

TOWN OF SANBORNTON
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Sanbornton Town Office
573 Sanborn Road
Sanbornton, NH
7.20.2022 – 5pm

The Board of Selectmen convened in regular session. In attendance were: Town Administrator Trish Stafford, Selectman Bob Lambert, and Selectman Brandon Deacon.

1. Public Comment

a. Gravel pit concerns – Mary MacMahon stated that she is concerned there has been no update about the Johnson Rd gravel pit since she spoke to the Selectboard at the May 25th meeting. She stated that the Selectboard took the regulation authority from the ZBA and there has been nobody hired to monitor the gravel pit since it was discussed a year ago. She is also waiting to hear if the property owner can be held accountable to statements made at the ZBA meetings but that were not included on the actual approved plan. Trish Stafford stated that she has heard from the town’s attorney that the owner can be held accountable and will check to see if she can share the attorney’s email with Mary.

Selectman Lambert asked Mary if the Selectboard had provided a date by which they would get back to her about her concerns and she responded No. He stated that he will talk to Selectman Jim Dick who is not in attendance tonight and will get this on the next meeting agenda to discuss. Trish noted that she has reached out to two firms about potentially monitoring the gravel pit and is waiting on responses.

2. New Business

a. Budget preparations – Trish explained that the Budget Committee met last week and discussed the budget review process; Selectman Dick has sent a memo asking for operating budgets, warrant articles and CIP requests to be turned in by August 31st. The Budget Committee had also discussed a wage adjustment of 3% for all employees plus a 2% increase by merit pool. She mentioned that this is a tight frame as there are many vacations in August but there may not be another option since the town office is moving in September. Siri Gaydos mentioned that the Welfare budget for fuel assistance will be hard to predict this far in advance. Trish noted that she has discussed with Siri adding some items back to the Welfare Officer’s budget that have been in the Executive Admin budget.

Ray Masse stated that he understands that August 31st is an aggressive timeline but in previous years when the deadline was later the Budget Committee was barely able to get through all the departments in time for Town Meeting. If the deadline were to move forward it would have to be a firm date for all departments. Chief Dexter suggested staggering the due dates for budget, CIP and warrant articles and stated that vendors are going to quote high numbers since they also can’t forecast to 2024. Johnny Van Tassel stated that he may need to include a 10% increase in his budget because of increases in materials and fuel.

Selectman Lambert stated that department heads will be required to work hard to get the requests in by the due date since all of September will be taken up with moving. Selectman Deacon stated that most people understand the amount of turmoil that’s taken place in the last couple of years and understand how that can lead to uncertainty in the budgets. Members agreed to keep the August 31st deadline. Trish

noted that the Selectboard will need to meet to discuss the merit pool and how that will be distributed; members agreed on August 3rd at 4pm.

3. Old Business

a. Eastman Hill Rd complaint – Trish stated that DES has been contacted about the clearcutting on Eastman Hill Rd as it appears that the owner may have required an Alteration of Terrain permit but did not obtain one; DES will have someone investigate.

b. Selectboard meeting about lien list – The Selectboard agreed to meet on August 8th and 15th from 3pm to 6pm with property owners on the lien list per the discussion at the last meeting.

c. Updated mowing quote – Johnny has provided an updated quote since the last meeting which now includes a do-not-exceed amount. Selectman Deacon asked if “billable hour” includes travel time and Johnny responded that the hour usually starts when the contractor is on the property. Selectman Lambert made a **motion** to approve the Sheehan Transport contract for roadside mowing and allow Johnny Van Tassel to sign the contract for a not-to-exceed amount of \$1900 or \$125 per hour. Selectman Deacon **seconded** the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Town Administrator’s report – Trish explained that she has been learning the Treasurer duties. She discussed the subsurface regulations with Health Officer Tom O’Shea and agreed that he should approve a new septic system without a public hearing because it is replacing an outdated system. In 2002 the ordinance was changed to mimic the State’s requirements at that time with the intent to not have to duplicate work but it is now out of sync. She recommended that the Planning Board look at updating the ordinance and stated that Sanbornton’s leach field setback minimums are currently more restrictive than the State’s. Planning Board Chair Andy Sanborn requested this in writing to take to the Planning Board.

Trish stated that she and Amanda Pellissier met with Hiltz Excavation at the Town Park recently; Amanda will try to find a topographic map of the park. Gilford Well should be able to look at the irrigation system next week.

Assessing company CCAG let Trish know that doing “callbacks” to homes that couldn’t be accessed during the last revaluation would cost \$15,000. Selectman Deacon stated that it is unclear if the residents of those homes would even let the assessor inside. Trish noted that she thinks the \$15,000 fee is high since the annual assessing contract is \$25,000. She added that she believes this is for houses that could not be accessed for the last four years. No decision was made.

A final expenditure report for FY22 was distributed. Ray noted that \$64,000 was spent on crack sealing; Johnny explained that line was actually used for something else but the line needed to be shown as expended in order to be reimbursed. Trish noted that she will be on vacation August 15th to August 21st, Siri will be on vacation July 27th to August 17th, and Terri Jansky will be on vacation August 8th to August 16th.

5. Select Board reports – Selectman Deacon explained that the Historic District Commission approved a garage to be built at 81 Hunkins Pond Rd. The HDC also discussed potential grants to be used to reimburse the Commission for funds they have spent on various events. The Master Plan Committee survey has been distributed online and paper copies are available as well. He attended a meeting this

morning with NH Waterworks this morning about a mutual effort to protect Franklin's wellhead which is located in Sanbornton.

Selectman Lambert stated that Old Home Day went well, including the tours of the new town office building. He added that he is very impressed with the work that BPS has done.

Trish noted that Ann and Clark Dumont have donated various baby items to the Welfare Department and Selectman Lambert thanked them for their generosity. An anonymous donation of kitchen equipment was also made.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

A **motion** to enter non-public session relative to RSA 91-A:3, II(c) was made by Selectman Lambert at 6:10pm and **seconded** by Selectman Deacon. The motion passed unanimously.

A **motion** to leave non-public session was made at 7:03pm by Selectman Lambert. Selectman Deacon **seconded** the motion and the motion passed unanimously. A discussion of welfare rates and policies took place and no decisions were made.

6. Signatures – A check in the amount of \$35,346.01 to Lakes Region Mutual Aid was signed, as well as a check in the amount of \$9,040 to HL Turner Group.

7. Meeting minutes of 7/6/22 – Trish stated that Shauna Goutier let her know that a change should be made to the minutes; Shauna stated it should be reflected that she is okay with having a scale at the Transfer Station but doesn't believe it would be palatable to the voters. Selectman Deacon stated that this is not how he remembers the conversation; no votes on the minutes were taken and Selectman Lambert stated he will talk with Selectman Dick about this.

Meeting adjourned at 7:12pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 3rd at 5:00pm, with a workshop session about merit raises at 4:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Audry Barriault, Secretary

Selectboard Clerk: _____

Approval Date 8.3.2022