

# Town of Danbury

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday August 3, 2022, 6:00 PM

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

Karen Padgett, Administrative Assistant  
Police Chief Warn  
Road Agent Cornell

**Others present; Joseph Bruderman, Evelyn Pagella, Cathy Chabot, Mary Brady, Deborah Aylward**

At 6pm Jessica Hatch opened the meeting.

The sealed bids for the sale to abutters of the town owned properties 416-023 and 416-024 on Littlefield Road were opened. Only one bid was received, and it was from Joseph Bruderman who bid \$5,000 for the properties. Jessica made a motion to accept Joseph Bruderman's bid of \$5,000. Ruby seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

These properties are to be merged into Mr. Bruderman's property at 138 Littlefield Road. Once the deed has been prepared, the Town will notify Mr. Bruderman.

**Chief Warn** spoke to the Board and townspeople present. He is prioritizing things that need to be done. Number one priority is moving toward professionalization of the Police Department. The cruiser has been lettered. Sgt Marvin has been showing Chief Warn around town, the different roads, and neighborhoods. He is looking at a new software program. Cruisers are in good shape, the 2016 needs to be detailed. There will be a clearing out of the evidence room. He is looking into parking the cruiser at the Bristol PD, where it would be in camera view 24/7 instead of taking it home or parking it at the current location.

### **Road Agent Cornell**

Selectman Hatch stated that it was good to see the crew ditching on Taylor Hill Road.

From a previous meeting, it was said that because of the high cost of fuel, the amount of roadwork would be minimal. She totally disagrees with that. Summer maintenance roadwork needs to be done; ditching, grading and roadside mowing. Road Agent Cornell responded that he has the responsibility of his budget, while Hatch noted that only half the paving budget has been used.

Selectman Hatch received a complaint about Barry Highlands. There is an issue of water running down the driveways into the road and it has not been ditched in a while. Cornell responded that it was ditched last year. There are driveways that do not have culverts which is causing a problem. In regard to the upper part of Ragged Mountain Rd she would like to meet with Ragged officials to discuss how the town and the resort can work together to fix the roadway. A lot of the problem is caused by water coming off the mountain and running down the road. And finally, the new pavement on Waukeena Lake Road needs to be shouldered as complaints have been received.

SB401 was signed and the Town will be receiving funds from the state in August and December totaling about \$150,000.

Ruby motioned to approve the minutes of 7/20 and 7/26. Motioned seconded by Jessica and passed unanimously.

### **Consent/Signature Agenda**

- Payroll and accounts payable
- July bank reconciliations
- Timber tax bill – Alexander 21-111-02-T \$469.94
- Declaration of Right to Inter/Cook/ Riverdale Cemetery
- LUCT tax collectors warrant (LUCT was signed last meeting, this is the warrant to collect the \$\$)

Jessica made a motion to sign and approve the consent agenda, seconded by Ruby. Motion passed 3-0.

## **Building/Driveway Permit Applications**

- **23-2022B Sanville Juniper Meadow Rd** 412-025 24 x 36 3 BDRM home/ Jessica motioned to approve, seconded by Tracy. Motion passed 3-0.
- **25-2022B Lizzie Ann's Homestead/Darrin Wason/27 Old Turnpike/412-062/home renovation/** Jessica motioned to approve, seconded by Ruby. Motion passed 3-0.
- **26-2022B Blanchet/Wiggin Rd** 416-090-002/new 3 bdrm home/ Jessica motioned to approve, seconded by Ruby. Motion passed 3-0.
- **27-2022B Blasotto/29 Barry Highlands Rd/409-022/New 3 bedroom home/Ruby** motioned to table until a setback sketch is received, seconded by Jessica. Motion passed 3-0.
- **28-2022B Rose/Restful Rd/201-111/24 x 24 garage/** Jessica motioned to approve, seconded by Tracy. Motion passed 3-0.
- **29-2022B Moloney/152 Ford Mill Rd/408-037/12 x 24 storage shed/** Jessica motioned to approve, seconded by Ruby. Motion passed 3-0.
- **30-2022B Moloney/152 Ford Mill Rd/408-037/8 X 20 timber frame wood shed/** Jessica motioned to approve, seconded by Ruby. Motion passed 3-0.

## **Old Business**

- The revenue amount from Senate Bill 401 has been finalized. The Town will receive \$73,367.51 from the State in mid-august and \$73,866 in December. Funds must supplement not supplant the current budget. They must add and not replace local budgeted funds. The Board will need to hold a public hearing to accept the funds per RSA 31:95-b. Notice needs to be published at least 7 days prior in a local publication. The Board determined that the hearing will be held on 9/7/2022 at 6:30pm.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> “tranche” of ARPA funds should be coming in the next week (\$64,174.76). These funds are deposited in a separate account. No decision has been made as to how to use the funds. Ruby asked if any of the money could be set aside for a future use. The funds need to be used by 2024. Using the funds for planning of a safety services building was suggested.
- The 2020 letter from NH DOT denying the placement of a crosswalk for the library was reviewed. The letter did not mention the need for sidewalks on either side of the crosswalk. Ruby described her idea for a town common area and there was discussion regarding that proposal. Jessica felt that it could not work because of the alignment with the parking lot of the store. All agreed that there is concern for the safety of people crossing from the rail trail to the store on a busy roadway.
- The letters of right to repurchase have been mailed certified and regular mail. One certified receipt (Colby) has come back. Jessica asked if the auctioneer had any input into whether the sale of the tax dedeed properties should be held at the Town Hall or at each individual site. Karen will reach out to JSJ Auctioneers once the 30-day time frame for the former property owners to contact the Town has passed.
- The 2022 Used waste oil contract has been approved for expenses through May 2023. Last year (2021) was never approved.
- The letter to Karl Hannan of HMC was sent certified on 7/21/2022. Mr. Hannan came in on 7/25/22, not sure what to do. Karen advised him to contact the Planning Board for site plan review and Zoning Board of Adjustment for a special exception. Evelyn Pagella asked if abutters would be notified if there is site plan review and a special exception. Abutters are notified as part of the process. She also asked how to get a copy of the recording of the ZBA hearing and was told to contact the ZBA clerk. Ms. Aylward added that a video recording that she made of the hearing was provided to the ZBA clerk.
- A phone call was received from a resident of Tommy Higgins Road stating that the town truck drivers travelling too fast on the road. I spoke with Road Agent Cornell, and he was going to address this with his crew.
- There are changes to the household hazardous waste collection. Items can no longer be brought to the Danbury Transfer Station as it is a liability for Mike Maines to transport the items to the collection site in Plymouth. Residents will have to bring their items to Plymouth on September 24.

## **Selectmen**

Ruby Hill

She no longer wants to be the town representative on the tax restructuring committee(Article 5

Committee) because she has a conflict of interest, having family that lives in Danbury and in Bridgewater. A new person will need to be found to attend the meetings. She provided information on what would happen if 20% of the school budget was based on fixed cost and the remainder on number of children from the town attending the schools. Bridgewater, Danbury, Groton and Hebron would see an increase in their taxes. The other towns would see a decrease.

Ruby explained her idea for a common area to improve safety for people crossing US Route 4 from the rail trail to the store. Jessica didn't feel it could work and suggested some traffic speed warning signs that might cause the car to slow down. Cornell said he thought Salisbury had some for sale. Chief Warn said that he has dealt with these before and thought that NH Department of Safety would pay for half. He offered to investigate it. Another suggestion was to ask the state to cut some trees to improve visibility of traffic coming from the west. Cornell said that he would contact the NH DOT to ask that question.

Jessica Hatch

Jeff McIver of Consolidated Communications contacted her to discuss Fidium Fiber, the new internet provider (still Consolidated, different name). Town residents have been contacting Consolidated concerned that rates increased when the original 2-year contract expired. He is working on a presentation for residents to let them know they can call Consolidated and set up a new term and have the rate lowered. Fidium will be less expensive than Consolidated if a two year contract is signed.

The Budget Committee met to review the budget to date. Police Department and Highway Department budgets were discussed. They will meet again in the fall.

Jessica motioned to set the voting poll hours for the primary election on September 13 from 11am to 7pm. Motion seconded by Ruby. Motion passed 3-0.

At 7:32 Jessica motioned to go into nonpublic session, seconded by Tracy per  
*RSA 91-A:3, II(e) Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed by or against this board or any subdivision thereof, or by or against any member thereof because of his or her membership therein, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled*  
All in favor.

At 7:44 Jessica motioned to come out of nonpublic session, seconded by Ruby. All in favor.

Ruby is concerned about the debris/brush accumulating on the top of the Danbury Bog dam. If left to accumulate over 2 months, it cannot be removed.

Chief Warn stated that one of his main objectives for the Police Department is setting the Department up for the future as the town grows. The safety, security and accessibility of the Police station is important. Jessica told him of a recent concern of a citizen that there is no answering machine for the Police Department. Finally, the Board is in favor of the cruiser being parked at the Bristol PD.

#### **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
- 2<sup>nd</sup> QTR 941 filed
- 2<sup>nd</sup> QTR New Hampshire Employment Security wage report filed
- Merrimack County Local Food Guide
- Right to know request

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

The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be held on Wednesday, August 3, 2022, at 6pm.

*Respectfully submitted, Karen Padgett, Administrative Assistant*