

Board of Selectmen's Meeting
Wednesday, November 1, 2023
4:30 PM Town Hall

Present: Matthew Riiska, Paul Madore, Sandy Evans, Barbara Gomez and Ruth Melville

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

Public Comments: None

Minutes: October 4, 2023

MOTION S. Evans to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2023 meeting as presented.
Second P. Madore. Carried unanimously.

Reappointment: Historic District Commission

MOTION M. Riiska to reappoint Joseph Stannard to the Historic District Commission with the term to expire on 11/30/28. Second S. Evans. Carried unanimously.

Selectman's Report

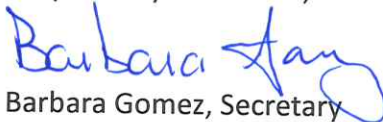
- S. Evans commented that Joshua DeCerbo did an excellent job with his Tobey Pond presentation at last month's meeting. M. Riiska agreed and will take his suggestions into consideration when preparing next year's budget.
- M. Riiska reported that Michael Halloran, Zoning Enforcement Officer, will be retiring effective 12/31/23. Matt will be talking to the Zoning Enforcement Officer in Colebrook who is interested in the position.
- July storm damage costs so far have totaled \$567,290.69. The State of CT LOCIP program has approved Matt's pre-application for \$208,275.00 which will max out our LOCIP account. This money does not include the two bridges, public works hours or town materials.
- Old Goshen Road Bridge & Smith Road Bridge – The State of CT will be picking up the entire tab for all engineering and construction costs for the duration of the projects. The only downside is that the earliest the bridges will be completed is 2026.
- M. Riiska is looking into a temporary bridge at a total cost of \$444,000.00. Matt traveled to Scotland, CT to look at the temporary bridge they had installed by ARCO Company. The bridge is substantial and will hold anything i.e. buses, trucks, etc. and can be sold afterwards.
- Maple Avenue – Fuel spill remediation is completed. The sewer line has been moved back in place. Guerrera Construction is scheduled to begin storm water drainage work soon. The biggest issue will be putting asphalt down this time of year. ESI (environmental company) will be on site as needed in case they run into any problems.
- Public Works – A new employee has been hired to replace Jay Bottass and will start Monday, November 6th.
- New Firehouse – plans have been approved by Inland/Wetlands and we will begin the Planning & Zoning approval process at the November 14th meeting. The Capital Campaign will begin soon and Matt will talk with the Town treasurer about opening another account to process incoming funds.

Selectman's Report (continued)

- The Board of Finance will be meeting on 11/14/23 and the long-term debt will be discussed. Also on the agenda will be the Defined Benefit Pension Plan and future plans to annuitize the remaining eight members so that the plan can be liquidated. Susan MacEachron, Pension Committee Chairperson, will be in attendance to answer any questions.
- M. Riiska discussed paying down current debt before starting the Firehouse project.
- We currently have \$791,000.00 in our capitol reserve account which could assist with the July storm damage costs. Matt will discuss with the Board of Finance at the 11/14/23 meeting.
- M. Riiska will be sending out letters to South Norfolk residents regarding the bridges.
- Fuel Spill Claim – M. Riiska submitted the 3rd fuel spill claim for \$58,786.40 to Federated Insurance. The majority of the claims were attorney fees, relocation fees, engineering and Maple Avenue work for the sewer line.
- Halloween went well on Maple Avenue.
- Matt Riiska thanked Paul Madore for serving as a Selectman for the past six years.

MOTION P. Madore to adjourn at 5:01 p.m. Second S. Evans. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Barbara Gomez, Secretary