

# Town of Danbury

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

November 3 , 2021 6:00 PM

**Present:** Selectmen Jessica Hatch, James Phelps, Tracy Shepard  
Administrative Assistant Karen Padgett

**Others Present:** Deborah Aylward, Jason Potter, Heidi Stoddard, Cathy Jo Hatch

### Checks/Applications/Signatures)

- **Payroll & accounts payable** were signed.
- Tracy motioned to adopt the meeting **minutes of 10/20**, seconded by Jim. Motion passed 3-0.
- **Building Permit Applications**
  - Parent 410-062-006** 42 Jackson Ridge Rd for a 26x40 log home. Jim motioned to approve the building permit, seconded by Jessica. Motion passed 3-0.
  - Burda 411-004** 203 NH Route 104 for a 20x20 Barn. Jim motioned to approve the building permit, seconded by Jessica. Motion passed 3-0.
- **Letters** were signed for the owners of 406-157, 10 Hemlock Lane and 406-147 on Hemlock Lane regarding neighbor complaints about the trash, etc. accumulating on the property.

### Deborah Aylward

1) Ms. Aylward asked for a commitment as to by what date all current municipal legislation will become posted to the Town website in the public interest, as she had requested at the last Selectmen's meeting. She would like a deadline.

Jessica Hatch said that the Board is not going to commit to a date because we are in budget season, tax time season and end of year things and are crunched for time with a lot of other things that are more important at this time. It is a good idea, and the Board will investigate it for the future.

2) Ms. Aylward asked to have the New Hampshire Municipal Association publication Town and City Magazine made available on the town website. According to Ms. Aylward, the people of the town are looking for more transparency and this would be a resource for them.

Jessica Hatch does not see a great demand to have the magazine on the website, the magazine is available at the Town Hall if townspeople are interested in reading it.

### Old Business

- The NH Primex Workers Compensation insurance for 2022-2023 dropped another \$787 because they made an adjustment for the COVID 1<sup>st</sup> responder stipends paid out in 2020.
- The Board reviewed a letter to Wayne Blackburn citing the reasons for the building permit denial for his property at 110 High Street. Mr. Blackburn had requested the letter.
- The New Canada Road turnaround work is complete. Road Agent Cornell took pictures of the project and submitted an inventory of items disposed of at transfer station that could not be placed in the dumpster provided by the property owners. A bill for the inventoried items will be
- Marie Pelletier of Bar Harbor Bank is ready with the new highway truck loan documents. She will need at least one-week advance notice to process the payment to the town.
- The Town received check from JSJ Auctions for tires/etc. taken by the Fire Department to White Farm for a total of \$333.00. The previously advertised tires sold for \$300.00.
- At the request of the Board of Selectmen, Road Agent Cornell installed a new Right of Way sign at the end of the town-maintained portion of Railroad Drive.

### New Business

- The Blazing Star Grange submitted a document from the NH Liquor Commission to allow Cathedral Ledge Distillery to be a vendor at the winter farmers market. Approval by the Selectboard is needed. Jim motioned to approve, seconded by Jessica. Motion passed unanimously. Jessica signed the document.
- The Bristol ambulance contract for 7/1/22 – 6/30/23 is \$65,081.99 up from \$46,364.47(+\$18,718).
- Notice was received from the State Department of Homeland Security that the proper reporting for the 2020 Warm Zone grant has not been filed. If not filed by 11/16, future grants from the State will be denied. Deputy Chief Kyle Levesque will complete reporting requirement tonight.

- On Friday 11/5, Karen will be picking up 3 file cabinets and 1 bookcase from HealthTrust in Concord. These items are being offered free to members.
- Email regarding assessed values for Crown Atlantic cell tower. Forwarded to Brian Fogg. He will respond and copy us.
- Claim filed in Blue Cross/Blue Shield antitrust settlement. Deadline is 11/5 for filing.

### **Jason Potter**

Mr. Potter asked for an update on the Town's actions regarding the right of way on Railroad Drive. The Town has turned the matter over to the town attorney and the Ardines have been informed of the pending lawsuit.

### **Fire Chief Martin**

The ambulance contract was discussed. Chief Martin cited the following reasons for the increase:

1. An increase in calls – total calls went up 20% and transports increased by 40%
2. We will now be charged for non-transport calls, which is a change
3. The addition of an administrative assistant to the staff and increased responder staffing, adding 1 employee every 2 years.
4. Equipment upgrades
5. A change to stabilize costs per town year to year. A portion of the cost will be based on population, 5% for 2022, gradually increasing over several years to 35% based on population. The remainder will be based on usage.

Jim would like to know what the cost is for a non-transport response.

The Chief would like to change the way the annual firefighter stipend is distributed. Currently all active responders get the same amount. His new method would be based on call responses. This would encourage members to respond to calls.

Purchase orders: 2 Pagers \$1,000/4 face pieces \$1,280

Jessica motioned to approve both purchase orders, seconded by Jim. Motion passed unanimously.

Several members of the Fire Department have volunteered to sit on the Safety Committee.

There is currently \$29,000 available for the air pacs. This should recover the replacement of them for next year.

### **Selectmen Items:**

Jim reported that the Planning Board met on 10/26. Work is still being done on proposed changes to the Home Occupation/Cottage Industry portion of the LUZO and the accessory dwelling unit language. There is another potential member and if he is appointed, the Planning Board will once again be at full membership.

Jessica is scheduling joint meetings of the Budget Committee and the Selectmen with town department heads to go over their budget requests. The first of these meetings is set for Thursday 11/10 at 6:30pm.

The initial tax rate set by the New Hampshire Department of Revenue is \$19.19. The rate can be adjusted using fund balance and changing the amount of overlay for abatements. After discussion, Jim motioned to use \$175,000 of fund balance and to set overlay at \$25,000 to bring the tax rate to \$18.00. Motioned seconded by Jessica and passed unanimously.

### **FYI/No action needed**

- Project plan for 42 Jackson Ridge Rd
- Well release for Henny 406-137 and 406-138 Spruce Lane
- Approval for operation 403-003(listed as 406-006)
- October property sales
- Comcast quarterly payment \$881.48
- E-9-1-1 address assignments
- Highway block grant payment \$38,241.35

At 7:31 Jessica motioned to adjourn, seconded by Tracy. Motion passed 3-0. Meeting adjourned.

**The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be November 17, 2021, 6pm, Danbury Town Hall.**

*Respectfully submitted, Karen Padgett, Administrative Assistant*