

TOWN OF DANBURY - Board of Selectmen

On July 25, 2018 the Board of Selectmen made a presentation of the Boston Post Cane to Edward Roche.

Meeting Minutes Wednesday , August 1, 2018 6:00 pm

Members Present: James Phelps
Jessica Hatch
Lyn England
Administrative Assistant Karen Padgett

Guest Senator Bob Giuda

CHECKS/APPLICATIONS/SIGNATURES

- **Payroll and accounts payable** were signed.
- June bank reconciliations were signed.
- Lyn made a motion to approve the minutes of 7/18, seconded by Jessica. Motion passed 3-0.
- Jim made a motion to sign building permit 12-2018B for Greg and Jamie Ardine, map 201 lot 134 for a 12 x 22 storage shed. Motion was seconded by Lyn and passed 3-0.
- Lyn made a motion to sign an Intent to Cut for Ragged Mtn Resort Development, map 416 lot 063. Motion was seconded by Jessica and passed 2-0 with Jim abstaining from the vote.
- The 2018-2019 Used Waste Oil Grant application was prepared by Karen. Jessica made a motion to sign and approve the application. Motion seconded by Lyn and passed unanimously. Jim signed the waste oil grant application.
- Lyn made a motion to sign the contract with JSJ Auctioneers, seconded by Jessica. Motion passed. JSJ Auctioneers will auction off two town owned properties on Lilac Lane on October 13 at 11 a.m.

State Senator Bob Giuda

Senator Giuda attended the meeting to speak with the Board about Governor Sununu's veto of legislation that he feels will negatively impact the biomass plants that burn wood chips. He is hopeful that the legislature will be able to override the veto. He has organized a tour of the Bridgewater Power Plant on Route 3 in Bridgewater on August 9th which, he says, will be a good opportunity to learn about SB 365 and SB 446 and the impacts the Governor's vetoes are having on power plant operations, power plant employees, loggers, landowners and the municipal tax base. He stated that there are 1,000 jobs at stake. Jim asked what is the actual impact on electric rates. Senator Giuda's responded, " they are saying \$18 million dollars a year, it will reduce the rate. On face value they are correct, but what they are not telling you is that you're losing 120 megawatts of capacity in New Hampshire. The capacity charge increase that we're going to be charged for other state's facilities having to increase their ability to cover that base load is going to be about \$18 million per year, so it's going to be a wash." Jim spoke to the deregulation of the industry and the fact that it has not helped electric prices in NH at all. Lyn asked about utilizing the power out of the Seabrook facility to increase capacity. Sen. Giuda said that contractually the power out of the Seabrook is going out of state and the state taxpayers are having to pay the stranded costs as rate payers.

Jim asked about other legislative action that came out of this session. Senator Giuda and the Selectboard spoke about the lowered interest rate on uncollected taxes, out of state registration of tractor trailers, the effect of the schools on the tax rate and broadband/fiber optic networks in rural communities in New Hampshire. The Board thanked Senator Giuda for coming in and wished him good luck in his efforts.

HIGHWAY

- Jim signed the bill of sale and the titles for the old highway trucks that are being sold to Reed Truck Services. The trucks being sold to them are the 2002 International, the 1994 International and the 1968 F600, along with other miscellaneous equipment.
- It was determined that a purchase order for truck repairs that had been approved at a previous meeting was not needed.

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- Jim made a motion to approve the purchase of a new radio for the 2005 truck in the amount of \$815.65, seconded by Jessica. Motion passed 3-0. According to information provided to Karen by Road Agent Cornell, the old radio was no good, causing electrical issues in the truck.
- Paving estimates have been submitted to the Board for review. They will discuss them at the next meeting with the Road Agent.
- The Highway Department budget was reviewed. The Board would like to have Road Agent Cornell attend the next meeting on 8/15 to discuss the Highway Department budget. Many line items are currently over drafted.

OLD BUSINESS

- The Board reviewed an email from Bill Gealy regarding the repurchase of 9 Lilac Lane. He is disappointed that the Board of Selectmen is moving forward with the sale of the property. His understanding is that 3 years from the date of the tax deed, the bank holding the mortgage will not have any rights to the property. The Selectmen agree with that, however the former property owner also loses their right to repurchase the property after 3years. The feeling from the Board is that if the property is allowed to sit for another year it will continue to deteriorate and it is already in bad shape. Jessica reported that the renters in 29 Lilac Lane are making arrangements for other living space.
- Karen received a complaint about cars in the roadway on Moulton Hill Road. This is a private road and the cars are neither registered or drivable. A letter had already been sent to Mr. Murphy, the property owner regarding this issue. The Board asked that a follow up letter be written stating that this is still an issue and needs to be resolved.
- Correspondence received from the town attorney at Upton and Hatfield who is handling the FairPoint litigation indicated that the Superior Court made a ruling in July and generally speaking, it was not in the towns' favor. Our assessing company, CNP, has not yet approached FairPoint(now Consolidated Communications) about negotiating a settlement. Karen will check on that and possibly reach out to Attorney Michael Courtney to start working with FairPoint on settling.
- Joseph Fiore sent an email regarding the repurchase of 79 Ragged Mt. Road. He will make six payments to pay off the taxes, interest and penalties for the property. It must be paid in full by 1/14/19, which is three years from the date of the tax deed.

NEW BUSINESS

- Tricia Taylor, Tax Collector submitted a request for abatement in the amount of \$2,148.10 for a property that was liened in error. The tax payment was made on the day of the lien but did not get posted to the account before the lien was executed. Jim made a motion to approve the abatement, seconded by Jessica. Lyn feels that the amount is incorrect and only the interest and cost should be abated. Motion passed 2-1.
- A request came in from Albert Steverson to set up a payment agreement for back taxes owed to prevent tax deeding for property owned by his 94 year old mother, Helen Steverson. He would like to pay \$500 / month until the taxes are paid off. Lyn asked if the son has a power of attorney for his mother. This request came thru the Tax Collector's office. Karen will ask them to find out about the power of attorney.
- The Board completed the revised estimated revenues worksheet for the Department of Revenue Administration. The form is due on 9/1/2018.

SELECTMEN

Jim

- Jim stated that some towns are discontinuing recycling because it is costing a lot of money, not generating income.

Jessica

- asked if the camper trailer that is located in the right of way at Rosemary's Woods off Waukeena Lake Rd had been moved. It has not.
- She mentioned that a comment on the Friends of Danbury Facebook page regarding the quality of road grading was inappropriate and should be taken down. These types of comments should be addressed directly to the Highway Department so that they can respond accordingly.

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- Consolidated Communications has installed new telephone poles on North Road without obtaining a pole license from the town.
- Received a complaint that the sale of a property did not go thru because of a comment that came from "high up in the Selectmen's office". None of the Selectboard, nor Karen knew of any comments made.

FYI

- Highway Block Grant payment \$40,982.70
- Tax payment for the owner of 412-019 for July made by KREM
- Letter sent to certain property owners re purchasing land for cell towers from Industrial Communications
- Letter sent to Gayle Irick re town auditor position. Have not heard back.
- Invitation from State Senator Bob Giuda to tour Bridgewater Power Plant
- State Bridge aid - Request for estimate was sent to bridge design on 2/7/17.
- Primex training about cdl drivers
- Town and City Magazine

At 8:00pm Jim made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jessica. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted Karen Padgett, Administrative Assistant