suggested checking with the 'Cars for Kids' program, which organization scraps the vehicle and utilizes the proceeds. Chief Fenton will investigate that program and report back to the Board.

b) Brock Mitchell re: Colbath Lane – Mr. Scala is filling in for Mr. Mitchell, who wants the Board to be aware of the situation with Colbath Lane. A resident was in seeking material to be placed on the road, which he would then spread out. However, Colbath Lane is actually a Town-owned Class V road. Mr. Scala shared documentation from a former Town Counsel. Mr. Mitchell would like to view the road and develop a plan for a turn around, then determine what the road needs for maintenance. Mr. Duffy questioned how much of the road is actually a Class V vs. a driveway. It was agreed we need to determine how much the Town owns. Mr. Mitchell and Seth Garland will investigate.

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

3. Unfinished Business – None scheduled.

4. New Business

a) Selectmen's Deed for Redeemed Tax Acquired Property – Mr. Duffy moved to execute the Selectmen's Deed with No Covenants for redemption of Map 172 Lot 1. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

b) Purchase Order \$17,414 – This represents expenses related to outfitting the new K9 cruiser. Mr. Duffy moved to approve the purchase order as presented. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0. Chief Fenton advised that the current K9 vehicle will remain as part of the fleet. The equipment from that vehicle does not fit the new vehicle.

5. Proposed Capital Reserve Fund Expenditures

a) Highway Road Projects \$77,605.02 – This represents payment to R&D Paving for Oak Hill Road. Mr. Duffy moved to approve this expenditure as presented. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

6. Correspondence

a) Superintendent Anne Kebler – Mr. Scala read aloud a letter from Ms. Kebler in which she expresses thanks to Brock Mitchell and the entire DPW staff for their assistance in moving the School bus depot to Paul School grounds. In response to Mr. Edwards, Chief Fenton advised there will be daily (but occasional) police presence at Paul School. A safety training session was held on site today. He is working with the Superintendent regarding the position of Student Resource Officer.

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

8. Administrative Matters

a) Town Administrator's Update
--Eversource has been authorized to increase it's supply rate by 112%, with the new price per kWh at 0.225. The most recent bill for the Public Safety Building went from \$1600 to \$2684.

Michelle MacDonald has determined that Direct Energy will supply electricity at 0.1679/kWh. Billing would still come from Eversource. The Board agreed by consensus to work with Direct Energy.

--We have received \$115,840 in extra Highway Block Grant funds (from the State's surplus).

--Town Hall windows have not been cleaned in several years. Mr. Scala received a quote from Henry Grover to accomplish this for \$2410. Shall we accept this offer or attempt to get other quotes? The Board agreed to have Mr. Grover do the work.

--Cost to clean up multi-unit in Union has hit a snag. Town Counsel does not believe the Town can lien the property. Regardless, it is money well-spent. The property was scheduled to go to auction today.

--Health insurance for Town employees: Mr. Fifield stated it has been the Town's policy to have a 60-day waiting period for health insurance benefits. These benefits can only start on the 1st of the month. In our efforts to fill vacant positions, this waiting period is not appealing to prospective employees.

There really is no risk to the Town in waiving this waiting period. If insurance is part of the compensation package, it should be effective immediately. **Mr. Fifield moved to amend the Personnel Policy to read that new fulltime employees will be eligible for health insurance on the first of the month following their start of employment, or whenever the insurance company allows, to continue through the course of their employment.** Mr. Duffy does not believe the Town sees a considerable savings by making new employees wait for health insurance. **Mr. Duffy seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

--Harmony Drive: This is a Town road, part Class V and part Class VI. The Conservation Commission is considering an RFP to repair the road where they have developed a parking area and privy. It was noted that the DPW could make necessary repairs with material leftover from other Town projects. Mr. Scala has not yet discussed this option with the Conservation Commission. Mr. Edwards noted that if the DPW is working on this project, they would not be doing other scheduled projects. Mr. Duffy stressed that a Town road should be maintained by the Town. Relf Fogg had previously estimated \$12,000 worth of work to repair the road. Mr. Fifield noted this is similar to the situation on Colbath Lane. If the Town owns it, the Town should take care of it. Discussion followed as to whether the Town or the Conservation Commission would dictate how the road is to be addressed. Mr. Scala advised Mr. Fifield that he does not believe this repair would result in reclassification of a Class VI road, noting it could be considered a 'road to summer cottages'. Mr. Scala confirmed to Mr. Edwards that this area is just for summer use.

b) Building Permit Releases – Mr. Fifield moved to approve building permit releases for Howell on Leisure Lane and Bailey Environmental Services on Joyce Terrace, as presented. Mr. Duffy seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

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

d) Payment Manifests – Mr. Duffy moved to approve PR #18 in the amount of \$102,063.59, as presented. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Mr. Duffy moved to approve AP #29 in the amount of \$114,870.10, as presented. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

e) Minutes – Mr. Duffy moved to approve the minutes of August 10, 2022, as presented. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Mr. Duffy moved to approve the minutes of Non Public sessions 1,2,3,4,5 & 6, on August 10, 2022, as presented. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

f) Review of Sealed NP Minutes – Saved for another time.

g) Selectmen's Work Session

Mr. Duffy attended Heritage Day in Union, which event was well attended and at which there was great food! He encourages everyone to visit the facility/area. The Wentworth Cobbler House was moved on site from Stoneham Road, and the Shop was dedicated that day. Everyone has done a fantastic job on this site. While there, he did view the GWRC (and found the broken window!), which building needs work. The current management agreement needs to be renewed. Perhaps we will need to accept some grants (without getting tied up for 20 years) in order to fix up the GWRC, in the event the Town eventually decides to sell it.

Mr. Duffy moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Mr. Fifield seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Fifield – 'aye'; Mr. Duffy – 'aye'; Mr. Edwards – 'aye'. The motion passed 3-0, and the Board entered Non Public Session at 7:58 p.m.

The Board returned to public session at 8:15 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board revisited a previous decision to reimburse an employee for maintenance to a personal vehicle, with no change in decision being made. Mr. Duffy moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (c). Mr. Fifield seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Fifield – 'aye'; Mr. Duffy – 'aye'; Mr. Edwards – 'aye'. The motion passed 3-0, and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.

The Board returned to public session at 8:20 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board discussed potential redemption of tax acquired property. Mr. Duffy moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (c) & (d). Mr. Fifield seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Fifield – 'aye'; Mr. Duffy – 'aye'; Mr. Edwards – 'aye'. The motion passed 3-0, and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.

The Board returned to public session at 8:45 p.m. Mr. Duffy moved to seal the minutes of the immediately preceding Non Public Session until such time as release of the information is inconsequential. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Mr. Duffy moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (c). Mr. Fifield seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Fifield – 'aye'; Mr. Duffy – 'aye'; Mr. Edwards – 'aye'. The motion passed 3-0, and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.

The Board returned to public session at 8:50 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board voted to waive a portion of the penalty associated with redemption of tax acquired property.

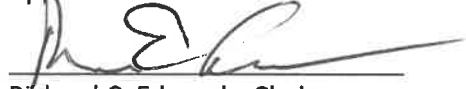
Board of Selectmen
August 24, 2022
Page 5

Mr. Duffy moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (c). Mr. Fifield seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Fifield – ‘aye’; Mr. Duffy – ‘aye’; Mr. Edwards – ‘aye’. The motion passed 3-0, and the Board immediately entered Non Public Session.

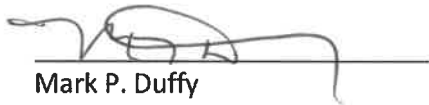
The Board returned to public session at 8:57 p.m. During the immediately preceding Non Public Session, the Board discussed the status of a tax payment plan. **Mr. Duffy moved to adjourn. Mr. Fifield seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.**

Respectfully submitted,
Toni Bodah, Secretary

Approval of Minutes:



Richard C. Edwards, Chair



Mark P. Duffy


Kenneth G. Fifield