

TOWN OF HEBRON
SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 5, 2023

Present: Paul Hazelton, Pat Moriarty, Rich James, and Karen Sanborn, Town Administrator

Others Present:

2:30 P.M. **COMMENCED MEETING:** Chair Hazelton commenced the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

2:30 P.M. **ACTION ITEMS:**

- The Select Board signed the **accounting manifests**.
- Selectman James discussed with the Board the **proposed changes to the Memorandum of Understanding Agreement with Hub66**. Selectman James stated that this document protects both the Town of Bristol and the Town of Hebron. Selectman James moved to authorize Attorney Tanguay to make the recommended changes to the Memorandum of Understanding with Hub66 to be signed at the next Select Board Meeting, seconded by Vice-Chair Moriarty. The vote was unanimous.
- Ms. Sanborn relayed to the Board the Highway Supervisor's recommended **hourly rate for private contractors for plowing as \$78.00 per hour and 10 hours of pay, in a two-week period, when there is no snow to be plowed**. Chair Hazelton asked Ms. Sanborn to have a list of private contractors for the season for the next Select Board Meeting.
- The Board reviewed **fixed pricing for the 2023/2024 heating season for propane at \$2.039 per gallon and for #2 Heating Oil at \$3.679 per gallon**. Selectman James moved to accept the proposals as presented and authorized Chair Hazelton to sign the contracts, seconded by Vice-Chair Moriarty. The vote was unanimous. Ms. Sanborn reviewed the offer from Pemi River Fuels to the Town of Hebron employees as follows: propane 500-1000 gallons is \$2.39/gallon, propane 1000 + is \$2.19/gallon and \$0.20 off daily prompt pay price. The Board accepted the proposed price for town employees.
- The Board reviewed the **2023 MS-535 Financial Report of the Budget** as prepared by Tim Greene of Roberts & Greene. Selectman James moved to accept the 2023 MS-535 Financial Report of the Budget as prepared, seconded by Vice-Chair Moriarty. The vote was unanimous.
- Ms. Sanborn reported to the Board that Jack Sheehan, Planning Board Member, has agreed to become the ex-officio member of the Historic District Commission. Selectman James moved to appoint **Jack Sheehan as the ex-officio Historic District Commission** member, seconded by Vice-Chair Moriarty. The vote was unanimous.
- Ms. Sanborn informed the Board that Steve Aprea has agreed to become a member of the Hebron Common Landscape and Playground Committee. Selectman James moved to appoint **Steve Aprea to the Hebron Common Landscape and Playground Committee**, seconded by Chair Hazelton. The vote was unanimous.
- Ms. Sanborn informed the Board that the **Hebron Ambulance and Fire Department had unclaimed funds** available through the State of New Hampshire, Treasury Department Abandoned Property Division. The Board signed a letter to the State of NH Department of Treasury authorizing Karen Sanborn, Town Administrator to request the funds on behalf of the Hebron Ambulance and Fire Department.

Note: Any changes to the minutes will be reflected in the next Select Board Meeting minutes.

2:55 P.M.

DISCUSSION:

- Ms. Sanborn informed the Board that the **Bridgewater Selectmen and the Groton Selectmen have scheduled informational meetings on HB 349** for their residents and taxpayers to bring them up to date on the vote that will be taking place in March 2024. HB 349 authorizes the towns of Bridgewater, Hebron, and Groton to withdraw from the Newfound Area School District to form their own special school district. Vice-Chair Moriarty updated the Board on the Bridgewater, Hebron & Groton Steering Committee's recent meeting and that the Newfound Area School District School Board has agreed to work with the steering committee to determine an estimated cost for operating the new school district. The Board discussed the importance of an informational meeting since the vote on this will be on a warrant and not on the ballot. Voters need to be present to participate. The Board agreed to hold a public informational meeting for Hebron residents and taxpayers on October 19, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Hebron Community Hall located at 16 Church Lane.
- Vice-Chair Moriarty noted that the office is still awaiting a decision for **Hebron to change their town meeting date** for the vote on separating from the Newfound Area School District. The Town of Hebron holds their annual Town Meeting in May, the towns of Bridgewater and Groton holds their annual Town Meeting in March.
- Vice-Chair Moriarty updated the Board on the **Planning Board Meeting**. The Planning Board reviewed the floodplain change to the zoning ordinance that will be voted on in May. Vice-Chair Moriarty reported that the Planning Board also discussed addressing rental property in the zoning ordinance.
- Selectman James updated the Board on the progress with **Hub66 stringing the fiber optics line**.
- Selectman James updated the Board on the **equipment installed upstairs to be able to hold virtual meetings**. The equipment still does not operate to be capable of able ~~to hold~~ ing video virtual meetings so the next step would be to address any issues with Breezeline (internet service).
- Chair Hazelton informed the Board that a **meeting with Kent Brown (engineer)** to discuss alternatives to address the dredging of the Cockermonth River did not take place. Chair Hazelton stated that he will continue to follow-up on this.
- Chair Hazelton reported to the Board on the **awards dinner held for promotions of the Hebron Fire Department and EMT employees**. Chair Hazelton informed the Board that he extended his thanks to the employees for their service and dedication to the community. Chair Hazelton informed the Board that he had a chance to speak with Bill Robertie, Fire Warden, about the training held on Tenney Mountain and was informed that it was well attended. Chair Hazelton noted that Mr. Robertie was encouraged to attend the Select Board meetings anytime to discuss matters that arise.

3:25 P.M.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- **Invitation from Newfound Lake Region Association** to the Watershed Workshop on Monday, November 13 at 6:00 p.m. at the Alexandria Old Town Hall (47 Washburn Road).
- **Invitation to the Grafton Regional Development Corporation Annual Meeting** on November 16, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
- **Grafton County Commissioners – notice of Public Hearing** on October 12, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at the Grafton County Department of Corrections. This meeting is to discuss expending monies from a grant for Grafton County Middle Mile Broadband Project.
- Report from Audrey Johnson – **monthly fire and ambulance calls**.

3:30 P.M.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

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- Ms. Sanborn informed the Board that the anticipated **2024 Health Insurance and Dental Insurance rates** would be increasing. Health Insurance to increase by 15.6% and Dental Insurance to increase by 4.7%. A vote on the increases would be held on October 11, 2023 by the HealthTrust Board.
- Ms. Sanborn relayed to the Board the inquiry from Tracey Steenbergen, Town Clerk, about **purchasing 8 eight-foot folding tables and 4 six-foot folding tables** in the 2024 Budget for use during town elections and special meetings. Ms. Sanborn noted that Mrs. Steenbergen would be receiving some of the funds from the Hebron Fire Association as they would utilize the tables as well. The Board is in support of the purchase.
- Ms. Sanborn informed the Board that she had been working with Ben Hall, Highway Supervisor, about **purchasing a new town truck**. Mr. Hall received a quote from Reed's Truck Services (Newport, NH) that included the trade in of the International Terrastar and the Mack. Mr. Hall was not impressed with the trade in value for the Mack. The Board agreed to place the purchase of a new highway truck on the 2024 Warrant.

3:44 P.M. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** The Select Board reviewed the Select Board Meeting minutes of September 21, 2023 and made the following corrections: page 1, under *Winter Sand and Salt*, last sentence – change “say” to “stay”, and page 2, under *Correspondence*, first bullet – add “was reviewed” to the end of the sentence, page 2, under *Any Other Business*, first bullet, last sentence – replace “streaming” with “stringing”, page 3, second bullet, fourth sentence – insert “as a non-member” after “representative go”, and page 3, fourth bullet, insert “pending review by town counsel” at the end of the sentence. Selectman James moved to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of September 21, 2023 as amended, seconded by Vice-Chair Moriarty. The vote was unanimous.

3:45 P.M. **MEETING ADJOURNED:** Selectman James moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 p.m., seconded by Vice-Chair Moriarty. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Sanborn
Town Administrator