

Town of Danbury
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
December 29 , 2021 6:00 PM

Present: Selectmen Jessica Hatch(arrived 6:20pm), James Phelps, Tracy Shepard
Administrative Assistant Karen Padgett

Appointments Chief Martin 6:10
Road Agent Cornell immediately following

Checks/Applications/Signatures)

- **Payroll & accounts payable** were signed.
- Jessica motioned to adopt the meeting **minutes of 12/15**, seconded by Jim. Motion passed 3-0. The Board reviewed **an addition to the 12/8 meeting** that was omitted from the original minutes which involved requests for funds from the Trustees of the Trust Funds. Jessica motioned to approve the addition, seconded by Jim. Motion passed 3-0. Finally, **a correction to the record of the 12/1 meeting was reviewed**. The original minutes incorrectly stated that chickens and roosters were coming onto the Antonides property when it was in fact a single rooster. Jessica motioned to approve the correction, seconded by Jim. Motion passed unanimously.
- Jessica motioned to approve a Land Use Change Tax for 418-029/1480 US Route 4 for James Phelps in the amount of \$9,650. Motion was seconded by Tracy and passed 2-0 with Jim recusing himself.
- Jessica motioned to approve a building permit (45-2021B for Thomas Henney on Spruce Lane map 406-137)for a new house. Motion was seconded by Tracy and passed 2-0 with Jim recusing himself.
- Jim motioned to approve building permit 46-2021B for a storage container(Gungewam Outfitters 415-063 1388 US Route 4). Motion was seconded by Tracy and passed 2-0 with Jessica recusing herself.

Road Agent Cornell

Cornell stated that it's been a difficult week for the crew with the passing of crew member Noel Phelps.

Purchase orders were submitted as follows:

\$1400 for a cutting edge from Jordan Equipment

Jessica motioned to approve the purchase order for a cutting edge, seconded by Jim. Motion passed 3-0.

\$4250 to purchase the storage unit from United Rental that is currently a rental.

This item was put on hold.

The 2008 truck is in the shop and the cost of repairs needed to get it back on the road(turbo and a couple other sensors) are not practical. The truck was to be used as a trade in on the new truck that will be delivered in the next few weeks. ATG had offered \$10,500 as a trade in for it. Since the trade in is no longer possible, that money will have to come out of the Highway Equipment line of the budget.

Because of a glitch with the truck body, the new highway truck will not be ready until 2022. The amount of the long-term note, \$99,500, does not lapse. The balance of \$73,500 needs a vote to be encumbered into the next budget year. Jessica motioned to encumber the appropriation of 2021 warrant article 3 in the amount of \$73,500. Motion seconded by Jim and passed unanimously.

The Road Agent request to purchase a loader was discussed. He has a quote for a John Deere 544 for \$210,000. Jim had a quote for a 930 CAT loader with a 3 ¼ yard quick connect bucket. The quote is a municipal price of \$208,000 minus a trade in for the current loader of \$15,000, for a total of \$193,000. There are \$23,000 of options(winter tires and plow attachment). Cornell stated he is not interested in CAT because he has heard from other towns that they are not happy with their new CAT equipment. Jessica asked if he currently has a plow for the loader.

Cornell would like to hire someone for part time help. Jessica asked if he is looking for a permanent employee for 20-25 hours a week and he said yes. If the Board is not in agreement he will go before the people at town meeting to get it into the budget.

Jim noted that the priority is hiring a full-time employee.

Chief Martin

Purchase orders were submitted as follows:

\$2800 for a thermal imaging camera

\$600 for an ice water suit

\$960 for 8 pails of foam

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

Chief Martin requested that if there is no support for the purchase of a mini pumper that \$50,000 be appropriated for the Fire Truck Capital Reserve fund. Jim said that warrant articles will be discussed later, but that there is already a lot of money going toward capital expenditures and would like to level fund those expenditures with last year. Current proposed capital expenditures are the truck payment of \$50,000, another \$25,000 toward the bridge fund and the purchase of a loader.

Chief Martin asked if the joint police department does not go through, do the Selectmen plan to increase the police protection in the town. Jessica stated that her hope is that an appointed chief along with our current part time officer would increase police coverage in the Town. Jim said that either way, through a joint department with Alexandria or the appointed chief, the coverage would increase. Chief Martin is skeptical that a joint department will result in increased hours. Jim replied that currently Alexandria may respond for mutual aid in Danbury in the event of an emergency. With the proposed merger, they would be patrolling in Danbury as well.

Everyone agreed that more police coverage is needed in Danbury.

New Business

- NH DOT will hold a preconstruction conference at the Town Hall on Tuesday 1/4/2022 at 1pm for the US Route 4 replacement bridge over the rail trail.
- Karen had several questions from citizens:
 1. Hill resident on Murray Hill Road is concerned about the property on the corner of Murray Hill Road and feels that there may be hazardous waste on the property. Also, there are plastic bags by the back door that animals are getting into. Jessica said that the house is unoccupied. A letter will be sent to the property owner.
 2. Is 406-117 on Spruce Lane a buildable lot? Yes(if septic can be installed and setbacks met), it is on a paper road. The property owner would be responsible for opening the town owned right of way and maintaining the road for access.
 3. Are there any restrictions on short term rentals(Airbnb type rentals) in Danbury? No there are not.

Budget

- Notice from Eversource of up to 6% increase in electricity prices for next year.
- PemiBaker dues increased to \$1,971.17

Selectmen

- These warrant articles were decided upon:
 1. Closure of roads that are essentially driveways. Owners would have to be notified by January 22.
 2. Authority to sell town owned property that is not tax deeded property.
 3. Lengthy discussion about a loader purchase. \$170,000 will be allocated for loader purchase. Public hearing on a bond over \$100,000 must be noticed by 1/11/22 and hearing held by 1/18/22.
 4. Deposits to the fire truck and revaluation capital reserve funds.
 5. The usual waste oil grant article.
- Adjustments were made to the 2022 budget for electric and Pemi Baker dues.

At 7:04 Jim motioned to enter nonpublic session per

RSA 91-A:3, II (b) The hiring of any person s a public employee.

Motion was seconded by Jessica and passed unanimously.

At 7:17 Jim motioned to return to public session, seconded by Jessica. Motion passed 3-0. No decisions were made, and no votes were taken.

At 7:23 Jim motioned to enter nonpublic session per

RSA 91-A:3, II (b) The hiring of any person s a public employee.

Motion was seconded by Jessica and passed unanimously.

At 7:45 Jim motioned to return to public session, seconded by Jessica. Motion passed 3-0. No decisions were made, and no votes were taken.

The Selectmen would like to acknowledge with sadness the passing of longtime Highway Department employee, Noel Phelps. With over 25 years of service in the Highway Department, his commitment and dedication to the Town of Danbury are greatly appreciated. He will be missed.

Jessica motioned to adjourn at 8:30, seconded by Tracy. Motion passed 3-0.

FYI/No action needed

- Notice of Impending tax deed Colby 201-026
- Address assignment Elder 66 Dunlap/Lewis 77 Hoyt Brook Rd.
- DRA sales monitoring report
- Notice of Public Hearing for Zoning Amendments
- FD Grant submitted for radios

Respectfully submitted, Karen Padgett, Administrative Assistant