

Town of Danbury

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday September 7, 2022, 6:00 PM

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

Administrative Assistant Karen Padgett

Appointments: 6:15 Bonnie Fletcher

At 6:01pm Jessica Hatch opened the meeting.

Jessica motioned to approve the minutes of August 17, seconded by Tracy. Motion passed 2-0 with Ruby abstaining from the vote.

Jessica motioned to approve the minutes of August 31, seconded by Ruby. Motion passed 2-0 with Tracy abstaining from the vote.

Consent/Signature Agenda

- Payroll and accounts payable
- August bank reconciliations

Jessica motioned to approve the consent agenda.

Ruby asked for more information about the check to Interware Development. Interware is the company that supports the online payment system for vehicle registration, property tax and dog registrations. The payment was for a supply of the paper checks that the Town Clerk/Tax Collector prints from the online payment.

Ruby seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda. All in favor.

Building/Driveway Permit Applications

- **32-2022B SPRINGER 27 North Rd/28 x 40 storage building**
Chris Springer has gotten site plan approval from the Planning Board. Jessica motioned to approve the building permit, seconded by Ruby. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

- The Board discussed the primary election to be held at the Town Hall on September 13. The Board has appointed 2 Republican election inspectors as required by new election laws. The Democratic Party has named two election inspectors for the primary. Sylvia Hill was appointed temporary moderator by Town Moderator Anna Offen who will be unable to fulfill her duties on election day. The Selectmen are required to be here for the day. Tracy and Ruby will be in attendance. Jessica will appoint someone to take her place until she can arrive from work.

New Business

- Jessica motioned to appoint Sharon Wing to fill the open position of the Trustees of the Trust Funds, seconded by Ruby. Motion passed unanimously. Sharon will hold the position until 2025.
- Karen reported to the Board the copier was zapped by lightening in the same storm that took out the xfinity modem and the internet. Porter Office Machine

Bonnie Fletcher

Ms. Fletcher wanted to meet with the Board of Selectmen to discuss the condition of Ragged Mountain Road from New Canada Road up to Deckmans Road. She has lived in Danbury on Deckmans Road for over 25 years and her husband for more than 30 years. The section of road at issue is 5/10th of a mile and has not been repaved since they've lived in Danbury. Repairs have been done but not repaving.

The condition of the road has taken a toll on their vehicles. They pay vehicle registration fees for multiple cars and pay their property taxes. Shocks, struts, and bearings have to be redone frequently on their

vehicles. She is aware that the Town of Danbury plans to do work on the road next year but is asking that some money be used this year to repair the top of the road. She has nineteen signatures from residents asking the same.

Jessica agreed that the road is one of the worst in Danbury and the way the road is designed now is not working for the amount of traffic that travels the road. The Board is looking to fix the road correctly so the water coming off the mountain drains properly and not down the road. She believes the project is a ¼ million-dollar project. There are no funds this year to put into it because of increased costs in other areas such as diesel. The highway crew will probably be able to get up there and clean out the ditches and the catch basins this year.

The Town is working jointly with Ragged Mountain Resort. They have water flow issues that are causing problems with the Town road.

At 6:54 Jessica motioned to enter into nonpublic session 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.*

Motion seconded by Tracy and passed unanimously.

At 6:57 Jessica motioned to return to public session, seconded by Ruby. Motion passed unanimously. No decisions were made, and no votes were taken.

ZOOM MEETING WITH CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS, JEFF MCIVER, BOB HANSCOM

Jeff McIver gave a PowerPoint presentation to introduce Fidium Fiber Internet. Current Consolidated Communications customers are coming up on the end of the original two-year contract. Fidium Fiber will be offered to all Danbury Residents at a one-year special rate. For example, 1 gig of speed will be \$70 for the first year. After that the rate will go to \$95 with no contract needed.

Fidium offers ultra-fast speeds, including 2 Gigs. New equipment will be installed, and 2 Wi-Fi extenders are included if needed. Consolidated will be reaching out to current customers over the next few months. There will be no Consolidated increase in pricing while customers are waiting for Fidium.

FYI

- FD GOFERR grant awarded for Air Pac \$42,777

At 7:29 Jessica motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ruby. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be held on Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Padgett, Administrative Assistant

PUBLIC HEARING TO ACCEPT \$147,243.51 FROM STATE OF NH SB 401

Jessica opened the public hearing at 6:30pm.

Per RSA 31:95-b the public hearing is being held to receive public comment regarding the acceptance and expenditure of unanticipated revenues from the State of New Hampshire in the amount of \$147,243.51 to be used to repair, maintain, and construct municipal bridges; repair and maintain class IV and V roads; or acquire the equipment necessary to maintain Class IV and V roads.

She asked if any Board members had comments. Ruby asked for the definition of Class IV and V roads. Jessica responded that the roads that the Town maintains are Class IV and V. The Class VI roads are not maintained.

Chairman Hatch opened up the hearing for comments from the public.

Bonnie Fletcher asked that the funds be used to repair the portion of Ragged Mountain Road from New Canada Road to Deckmans Road or at least the top of the road.

Lenny Ryan asked what budget line accounts the money would be deposited in. The money has to be used for the above purposes outside of the current operating budget. He also asked who determines how the money gets used. Jessica responded that the Board of Selectmen determine what is in the best interest of the Town.

The red listed bridges were discussed. There are 3 bridges that the State of NH has determined are in crucial need of repair: Bohonon Road, Jack Wells Road and Walker Brook Road bridges.

Jessica Hatch motioned to accept the \$147,243.51 from the State of NH SB 401. Motion was seconded by Tracy and passed unanimously.

Jessica closed the public hearing at 6:39.

**PUBLIC HEARING TO ACCEPT \$64,174.76 FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021(ARPA)**

Jessica opened the public hearing at 6:45pm.

Per RSA 31:95-b the public hearing is being held to receive public comment regarding the acceptance and expenditure of unanticipated revenues from the federal government American Rescue Plan Act of 2021(ARPA) in the amount of \$64,174.76. The funds can be used for revenue replacement, to support public health expenditures, address negative economic impacts caused by the COVID 19 pandemic, provide premium pay for essential workers, or invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. This is the second payment from ARPA for a total of \$128,349.50.

Because there is a universal assumption of 10 million dollars in lost revenue for every town or city, the entire amount of money received can be used for most normal activities and expenses.

Lenny Ryan asked if the money could be used to lower the tax rate. The response was that directives from the federal government specifically state that it cannot be used for this purpose.

He asked if the Board had any plans for the money.

Jessica responded that nothing has been decided. She would like to use the funds to pay for a study and hire an architect to develop plans for a new safety services building.

Jessica Hatch motioned that the Town of Danbury accept the \$64,174.76 from the State of NH SB 401. Motion was seconded by Ruby and passed unanimously.

Jessica closed the public hearing at 6:50.