

Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Wednesday, September 6, 2023  
4:30 PM Town Hall

*Present:* Matthew Riiska, Sandy Evans, Paul Madore, Tara Yard, Phylis Bernard and Ruth Melville

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

*Public Comments:* None

*Minutes: August 2, 2023*

**MOTION** S. Evans to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2023 meeting as presented. Second P. Madore. Carried unanimously.

*24<sup>th</sup> Annual 10-Mile Road Race (Greystone Electronics) approval*

The race will be held on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. with a snow date of Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. Greystone Electronics pays a custodial fee for use of the Town Hall building.

**MOTION** S. Evans to approve use of the Town Hall building. Second P. Madore. Carried unanimously.

*Treasurer – check processing clarification*

- Chelsea Dewitt, Town Treasurer, attended the meeting looking for clarification on the handling of the Economic Development Commission's accounting, specifically the transferring of monies from the general fund into the City Meadow account to write checks to cover events at Robertson Plaza. The funds should not have been placed in the City Meadow account. Checks should be written directly from the general fund. M. Riiska reported that the City Meadow account has always been private donations, no taxpayer money has been used. M. Riiska reiterated that no general funds monies should be transferred to the City Meadow account. The EDC general fund line should be used to pay any vendor in the future.
- Chelsea also wanted to clarify Public Works scrap metal money received. When a check is received for scrap metal the money goes back into the general fund to offset the taxpayers.
- Tobey Pond - S. Evans asked how much money is remaining in the Tobey Pond budget. Tobey Pond was originally budgeted for \$50,466.64 and currently has \$21,196.00 available (not including the last two payrolls). M. Riiska mentioned that next year we need to increase the hourly lifeguard rate in order to stay competitive. Tobey Pond closed on Labor Day. S. Evans asked if there was any way we could reopen for a few days because of the heat but it is not possible because we have no guards and it has been closed (toilets picked up etc.)

Selectman's Report

- **Flood Damage & FEMA** – To date we have spent \$501,079.74 on outside services, labor and materials to perform all the repairs from the two storms. This figure does not include the two bridges in South Norfolk that got washed out. Matt Riiska and Troy LaMere met with a representative from the State of CT DOT last week and because both of the bridges are considered federal bridges, due to their length and the circumstances, we will be qualified for a program to receive full reimbursement. The downside is that the Town will be required to hire an engineer/inspector for the process, which will cost anywhere from \$125,000 to \$175,000. The DOT will be working with the Army Corp. of Engineers on the design and engineering plans prior to going out to bid. The design and engineering could take up to 1 ½ years. M. Riiska told the DOT that we will need to come up with a temporary bridge which the State of CT doesn't have in stock. There are companies that rent out temporary bridges monthly but the costs run anywhere from \$20,000 - \$30,000/month. Another culvert on Roughland Road needs replacement at a cost of approximately \$151,000. M. Riiska has contacted Rep. Maria Horne and Senator Lisa Seminara and they are both looking into State funding. We currently have \$209,557.99 in our LOCIP (Local Capitol Improvement Project) funds through the State which we could apply for. Even though the Town of Norfolk has 4.4 million dollars in damage the State of CT did not hit their threshold to declare a state of emergency, therefore FEMA monies are not available.
- **Landfill Solar Project** – Lodestar Solar is selling their rights to our landfill project to New Jersey Resources (NJR) Corporation Inc. who will be working with the Town of Norfolk.  
**MOTION** S. Evans to add the agreement with LSE Pyxis LLC and NJR to the agenda. Second P. Madore. Carried unanimously.  
M. Riiska was contacted by Lodestar on Friday regarding this new agreement. The Town attorney, Carlton Chen, from the law firm of Kurian Ouellette, LLC is reviewing the document and doing some background checking on NJR. The terms of the contract will not change, and Lodestar will still be working on the construction process. Under the contract the attorney fees resulting from this change will be covered. S. Evans expressed concern over changing companies at this point in the process. M. Riiska does not wish to delay as long as we have the recommendation from our attorney.  
**MOTION** P. Madore to sign the transfer contract relinquishing control of the project from Lodestar to New Jersey Resources Corp. Inc. Second S. Evans. Carried unanimously.
- **Spill Cleanup & Maple Avenue Project** – The spill cleanup is ongoing but slow because of a delay where a sewer line needed to be moved. There are currently three construction companies working on Maple Avenue. ESI has been excavating materials at the intersection of Pettibone Lane with numerous truckloads of contaminated soil being removed. Once the contamination is removed, Brennan Construction will move the sewer lines and Guerrera Construction will begin installing the new storm drainage system and complete the planned reconstruction of Maple Avenue. M. Riiska reported that a few large maple trees had to be removed because of contamination. He talked to Matt Klimkowski, our tree warden, about a tree replacement program.

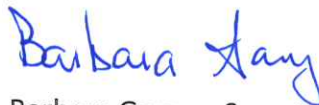
Selectman's Report (continued)

M. Riiska expressed concern over the frustration levels for the residents and workers on Maple Avenue and has spoken with many of them during this process. Meetings are held every other Thursday with all contractors involved. Because access was denied by a few property owners on Route 44, Verdantas will be returning to perform more remediation once Maple Avenue is done.

- Approximately 400 feet of Route 44, where the fuel truck overturned, will be milled and repaved.
- Maple Avenue will not be completed this year, but work will pick up in the Spring.
- M. Riiska reported that an Inland/Wetlands Meeting was held last night for the new Firehouse. The Inland/Wetlands Hearing was extended until 10/2/23 and will be held at Botelle School Hall of Flags. Benesh Engineering was in attendance and did an excellent job answering questions. Inland/Wetlands is requesting a Function and Values Report from the Town.

**MOTION** P. Madore to adjourn at 5:30 p.m. Second S. Evans. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara Gomez, Secretary