

Board of Selectmen Meeting
March 3, 2021
4:30 PM Town Hall/Zoom

Present: Matthew Riiska, Sandy Evans and Barbara Gomez
Present via Zoom: Paul Madore and Phylis Bernard

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m.

Public Comments: None

Minutes: February 3, 2021 and February 8, 2021

MOTION S. Evans to approve the February 3rd and February 8th, 2021 minutes as presented. Second P. Madore. Carried unanimously.

Appointments: EDC Farmer's Market Committee

M. Riiska asked for a motion to appoint the following people to the Farmer's Market Committee with the terms to expire 12/31/24: Marie-Christine Perry, Jennie Rackliffe, Richard Tomaselli, George Vinick and Chad Achenbach.

MOTION: S. Evans to appoint the above people to the Farmer's Market Committee with the terms to expire 12/31/24. Second P. Madore. Carried unanimously.

Selectman's Report

- M. Riiska proposed the Board of Selectmen have another budget meeting the week of March 22nd. He will notify the board members.
- M. Riiska is working on the budget. The State of CT has provided information regarding monies allocated for the town. The ECS monies will remain at approximately \$25,000 for the next 5-6 years.
- MIRA, the company that accepts our municipal solid waste, will be increasing their fees from \$91/ton to \$105/ton. Discussion regarding the possibility of raising the transfer station fee vs. incorporating it into the taxes. Other options i.e. pay as you throw were discussed. M. Riiska will check with the NHCOC to see what other towns are doing regarding usage fees for their Transfer Stations.
- The Transfer Station building needs some work and funds will be added to budget to paint the building. Public Works will do any necessary repairs.
- The Firehouse Committee has been meeting and an RFP ad was placed in the Republican-American newspaper. 9 architectural firms have responded. M. Riiska would like to get a dollar amount for the architectural work to put in the FY 21/22 budget. Sources of funding will also be explored. The Firehouse Committee will form a subcommittee to review the plans and narrow down the firms for interviews.
- The liquidation of the Defined Benefit Plan has been ongoing. The Pension Committee met a few weeks ago with Union Savings Bank and The Pension Service. To date, 15 retirees/former employees have elected to accept the lump sum payout and 5 have

Selectman's Report (continued)

elected to stay with their current monthly payment. We are still waiting to hear from the remaining 6. With the bulk of the retirees taking the lump sum it will significantly reduce the amount of money the Town will need to fund the plan every year.

- The Community Bus Policy was discussed. S. Evans is concerned that some riders are using the bus too much leaving little time for others. She offered assistance overseeing the program.
- There will be a Regional #7 budget meeting tonight and again on 3/17/21 via Zoom
- The town's portion of the Regional #7 FY 21/22 bill will be decreased by \$83,000 this year due to low student population.
- Botelle School budget will increase by \$16,256.00 for FY 21/22.

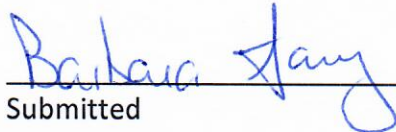
Reopening of Town Hall

Discussion regarding reopening the Town Hall once the majority of the employees have had their 2nd vaccination (should be by the end of May). The consensus was once we reopen it will be for daytime hours only, with evening meetings continuing via Zoom. Possibly a June 1st opening to accommodate those needing dog licenses, Transfer Station stickers, etc. P. Madore suggested setting up a tent outside for Town Clerk services to minimize the risk to Town Hall employees.

M. Riiska reported that the Town Hall will be implementing a credit card service.

2/3 Vote: None

MOTION S. Evans to adjourn at 5:20 p.m. Second P. Madore. Carried unanimously.


Submitted


Approved