

**TOWN OF NEW HAMPTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES**

New Hampton Public Safety Building, Fire Dept. Training Room
Thursday, January 7, 2021

MEMBERS

Mr. Mertz, Mr. Drake and Mr. Shaw were present.

PRESENT:

OTHERS

Town Administrator Mr. Irvine and Finance Officer Ms. Duggan

PRESENT:

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Mertz called the meeting of the Board to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

12/23/20 and 12/30/20 were held for further review.

WORK SESSION

Manifests, bills, requisitions, purchase orders and leave request forms.

The board approved the following purchase requisitions: Hwy Dept (F350 snow tires – amended as studded had not been quoted as requested; plow cutting edge; fan clutch repair on 2010 Int’l; 2003 clutch repair; gravel/stone & salt/sand with not to exceed \$30,000 – Mr. Boucher to supply copy of state bid price notification).

The board approved the following Building Permit application(s):

1. Brian Engelson and Kateri Bean – Map R7, Lot 3B
2. Kevin Lacasse – Tax Map R8, Lot 1A20; HELD for plot plan

APPOINTMENTS

None

**2021 BUDGET
HEARING**

At 7:00 pm Mr. Mertz recessed the regular Selectmen’s meeting to open the Public Hearing for the 2021 proposed budget.

Town department heads present: Police Chief Tyrrell, Fire Chief Lang, Public Works Director Mr. Boucher, and Town Clerk/Tax Collector Ms. Adams.

Others present: Residents Matthew O’Neill, Ingrid Heidenreich and Dana Torsey.

Selectmen reviewed the proposed budget for 2021.

When assessing costs were mentioned Mr. Torsey asked what the procedure was for assessors to visit a property that was posted and he thought his property may have been visited and home entered without his permission. Mr. Irvine to investigate further.

Mr. Torsey asked if the town was involved when new cemeteries are created on private property as there is a future cost to the town to maintain it. Mr. Shaw asked if it was a town obligation to maintain these and Mr. Irvine said it was up to the town on whether to maintain the 50+ small private cemeteries.

Relative to organizations receiving support Ms. Heidenreich asked if the town monitors that services are provided to New Hampton residents and Mr. Irvine said they do. If an organization is added it takes a vote of the residents to approve the monetary support.

Chief Tyrrell advised that his department’s increases are related to essential needs and that several high-cost items are needed at the same time. Some state requirements also

created budget increases for the department. He advised he wanted to amend the health insurance costs, decreasing it by \$15,000 as one member has resigned and a new hire will be declining the insurance. Mr. Mertz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Drake to reduce the PD budget by \$15,000 per Chief Tyrrell's recommendation. Vote was unanimous.

There was some discussion on recyclables and the reduced market and the affect the pandemic has had on handling of some recyclable types.

Relative to Welfare, Ms. Heidenreich advised that the town may be able to get some assistance from the Salvation Army.

There was discussion on the warrant article to add 2 full-time firefighters to the Fire Dept for 3 years, that would be paid for through a SAFER grant and that at the end of 3 years the town would decide whether to budget for these employees going forward.

At 8:27 pm Mr. Mertz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Drake to close the budget hearing and continue the regularly scheduled Selectmen's meeting. Vote was unanimous.

DISCUSSION

- Board signed IRS Quarterly 941 form.
- Mr. Mertz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Drake to sign a Payroll Change Notice for new Police Officer Patrick Cremin. Vote was unanimous.
- Waukevan Road bridge replacement has been delayed by NHDOT.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Mr. Irvine the logging operation on town property will continue with some oak harvesting due to current market prices.
- Mr. Irvine advised - recarpeting of Town Office 1st floor scheduled to begin 2/26/21 with the project taking place over multiple weekends.
- Mr. Drake asked for employment agreement for the recent Fire Dept. hire as he was unable to see the entire document.
- Mr. Mertz advised the lettering on the signage for the Texas BBQ has been removed.
- Mr. Mertz advised the fire lane access was being kept open and appreciated the Highway Depts attention to this.
- Board agreed to publicize reason for decision on how 1st Deliberative Session will be held.
- Mr. Irvine advised that New Hampton's first responders had received the 1st round of Covid-19 vaccine and had vaccinated members of the PD and neighboring First Responders.

NON PUBLIC SESSION

At 8:30 pm Mr. Mertz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shaw, to go into Non-Public Session, according to RSA 91A:3 II (b) Hiring.
Roll call was taken, Mr. Mertz –Y, Mr. Drake-Y, Mr. Shaw – Y. Vote was unanimous.

PRESENT

Mr. Mertz, Mr. Drake, Mr. Shaw, and Mr. Irvine

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

At 8:45 pm, Mr. Mertz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shaw, to come out of Non-Public Session and to seal the minutes for 5 years. Vote was unanimous.

(Board of Selectmen, January 7, 2021, cont.)

Mr. Mertz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Drake to advise Fire Chief Lang to move forward with the hiring process per his request. Vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Mertz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shaw, to adjourn at 8:46 pm. Vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Vose