

Town of Danbury
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
March 30, 2022, 6:00 PM

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

Appointments:
6:15 Kiera Tuttle
6:30 Douglas Trottier
7:00 Shaun Wagner
7:30 Fire Chief Martin
7:45 Road Agent Cornell

Jessica Hatch opened the meeting at 6:06pm. Board member Ruby Hill arrived shortly after.

Kiera Tuttle

On March 25, 2022, Ms. Tuttle was attacked by 2 large dogs while running on Taylor Hill Road. She called police at the time and no officer was on duty. There was no one to take her report or to follow up with the dog owner. She filed a report with the Danbury Police Department on Monday 3/28 and had still not been contacted by the Danbury Police Department. She understands that things are changing with the Police Department and the situation we are in, but when you call the police and you expect someone to come and no one does, it's not a good feeling. She was under the impression that there is a statewide leash law, however, the town legislative body has to adopt the law and the Town of Danbury has not done so.

She wants it documented that this incident happened so that there will be a public record of the attack, in case it ever happens to anyone else with these dogs.

Chief Suckling arrived a few minutes later. He said that he would handle it and speak again with the dog owners. He said it is a violation and a \$25 fine. On the night of the incident, he did contact the dog owners to be sure that the dogs' rabies vaccinations are up to date and to let them know that it was inappropriate that the dogs were on the road. He will contact the owners and follow up with a phone call to Ms. Tuttle.

Joe Bruderman

A letter from **Joe Bruderman** was received requesting a lot line adjustment from the town to correct the issue of a cabin infringement on the town owned property on Littlefield Rd. He would like the Board to reconsider a lot line adjustment with the town property. His intention is to refurbish the existing structure and understands that it must be a dry camp without a well or septic. (see attached).

Mr. Bruderman attended the meeting and presented his case. The Board discussed his proposal. The benefit to the town is to have a refurbished cabin on the tax rolls. Ruby made a motion to grant the lot line adjustment request of Joe Bruderman and hold him responsible for the cost of the lot line adjustment. Motion was seconded by Jessica. Tracy asked if he had seen the cabin and he has. Mr. Bruderman feels he can work with what's there. Motion passed 3-0.

At 6:33 Jessica motioned to go into nonpublic session, seconded by Ruby per:

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

Motion passed 3-0.

The Board returned to public session at 7:40 with motion by Jessica, seconded by Ruby with a unanimous vote.

Checks/Applications/Signatures)

- **Payroll & accounts payable** were signed.
- February bank reconciliations were signed.
- Jessica motioned to approve the **minutes of 3/16/2022** as amended for typographical error. Tracy seconded the motion which passed 3-0.
- A check manifest was signed for the highway truck loan payment that was electronically withdrawn from the Bar Harbor checking account.
- Timber Tax bills
Saltsman \$1,168.68
Hardwick/Forever Forestlands \$537.88

Jessica motioned to sign the timber tax bills, seconded by Tracy. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Gravel Tax Bills -** Phelps \$744.04/Jessica motioned to approve, seconded by Tracy. Motion passed 2-0, with Ruby abstaining from the vote.
Clarke \$433.96/Jessica motioned to approve, seconded by Ruby. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Intent to Excavate-** Clarke 418-020/Jessica motioned to approve, seconded by Ruby. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Sign Permit App** Phelps 418-029 1480 US Route 4/Jessica motioned to approve, seconded by Tracy. Motion passed 2-0, with Ruby abstaining from the vote.
- **Vet Credit Applications** **Moulton 201-030(All Veterans Credit)**
D. Abele 403-003(Reg Vet Credit and Total Disability)
K. Abele 403-003(Reg Vet Credit)
Jessica motioned to approve the above veterans' credits, seconded by Ruby. Motion passed 3-0.
- **2022 MS-535 Financial Report of the Budget**/Jessica motioned to approve, seconded by Ruby. Motion passed 3-0.
- **2022 MS-232Report of Appropriations Voted/** Jessica motioned to approve, seconded by Ruby. Motion passed 3-0.
- Jessica signed the **Auditor Option form for the Department of Revenue.**

There was discussion about creating a consent agenda for future meetings, so that one motion and vote can be taken for all signature items. Any one item can be removed from the consent agenda for further discussion at the request of any Board member. The Board agreed that this is a good idea.

Building Permits

- **BP Extension request - John Dickinson** of 20 Hemlock Lane(406-154) came to the office 3/21/2022 to request a 1-year building permit extension. He received the Selectmen's letter of 3/2 notifying him of the upcoming building permit expiration date of 4/1/2022. He had to change plans due to the rising costs of lumber and materials. He plans to have a slab poured in May and the house framed and weather tight by August. Ruby voted to grant the 1-year building permit extension for John Dickinson, seconded by Tracy. Motion passed 3-0.

Ben Elder

Mr. Elder received correspondence from the Board regarding his property on Dunlap Road. He stated that he is not running an excavation company, the equipment on his property belongs to him. He will be doing his own site work for a new home. Jessica asked if they are living in a camper. Mr. Elder asked if everybody was getting a letter to that because there is a whole family living in a camper on Railroad Drive. His camper is self-contained, he can pump it out and it is perfectly legal to have an outhouse if its 75 feet from running water and 75 feet from any structure. Jessica informed him the regulations regarding living in a camper and that the people on Railroad Drive are properly permitted. A building permit is required for the permanent structure as well as a building permit to live in the camper for up to 365 days while constructing the permanent home. Mr. Elder explained that the equipment will be parked in the barn once the house is built. He stated that he will submit his building permits and Jessica said that he will then be in compliance with the Danbury Land Use and Zoning Ordinance.

Chief Martin is requesting electronic door locks for the Fire Station. It is a keypad system in which each member would have their own code. The cost of the locks is \$1700. The Board does not want to act on that until possibly later in the year. This would be a government building expense and the furnace in the Town Hall needs to be replaced. \$10,000 has been budgeted for the government building line item.

Road Agent Cornell reported that:

- the new 2022 truck has been delivered.
- The repair to the grader is estimated to be \$3500-\$4000.
- He reviewed his preferences for paving projects for the year, however with rising costs, the Town may be limited to what can be done. He said there is a problem on High Street where the pavement

keeps breaking up by the old railroad bed. He discovered that the rails are still under the pavement. He will contact someone with the rail authority to see about having them removed.

- Also, the bridge on Walker Brook Road either needs to be re-decked or replaced. It would cost about \$15,000 to re-deck it. Jessica also mentioned the top of Ragged Mountain Road needs work.
- He asked why his purchase order requirement was reduced to \$500 from \$1000. Jessica said that the Board felt that his purchase of a \$1000 computer for the Highway break room was excessive. No action was taken on his request.

Old Business

- Request for sand bids were mailed on 3/18 and are due back on 4/6.

New Business

- A streetlight at Independence Park is not working. There was discussion about whether the light is still needed, and all Selectmen were in agreement that it is. Karen will contact Eversource to see about getting it repaired.
- Jeffrey Deuink submitted a request per RSA 674:39-aa Restoration of Involuntary Merged Lots to unmerge 410-090 and 410-019 on Eastern District Rd. These lots were merged by town in 2001 or 2002. Jessica motioned to approve the request, seconded by Ruby. Motion passed 3-0.
- The Board appointed Ruby Hill to the committee to investigate a change to the school district funding formula. The first meeting is 4/14 at 6pm at Newfound Middle School.

Jessica motioned to go into nonpublic session at 8:34 per

RSA 91-A:3, II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a public meeting, and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted.

Motion seconded by Tracy and passed 3-0.

Jessica motioned to come out of nonpublic session at 9:29pm, seconded by Ruby. Motion passed. During the nonpublic session, the Board reviewed employee evaluations and approved pay increases for 2022.

FYI

- NHDOT scheduled summer paving on NH 104 from Alexandria town line to just past Murray Hill Road.

At 9:30 Jessica motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ruby. Motion passed 3-0. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Padgett, Administrative Assistant

My name is Kiera Tuttle and I live at 5 Jackson Ridge Rd.

On Friday March 25th I was attacked by two large dogs while running on a public road in Danbury. I want you to imagine for a moment two large mastiff sized dogs running, unleashed, full speed down the road, barking with teeth barred. Imagine the owner who was outside, losing control of their dogs. One dog bit me from behind while the other snapped at me from another direction. My entire elbow was inside this dog's mouth. The other dog continued to chase me down the road. As I literally ran for my life. I got lucky. I was wearing 5 layers of clothing. Despite this the dog caused soft tissue damage to my elbow. I try not to think about the alternative had I not been wearing 5 layers of clothes.

Now I want you to visualize for me, calling police for help and help not arriving. To be told the responding officer was "off duty". For said officer to call the dog owner who advised "my dogs wouldn't have bit her if she wasn't running" and for this to be an acceptable response. For no one to take your report, follow up, and the dog owner to not be held accountable for breaking laws and endangering an innocent party.

As I stand before you, 5 days since my attack and I have not been contacted by the Danbury Police Dept in any capacity. I dropped off my incident statement on Monday morning and have not even received a courtesy call. I have no evidence that these dogs were properly registered or vaccinated. Nor do I have any record that the owner was held responsible for disobeying NH Leash Laws, or quarantined their dogs as required.

As a matter of public safety, I am asking for the owner and keepers of the dogs; Cameron Huntoon and Bree Laura of 185 Taylor Hill Rd, be cited \$100 per dog in violation of the NH Leash Law and RSA 466:31 II (g), as permitted by Law. These laws are put in place to protect the public, to keep record of vicious attacks, and validate the pain and suffering of victims like myself. Without these fines there is no public record of this attack and nothing to prevent reoccurrence.

As we approach a time in Danbury where a police department with officers may not be present. I am asking that you, the appointed select board, advise how future victims like myself should handle situations like these. What are we to do when the people we believe are there to help us either don't exist or don't respond at our time of need? I hope based on my experience the public is never aware of what it's like to call for help and for help not to come.

I want it cited in the minutes that being told to "find an alternative route to run" is not an acceptable response.

Thank you.

Danbury Board of Selectmen
23 High Street
Danbury, NH 03230

I would like to request that the selectmen of the town of Danbury please reconsider the lot-line adjustment or combination of Lot 416-022 and 416-023. The reason for this request is because I have submitted a purchase and sale agreement with the seller of lot 416-022 with the contingency of boundary adjustment or acquisition of 416-023. Due to the lot-line discrepancy I would prefer to acquire both parcels of land including the existing structures. I would do this with the understanding that nothing else could be built or rebuilt on either parcel. I would have the intention of refurbishing the existing structure but with the understanding that it must remain a dry camp with no well or septic systems. My primary residence is only 1 1/2 hours away, so I plan on and promise to maintain the appearance of both the structure and property all while increasing tax revenue to the town. Living so close in proximity to the property, I still see usefulness in a dry camp as a weekend retreat. I look forward to many years skiing with my family at Ragged and patronizing the local shops and restaurants. I hope to soon be a contributing part of your community.

With gratitude for your consideration.

Joseph Bruderan
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