

Town of Danbury

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday March 6th , 2024, 6:00 PM

Members present: Jessica Hatch, Chair, Tracy Shepard, Ruby Hill
Also present, Maggi Fellows, Administrative Assistant, Karen Padgett

Chairperson Hatch opened the meeting at 6:10pm

Approval of meeting minutes 2/21/24 & 2/24/2024, Ruby motioned to approve and sign, seconded by Tracy Shepard, Motion passes 3-0.

Consent/Signature Agenda

- Payroll and accounts payable, *reviewed*.
- Police Department Body Camara Grant Signature form, *reviewed*.
- Merrimack County Assessor report, *reviewed* Jessica Hatch motioned to approve and sign all items in the consent folder, seconded by Tracy Shepard, motion passed 3-0.

New Business

- Deed Review for clarification of ownership Waukeena Lake Rd, *Reviewed* The board requested the Administrative Assistant call the property owner and advise him of the new amount of taxes (roughly) and make sure he is aware of this. If agreed send info to the assessor to map and assign a lot number.
- Vacation Request Form, *Approved and signed*.
- Application for Current Use 404-002 & 404-004 262 Forbes Mt. Road Feinauer, Jessica made a motion to approve and sign the CU application, seconded by Tracy, motion passed 3-0.

Selectmen

Jessica asked if there was any update from Eversource on the project in town, Maggi advised she Had e-mailed the Representative Mary-Kate again requesting info.

Jessica advised that the Road Agent had mentioned getting rid of the gas tank at the Highway Garage, as we no longer purchase gasoline, He advised the fuel company would buy the tank from the Town, the Board requested the Administrative Assistant check into what the value is and contact the fuel company to Purchase.

Ruby advised of a House Bill that would limit board members Ability to advocate or lobby.

From NHMA HB 1479

- The bill prohibits local officials from any form of advocacy—period.
- The bill prohibits others—recipients of public funds—from lobbying.
- The exception is a red herring.
- The bill would cost taxpayers money. Proposed legislation this session alone would cost taxpayers more than \$50 million.
- The bill strips local officials and town meetings of authority to make their own local decisions.
- The amendment offered today, which was not provided to the public during the executive session, does not improve the bill.

From Fast Democracy

- "This bill prohibits the use of federal, state, or local funds for lobbying activities. It defines "public funds" as a grant or appropriation from a government entity. The bill states that no public funds can be used for lobbying, attempting to influence legislation, participating in political activity, or contributing funds to any entity for these purposes. If an entity engages in these prohibited activities, a taxpayer or resident of the state can seek injunctive relief to prevent further activity and recover attorney's fees and costs. Any person who knowingly authorizes spending of public funds in violation of this law is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor and personally liable for three times the amount wrongfully paid or expended. The bill also allows for the discharge of an employee who knowingly violates this law. However, the bill does not limit an entity's ability to provide information that does not advocate for or against political candidates or legislation. The bill takes effect on January 1, 2025. The fiscal impact of the bill is indeterminable, as it may affect the judicial and correctional systems and could result in civil cases and associated costs."

Ruby mentioned she would like to start the review and update of the town building permit at upcoming meetings.

Jessica requested the Administrative Assistant send out the employee evaluations for the Department Heads to complete.

Administrative Assistant

- Water sampling completed for February 2024

FYI

- Subdivision Abutters Hearing Notice, Phelps Lane & Wiggin Rd 411-08.2,82.3,82.6,82.7, *reviewed.*
- Review of property sales November 2023, December 2023 & January 2024, *reviewed.*
- Quote for Stripping and refinishing the floors at the Town Hall, *Price is \$1177.20 to do all the floors in town hall, (tile, linoleum, and clean the carpet) the board requested we table this until the next meeting and possible not clean the office carpet but replace it with flooring.*
- DES wetland Study, 405-051 Taylor 367 Eastern District Rd. *reviewed.*

At 8:00 Ruby motioned to adjourn, seconded by Jessica. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be held on Wednesday, March 20th , 2024, at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted, Maggi Fellows, Administrative Assistant