

Town of Danbury

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday August 17, 2022, 6:00 PM

Members present: Jessica Hatch, Chair, Tracy Shepard
Absent Ruby Hill

Karen Padgett, Administrative Assistant

Appointments: 6:15pm Merrimack County Sheriff David Croft
FD Chief Martin
PD Chief Warn

Others present; Barbara Antonides, Evelyn Davis

At 6pm Jessica Hatch opened the meeting.

Tracy moved to approve the minutes of 8/3/2022 as presented, seconded by Jessica. All in favor.

Sheriff David Croft

Sheriff Croft came to the Board to introduce himself and to explain some of the things that his office does. He is the Sheriff of Merrimack County and has set a goal to get out and meet the Boards of Selectmen and 2 city councils in all 27 of the towns and cities.

He feels it's important that the leaders of the community are aware of what the Sher. They are the highest-ranking law enforcement officers in the state, higher than the State Police.

The budget of the Sheriff's Office is over \$5,000,000. His office has 70 employees. These are some of the tasks that his office takes on:

- The civil unit is responsible for serving orders issued by the State and serving eviction notices, amount other things.
- The transport unit transports prisoners to and from court.
- The warrants unit has two deputies who do nothing but warrants. They have between 400 and 500 warrants on a regular basis. They find people that are wanted on warrants and bring them in to answer to the charges.
- The detective unit consists of three detectives. They are tasked with helping out the smaller communities that don't have the expertise or personnel to do major investigations. Sheriff Croft was able to get a grant to hire an employee to work solely on ICAC crimes (international crimes against children).
- The Communications Department dispatches for 17 communities. Unfortunately, it is difficult to hire and retain employees for this division.
- The office is responsible for providing security for the Superior Court in Concord, the Circuit Court, and Franklin District Court. 28 to 30 men and women provide these security services.
- One of his deputies is assigned to the Attorney General's Drug Task Force.
- Deputy assigned to Homeland Security that is assigned to human trafficking

"County government needs to give back to the constituents that we work for." He has increased the patrol in the county to help out local law enforcement and added a night patrol. Right now, State Police is down 80 officers out of 320. Two communities in the county have no law enforcement (Salisbury and Hill).

Chairman Hatch thanked him for coming in and explaining some of the responsibilities of the Merrimack County Sheriff's Office.

Chief Warn

His tenure continues to be a positive one. His hours are as sporadic as he can make them. He met with Chief McIntyre of Bristol and arranged to keep the Danbury cruiser at the Bristol Police Department where there is 24-hour surveillance, and he can pick it up on his way into Danbury.

After the last meeting, he spoke to a NH DOT engineer regarding crosswalks and their position has not changed from 2 years ago. It can actually be even more dangerous to have a crosswalk where there are no sidewalks, as people will cross without looking, believing they have the right of way.

The meet and greet at the Town Hall went well and the townspeople have been very welcoming. The Chief attended the ice cream social at the Elementary School which he said was very well attended.

Barbara Antonides asked the Chief about having a voice mail for the Police Department. In response, he said that with the current structure of the phone system it is not possible, but he could look into it.

Currently, a call is made to the Police Department number(603 768-5568) and if there is no one in the office, Franklin Dispatch will pick up. A message can be left with dispatch, and they can fax over the message to the Danbury PD. The current system works well according to the Chief.

Tracy offered to help with some of the clean out the Chief had mentioned at a previous meeting.

Chief Martin

The Chief informed the Board that the transfer station debris has been placed in a spot that encroaches on the helicopter landing area. Tracy will advise Jim Larkin that the area should be cleared. He also feels that the landing should be paved. Also, the Chief would like to see the brush cut and debris cleaned out to expand the area for the helicopter.

The disposition and placement of the old forestry truck was discussed. The old tank and pump were pulled out of it as it adds nothing to the value of the truck. Those items will be taken to the White Farm to be auctioned off as surplus. The truck will be parked at the Highway garage. Harold's Auto has offered 3 years of maintenance on the E1 and E2 fire trucks, which is a value of approximately \$4500. The Board will look into auctioning off the truck.

Evelyn Davis asked the Board if they have any knowledge about laws regarding an abandoned well. She has a well on her property that grants water rights to the property across the street. The well has not been used for many years and Ms. Davis would like the water rights rescinded.

Jessica and Tracy had differing opinions on the subject but said that she should consult a lawyer as this is a civil matter.

Consent/Signature Agenda

- Payroll and accounts payable
- Timber tax bill – Gemma 22-111-03-T \$164.10
- Purchase Orders
 - 038607 FD Boundtree EMS supplies \$680(signed previously)
 - 038891 PD laptop computer \$899.98(signed previously)
 - 038759 HWY 2 tires \$1376
 - 038616 FD Service E1 and E2 \$1500
 - 038763 FD Defibrillator pads \$688

Jessica motioned to sign and approve items on the consent agenda, seconded by Tracy. All in favor.

Building/Driveway Permit Applications

- **27-2022B Blasotto/29 Barry Highlands Rd/409-022/New 3-bedroom home** Jessica motioned to approve the building permit, seconded by Tracy. All in favor.

Old Business

- Karen received a call today from Brook Dupee of HMC Precision. This will be discussed during the nonpublic session.
- The Town of Salisbury has two solar speed limit signs for sale for \$3000 for the pair. These signs are mounted on the telephone poles. Chief Warn suggests buying them new for \$2200 to \$2800 each with a warranty and apply for a grant from NH Department of Safety for 75% of the cost. Karen found some information on the state requirements for the installation of crosswalks on state roads. The information was reviewed.
- Public hearings to be held on 9/7 for accepting unanticipated revenue APRA and SB 401

- Jessica motioned to hire Tim Wallace of River Edge Forestry to do the timber tax assessment. Motion seconded by Tracy. All in favor. He will complete the DRA matrix, is fully insured and charges \$30/hour with a 1 hour minimum.

New Business

- The Board received a letter via from Bonnie Fletcher of Deckmans Road regarding paving top of Ragged Mountain Road. The Board will be meeting with the Road Agent and Ragged Mountain Resort Management at the 8/31/2022 meeting to develop a plan for the paving of Ragged Mountain Road from New Canada Road to Deckman Road.
- NH Primex has started a mandatory cyber security training.
- The moderator position has been filled for the 9/13 and the November election.

Selectmen

- The Board will work on estimated revenues at the next meeting. The form is due to the NH Department of Revenue on 9/1.
- Jeff McIver of Consolidated Communications will be making a zoom presentation on 9/7 at 7pm to inform the Board about pricing for Fidium Fiber. Regarding cutting trees on US Route 4 to improve visibility by the Rail Trail, NH DOT informed Road Agent Cornell that they do not have the staffing to do it, but if the Town wants to do it, they can. Also, the highway crew has shouldered some of the paving jobs, graded roads, continues ditching and a roadside mower has been hired.
- He is planning to repair the Walker Brook bridge and will spend about \$3000 on timber to do the decking. Finally, he has contacted Eversource regarding a tree leaning over North Road close to the power lines that will need to be removed.

Nonpublic session – RSA 91-A:3, II (l) Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or more members of the public body, even where legal counsel is not present.

At 7:50 Jessica motioned to go into nonpublic session, seconded by Tracy per *RSA 91-A:3, II (l) Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or more members of the public body, even where legal counsel is not present.* All in favor.

At 8:11 Jessica motioned to come out of nonpublic session, seconded by Tracy. All in favor.

FYI

- Letters sent re no Report of Wood Cut received
- NH DRA letter re new law- fines can be assessed if audit is not completed by its due date
- 2nd QTR 941 filed
- 2nd QTR New Hampshire Employment Security wage report filed
- Merrimack County Local Food Guide
- Right to know request

At 8:25 Jessica motioned to adjourn, seconded by Tracy. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be held on Wednesday, August 31, 2022, at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Padgett, Administrative Assistant