

Board of Selectmen Meeting
April 7, 2021
4:30 PM Zoom

Present: Matthew Riiska, Sandy Evans, Paul Madore, Barbara Gomez, Phylis Bernard,
Kate Johnson, Ruth Melville and John Deshazo

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

Minutes: March 3, 2021

MOTION S. Evans to approve the March 3, 2021 minutes as presented. Second P. Madore.
Carried unanimously.

Resolution – Affordable Housing Grant

M. Riiska read the Affordable Housing Grant resolution accepting grant funds of \$5,200 to prepare and adopt an Affordable Housing Plan under the provisions of 8-30j of the Connecticut General Statutes (copy attached and a permanent part of this record).

MOTION S. Evans to accept the resolution as presented. Second P. Madore. Carried unanimously.

Approval of Bus Policy

Bus policy reviewed and discussed.

MOTION S. Evans to approve the Community Bus Policy as presented. Second P. Madore.
Carried unanimously.

Tax Collector Appointed Position

M. Riiska would like to see the Tax Collector position become appointed rather than elected. This has been the subject of discussion recently with the Northwest Council of Governments. By making this change the town can be sure that the appointed employee goes through the certification process required by the State of Ct. This would be a code change and put on the call of the town meeting to be held on Monday, May 10, 2021.

Town Clerk Assistant

Because all the minutes and agendas legally need to go through the Town Clerk's office it would make sense that they be posted to the website from there. This would insure more timely and accurate postings. Therefore, we will be hiring an Assistant Town Clerk to work approximately 9 hours per week. A job description is being worked on and should be posted soon.

Tobey Pond & Transfer Station Charges

Discussion regarding Tobey Pond and Transfer Station charges for Fiscal Year 21/22.

MOTION S. Evans to raise the Transfer Station stickers to \$75 for first and \$60 for second car. Bulky waste tickets to \$30. Second P. Madore. Carried unanimously.

MOTION S. Evans to raise the Tobey Pond sticker to \$70 (regular) and \$50 (seniors). Second P. Madore. Carried unanimously.

Haystack Woods – Town Road

- M. Riiska reported that the Haystack Woods affordable housing project will include 10 houses in the first phase and 9 houses in the second. Grant funds available through the Department of Housing could be used for site development. One of the selling points to receiving the grant was the town's willingness to take on responsibility for the road, therefore making it more affordable to operate.
- M. Riiska and Troy LaMere, Public Works Director, came up with an estimate of approximately \$3,500 - \$4,000 a year to maintain. The upside is that the town would bring tax revenue of approximately \$40,000 - \$50,000 for a 10-home development and \$40,000 plus for an addition 9 homes. It would also offset the sewer costs.
- After discussion it was agreed that M. Riiska will send a letter of support (provided the road meets town specifications) to the Planning & Zoning Commission. Ultimately it will need to go to a Town Meeting.
- Kate Johnson reported on the status of the CBGD grant.

Pension Committee

M. Riiska reported on the Defined Benefit Plan lump sum payouts. 16 of the 25 people took the lump sum payouts. We started with \$2.9 million dollars in the plan, with the lump sum payouts costing roughly \$1.1 million dollars. The Pension Committee will be looking into offering the remaining people in the plan annuities so that we could close the plan. This would cost approximately \$1 million, leaving the town with \$800,000 to go back into the general fund. The Pension Committee will be waiting for the best time to purchase annuities, which could take up to a year. The Town will be saving the annual payment of approximately \$97,000. Matt thanked the Pension Committee for all their work.

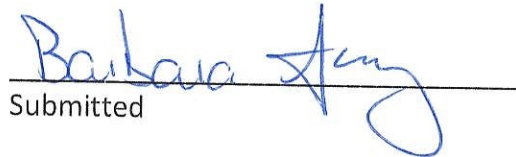
Selectman's Report

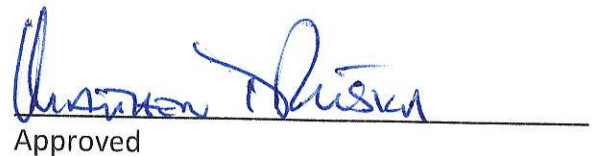
- LOCIP – each year we receive approximately \$37,000 from the State of CT which we can use for capitol improvement projects. We will be using the upcoming funds for EMS radios, new lighting outside the Town Hall, a new fuel tank at the Public Works Garage and the restoration of the rear staircase at the Town Hall.
- Michael Cobb, a Norfolk resident and father of a 6th grader at Botelle School, would like to put on a benefit concert in City Meadow (on the deck). Any proceeds would be given to the 6th grade class. This will happen late Spring or early Summer.
MOTION P. Madore to allow the concert. Second S. Evans. Carried unanimously.
- M. Riiska met with the DOT today regarding the retaining wall on Route 44. There will be a public information hearing on Thursday, July 15, 2021. The design is not expected to be complete until May 2023 with construction starting in October 2023 and ending in the Summer of 2025. They will not be closing Route 44 down but will have a stop light. Trucks will be rerouted through Goshen and Torrington.
- FOI Workshop held – good attendance

Selectman's Report (continued)

- Because people are still leery of meeting inside the building the Town will be purchasing a tent (approximately 16 x 20) to be used for meetings. This will enable people to meet in person and social distance.
- The Board of Finance Hearing will be held on Monday, April 26th either at the Town Hall or Botelle School.
- The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Monday, May 10th either at the Town Hall or Botelle School. M. Riiska is in discussions with the school.

MOTION S. Evans to adjourn at 5:50 p.m. Second P. Madore. Carried unanimously.


Submitted


Approved