

# Town of Danbury

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES- Amended

December 1 , 2021 6:00 PM

**Present:** Selectmen Jessica Hatch, James Phelps, Tracy Shepard  
Administrative Assistant Karen Padgett  
Alexandria Board of Selectmen, George Tuthill, Chairman, Robert Piehler, Chet Caron  
Police Chief Suckling

**Others present:**  
Lenny Ryan, Anna Hullinger, Melissa Suckling, Rebecca Huntoon, Barbara Antonides, Deborah Aylward, Doug Colby

A joint meeting was arranged with the Alexandria Board of Selectmen to meet with Chief McTague of the Temple/Greenville Police Department to give an overview of the origins of the towns' police department and some details on the operation. He brought with him former Selectman Ted Petro who was on the Board when the joint department was formed.

Chief McTague has been the Chief of the Department since it's inception sixteen years ago. The Temple/Greenville Police Department is a separate entity with its own governing body of 2 senior selectmen from each town, its own budget. They meet once a month in an open meeting to discuss only police issues.

The budget is funded by the two towns based on their population. When the contract was drawn up, the process for dissolving the department was built into it. At any time, the department can be disbanded.

Over the course of the 16 years, the two towns have saved over 4 million dollars. The crime rate is down 78%.

He suggested public forums in each town to get the information to the people. Then put it to a town vote.

Overall, he considers the arrangement a tremendous success. They can retain officers by paying a good wage, save money on equipment and have increased coverage in both towns.

The respective boards thanked him for his time. Alexandria and Danbury Selectmen will meet in Alexandria next week to further the discussion at a day/time to be determined.

### Checks/Applications/Signatures)

- **Payroll & accounts payable** were signed.
- Jim motioned to adopt the meeting **minutes of 11/7**, seconded by Tracy. Motion passed 3-0.
- **Driveway permit application**  
**Henney/406-137 and 406-138/Spruce Rd/** Jessica motioned to approve pending Road Agent approval, seconded by Tracy. Motion passed 2-0 with Jim abstaining from the vote.
- A courtesy notice letter was signed for the owner of **14 NH Route 104** regarding building and renovating with a building permit application having been submitted.
- **2021-2022 Waste Oil Grant Application/**Jim motioned to sign the application for the waste oil grant, seconded Jessica initialed all the pages of the application and signed page 5.

### Old Business

- The Board approved an ad for a part time Police Chief. The town voted in March to have the Board appoint a chief effective March 2022.
- The Town received a check for \$4,299.47 from HealthTrust for a return of surplus for 2021.
- Karen reviewed the current assessing budget for 2021 with the Board. The line item will be over the budgeted amount because of the utility appraiser.
- Do we have to get highway truck loan this year?

### New Business

- The Board received a request for enforcement of the Land Use and Zoning Ordinance regarding a home occupation business operated by Heidi Stoddard on Challenge Hill Road. Chairman Hatch stated that the business is closed now until spring so they will take some time to review Ms. Aylward's request.
- The monthly school payment decreased \$20,338 beginning with the December payment due to changes in the state adequacy formula, dropping from \$166,593/month to \$146,255. This could cause the payment to spike next year beginning July 1.

- Karen received a call from the NH Department of Health and Human Services looking for contact information for Doug Colby of Dick's Store. They have been trying to reach him because he has not had the required inspection for the food service operation at Dick's Store. They have mailed and called his cell phone without reaching him. The Town has all the same contact information as the State. They will send him a certified letter.

### Selectmen

- The Budget Committee set a date of January 13, 2022, at 7pm for the public hearing on the 2022 budget. The snow date is January 14 at 7pm. 1<sup>st</sup> Deliberative Session will be held on Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 7pm with a snow date of February 11 at 7pm.
- The Board will meet on December 8, 2021, at 6pm to finalize 2022 budget recommendations.

### **Barbara Antonides**

*Ms. Antonides lives on NH Route 104 has been having an issue with chickens and roosters wandering onto other people's property from Dick's Store and 14 NH Route 104. They fly over the fence and cross the road, which creates a traffic hazard, and one rooster settled on her property. She is concerned for the wellbeing of the chickens, because if they were being cared for properly, they would not be leaving their food and shelter. She began feeding the rooster because she felt it was starving and dehydrated.*

*Ms. Antonides contacted the Danbury Police Department about this issue. She feels Chief Suckling was aggressive and rude to her, shouting, accusing her of kidnapping a chicken and hung up on her. She demanded an apology from Chief Suckling who was present at the meeting. She has had incidents with the Chief in the past which she cited.*

*Mrs. Antonides reported Chief Suckling to the State Police and the Attorney General. She demanded an apology from the Chief and urged other citizens in Town to write to the Selectmen complaining of his rude behavior.*

*Chairman Hatch asked if the Chief if he would like to respond. The Chief responded by asking Mr. Colby if he had been contacted by the Chief about the chickens. Mr. Colby responded he had. Chief Suckling also said that they don't respond to calls for service through Facebook.*

*Chairman Hatch suggested that Mrs. Antonides should not be feeding other people's animals. She asked Doug Colby if he could go with her after the meeting to catch the rooster, they are easier to catch in the dark. He agreed.*

### **Lenny Ryan**

Mr. Ryan wanted to make a statement about the tax bills. His taxes went up \$505 from last year. His assessment went up at a higher rate than the tax rate decrease. The municipal budget is not the problem, it is the school budget, and he believes it's time to start to tuition our kids out of the school district and send them to private school. He stated that many people have discussed with him with their concerns about their tax bills. People are concerned who may not come to the meetings and this should be considered when preparing the budget and warrant articles for next year. It costs \$100/week to live in Danbury.

### **Doug Colby**

Chairman Hatch asked Mr. Colby about the issue with the NH DHHS(see above) regarding the inspection of his food service operation at Dick's Store. He said his secretary is supposed to be taking care of that and setting up an appointment. He stated that he is easy to get a hold of by cell phone and has not received any calls. He will contact the State tomorrow.

Mr. Colby asked to go into nonpublic session and if Selectman Phelps would be recusing himself from the discussion. The Board must have a specific reason for nonpublic that is dictated by RSA 91-A and he was asked what the reason would be. After reviewing the options, Mr. Colby requested nonpublic session per RSA 91-A:3, II(c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, **other than a member of this board**, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to include any application for

assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant.

He asked that Deborah Aylward be allowed into the nonpublic session with him. Chairperson Hatch denied that request.

Jim recused himself.

At 7:30 Jessica Hatch motioned to enter nonpublic session per *RSA 91-A:3, II(c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to include any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant.*

Tracy seconded the motion which passed 2-0 with Jim recusing himself.

At 7:45 Tracy motioned to leave nonpublic session and return to public session, seconded by Jessica. Motion passed 2-0.

**FYI/No action needed**

- 107 Waukeena Lake Rd – septic approval for operation
- Thank you letter from Mid-State Health Center for contribution
- Concord Monitor article re supply issues and cost of sand/salt
- Merrimack County 2022 budget

*Respectfully submitted, Karen Padgett, Administrative Assistant*