

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes

May 26, 2020

Attendance: Fire Chief, Tim Cook; Administrative Assistant to the Select Board, Jenna Domer; Chair, Ryan Fowler; Selectmen, C. Wayne Miller; Tax Collector/Treasurer, Patricia Patnaude; Town Clerk, Patricia Porter and Selectmen, Ron Shorey.

Roll call taken by Jenna Domer as all Select Board members were present and voting. Chair Ryan Fowler called the meeting to order at 4:01pm.

Ryan made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from May 12, 2020 as written, Wayne 2nd the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Visitors- Keyes Pond Road residents: Richard Levasseur, Andrew Black, Stephanie Loiacono, Scott Dalyrmphe, Kathleen Lyman Dunn, Roger Mack, Tom and Dawn LaPlant, Barbara Harris and IF&W Biologist James Pellerin. Other attendees were Sweden residents, John Hornstein, Dan McQueen, Julie Frum and Sweden Budget Committee Chair, Chris Chadbourne.

There was a discussion between Keyes Pond residents, the BOS and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Biologist James Pellerin regarding angler access to Keyes Pond during mud season. Mr. Pellerin stated he had received many complaints from anglers that they were unable to access Keyes Pond as there was a chain up on the road. Mr. Pellerin had suggested to the Town that they establish an open date for the road each year to enable access to the stocked pond. The residents stated it is not a Town road, the residents pay to maintain the road and it is costly. There were many suggestions on how to approach a viable for solution for residents and for anglers for access. Establishing an opening date each year did not seem reasonable as the weather was unpredictable. Some other suggestions were to make it a Town Road so that the Town could assist with funding to maintain the road and Mr. Pellerin also stated there are State Grants that may assist to repair or pave the road. If the State were to assist, the Town would have to enter into a long-term agreement to allow angler access. He stated he would need an estimate of the cost for this request to be assessed. There may be a solution to move access to the pond for anglers to another lot that would not affect road conditions. He also stated that he will not stop stocking the pond as long as the Town is actively working on a resolution to the problem. Chair Ryan Fowler stated the Road Commissioner could assist in giving a bid to repair or pave the road.

Reports of Officers and Committees:

ACO- no report

Administrative Assistant to the Select Board- Jenna stated the Assessors have completed their field work in the Town for tax commitment. The Town has received their Revenue Sharing for the month of May and the amount was \$3,405.79.

The Town Office re-opening plan was discussed. The new office hours with BOS approval will be Tuesdays 10am-6pm, Thursdays 12pm-6pm and the first 4 Saturdays of the month from 9am-noon. The office will be appointment only and face coverings will be required. Jenna's husband donated his time to the Town by building and installing sneeze guards at the counter and in between the Tax

Collector/Treasurers desk as well as building barriers for employee only work areas. He will also be installing a Town locked drop box for tax payments, building permits and fees and any documentation that needs to be submitted to Town employees.

The AA discussed with the BOS the status of the 2020 Town Meeting as a decision would be needed before tax commitment on July 15, 2020. She set up the TMH with 6-foot social distancing to see how many people the TMH would be able to accommodate safely. With social distancing guidelines, the TMH could only accommodate 24 people in the closed space and room for the BOS, and 2 other Town Officials. The Town Meeting is open to all and the Town would need to accommodate any attendees over the amount of 24 and that could not be adhered to. There is not enough space for the Town Clerk and assistants even with moving the table to the stage. Many Election Clerks have called to say they will not assist in the Town elections in due to the risk of COVID-19. With the large elderly demographic in Town there are many individuals at high risk for contracting the virus. If the BOS were to cancel the meeting, the Town would operate on the approved 2019 Town Warrant budget. There are a few issues that the AA informed the BOS about via email regarding canceling the Town Meeting. The employees would not receive a salary increase, all elected officials terms would be "held over" until a Town Meeting was held, the Winter Roads will be over budget however, the BOS has the authority by Statute to over spend that account if necessary by 15%, the Lovell Dump contract would be overspent, tax dates and interest would need to be set and capital monies for a SVFD generator voted in on the 2019 Town Meeting Warrant would not be accessible. The 2020 School House article and the Planning Board article to update the Sweden Zoning and Land Use Ordinance would not be funded until 2021 if voted and approved. Selectmen Wayne Miller stated he would not attend a Town Meeting if held due to concerns of COVID-19.

Ryan made a motion to not hold a 2020 Town Meeting due to safety concerns of COVID-19 to residents and to operate on the approved 2019 Town Meeting budget, Wayne 2nd the motion and the motion passed (2-1).

CEO- Jenna spoke on behalf of Arthur Dunlap, CEO. A revised April CEO report was given to the BOS. Indicating an update on the Heath CUP permit.

Clerk- Patti discussed the upcoming primary on July 14, 2020. There are several Election Clerks that are not willing to assist with the primary due to risk factors associated with COVID-19. She stated other Towns are experiencing the same. There has been an inquiry to the State as to what to do if the Town does not have enough assistance on Election Day. There has been increased support for absentee ballots from the State and early voting. Absentee ballots are expected to arrive in mid-June. The situation is very fluid.

Fire Chief-Tim Cook stated they SVFD have been training in small groups. The department will be cleaning Trull Brook Road Bridge for the Town.

Road Commissioner- no report

Tax Collector/Treasurer- Ron made a motion to sign the Warrant dated May 26, 2020, Wayne 2nd the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Tricia updated that she has successfully processed the first Rapid Renewal transaction for the Town. The Town needed to await the deposit to the bank account before getting a final go to make it "live".

Jenna spoke on behalf of Tricia as her connection was lost to the call. The Governor has issued an Executive Order #53 to give authorization to delay the tax lien process by 60 days. It would be beneficial for Town residents as many are experiencing a hardship due to COVID-19. Ryan voted to extend the tax lien process by 60 days, Wayne 2nd the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Old Business-The BOS discussed the timber harvesting violation at R05-52-00 Bridgton Road owned by BRD, LLC., Scott Dillon, Manager. At the previous BOS meeting Mr. Dillon presented an estimate for replanting and asked about a reduced fine from \$10,000 and he would in turn send a donation to a need within the Town of the difference as many of the trees may experience a kill and it would be wasted funds. Ryan made a motion to reduce the fine of \$10,000 to \$6,000 with a donation to a entity in Town that needed monetary assistance, Wayne 2nd the motion and it was approved unanimously.

New Business- The next BOS meeting will be held at the TMH at 4pm on June 9, 2020.

Communications and Correspondence- none

Ryan made a motion to adjourn at 5:14pm, Wayne 2nd the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenna Domer

Administrative Assistant to the Select Board