

Board of Selectmen Meeting
Wednesday, October 2, 2024
4:30 PM Town Hall



Present: Matthew Riiska, Henry Tirrell, Sandy Evans, Barbara Gomez, Phylis Bernard
and Kathryn Boughton

The meeting was called to order at 4:40 p.m.

Public Comments: None

Minutes: September 4, 2024

MOTION H. Tirrell to approve the minutes of the September 4, 2024 meeting as presented.
Second M. Riiska. Motion carried.

25th Annual 10-Mile Road Race approval

Greystone Electronics will be sponsoring their 25th Annual 10-Mile Road Race on Saturday, 12/14/24 (snow date Saturday, 1/4/25) and are requesting the use of the Town Hall restrooms and facility. A check was submitted for the custodial fee.

MOTION H. Tirrell to approve the use of the building for the road race participants.
Second M. Riiska. Motion carried.

Job Description Approval (Tax Collector & Treasurer)

Job description approval was tabled until we get a few more completed.

- M. Riiska reported our current tax collector, Sarah Brusco, will be leaving effective 10/3/24 and will be replaced by Pamela Pelletier. Thanks to Sarah for all her efforts over the years. She did a great job collecting in a timely manner and working with outside groups.

Selectman's Report

- Linda Perkins, Town Clerk, has resigned from her position effective 10/1/24. The Assistant Town Clerk, Deborah Nelson, has been covering the Town Clerk's office during Linda's absence and has since gotten her Town Clerk certification. Under these circumstances and according to State statute the First Selectman was allowed to appoint Deborah Nelson as Town Clerk. The paperwork will be filed with the Secretary of State's Office. A Town Meeting will be held after the election at which time the Town Clerk's position will be presented on the Call of the Meeting to be changed from "elected" to "appointed". A few ordinances will also be included for a vote (sidewalk and blight).
- Tax Collector – Pam Pelletier started today and will be working part time on Tuesday and Thursdays and as needed.

Selectman's Report (continued)

- River Place Bridge – Matt attended a meeting today with WMC Engineers, DOT and New England Infrastructure. The current loan at NBT Bank is at 2¼% but because of the construction delays the bank has requested that we close out the loan with the \$2.3 million dollar line of credit and pay it as we get our reimbursements from the State. The balance of the loan will be refinanced until the bridge is completed in April 2025. To finish the job, we will need a \$2.4 million dollar line of credit. (The bridge was originally costing 2.3 million however with the engineering and construction delays the price has increased to 4 million). The State of CT, already covering 80% of the costs, will now likely cover the difference.
- Smith Road Bridge – We are working with the DOT for a replacement, but the residents would like to see a temporary bridge. Cardinal Engineering is working on drawings for a temporary bridge and all essential reports have been submitted to State of CT DEEP and the Army Corps of Engineers. M. Riiska spoke with State Senator Lisa Seminara and Rep. Maria Horn to try to move this along. A meeting will be held next Wednesday, 10/9/24. The temporary bridge will be built exactly as the previous bridge consisting of three culverts (6' in diameter). The cost will be approximately \$60,000 and the contractor involved would be willing to buy the culverts back from us should he have another application.
- Solar Project at the landfill is almost complete (13 acres of panels producing 5 megawatts of power). It has been inspected by the fire marshal, building inspector and Eversource. The only item remaining is the connection to Eversource which should be completed by the end of the month. The Town will be receiving between \$40,000 - \$42,000/year with interest for 20 years. Another component is the Shared Clean Energy Facility (SCEF) Program through Eversource which allows individuals with lower incomes as well as the Town to apply for discounted rates. The Town will get this application information out to the public.

MOTION H. Tirrell to adjourn at 5:22 p.m. Second S. Evans. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara Gomez, Secretary