

**Town of Auburn
Board of Selectmen
December 6, 2021
Town Hall
Minutes**

7:00 PM

Selectmen Present: Keith Leclair, Todd Bedard (electronically) and Michael Rolfe

Others Present: Mike DiPietro, Police Chief Ray Pelton, Town Administrator William Herman and Nancy Hoijer, Recording Secretary

Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Leclair called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Bedard indicated he was at his home unable to attend in person and was alone in the room.

Approval of Accounts Payable Manifest for the Week of November 29, 2021 - \$16,900.00

Mr. Leclair motioned to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest for the week of November 29, 2021 in the amount of \$16,900. Mr. Bedard seconded the motion. A roll vote was taken, Mr. Rolfe abstained, Mr. Leclair voted aye and Mr. Bedard voted aye. The motion passed 2-0-1.

Approval of Payroll Manifest for the Week of December 6, 2021 - \$64,615.19

Mr. Leclair motioned to approve the Payroll Manifest for the week of December 6, 2021 in the amount of \$64,615.19. Mr. Rolfe seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Leclair voted aye, Mr. Bedard voted aye and Mr. Rolfe voted aye. The motion passed 3-0-0.

Approval of Consent Agenda for the Week of December 6, 2021

Mr. Leclair read aloud and provided for inspection a copy of the Consent Agenda for the week of December 6, 2021 which included: three (3) abatement – refund requests, and one (1) cemetery deed.

Mr. Leclair motioned to approve the Consent Agenda for the week of December 6, 2021. Mr. Rolfe seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, Mr. Leclair voted aye, Mr. Bedard voted aye and Mr. Rolfe voted aye. The motion passed 3-0-0.

Appointments with the Board

Fire Chief Mike Williams – Monthly Meeting

Fire Chief Mike Williams presented the Department's report for the month of November 2021. He noted 50 calls for service. The Department helped the Auburn Village School with delivery of the Thanksgiving baskets and the ride for Santa to the tree lighting. Budweiser held a promotion for first responders and send the Department a pallet of Budweiser canned water.

Chief Williams reported the extractor and dryer are scheduled for delivery on Monday. The rough plumbing is done, and Gemini is working on the electric. The new air bags and regulators arrived. The replacement hose has been installed. The first 15 portable radios have been ordered. Covid has had a slight up-tick and PPE is in good supply. There are nine cases of wipes to distribute, and the election closet is well stocked at the school. Chief Williams noted when he visited the State warehouse to pick up supplies, they were also well stocked.

Chief Williams reported training last Sunday and commended Captain Barsaleau for coordinating training and helping crews as needed and Lieutenant Szatynski for assisting with portable radio specs. Three members passed their state driver operator class. Another potential new member has been interviewed. Lieutenant Sullivan was awarded the Outstanding Firefighter Award at the Christmas party.

Ed Gannon, 157 Windsor Drive

Mr. Gannon stated the reason he was present at tonight's meeting was to clarify the statement made during a previous meeting where it was mentioned "the program the vehicle was intended for never materialized." Mr. Gannon stated the statement was wrong. The TRAC Program or Technical Rescue Auburn Candia team was activated on four separate occasions: twice for lost person search, once for large animal rescue and for a carry out on ice. The team was formed, and the town purchased equipment, but no one was trained on its use and the equipment sat on the floor. He noted a 48-page training manual would be over 100 pages today as there was, and is, much work to do. He noted a lot of time was put into the program and it was up.

Mr. Gannon noted an old police vehicle was given to the Fire Department to be made into an EMS response vehicle to reduce wear and tear on Ladder One and the new rescue.

Mr. Gannon questioned the need for the town to purchase a new Tanker. He stated the Town has not had a building fire in eight years that required a water flow greater than 125 GPM for five minutes. He compared the gallons of water with Engine 2 of 1000 gallons and Ladder 1 with only 500 gallons of water. The extra 500 gallons would result in 7-8 minutes rather than 2-3 minutes. For reports of smoke in the building or a building fire Auburn receives aid from Candia, Chester, Derry or Manchester. Seventy percent of calls are EMS related and technical rescue is on the increase. He would like to see the statistics for Tanker 2. He noted his RTK requests were denied or in part denied.

Mr. Gannon noted the ambulance contract should have gone out to bid per the Town's purchasing policy and include training and that the Fire Department budget has increased 61% since his departure.

Mr. Gannon notified the Board on a recent occasion where his mother-in-law experienced dizziness the Fire Department was called. Mr. Gannon stated that two people arrived and neither one of them know how to use the cardiac monitor properly and did not don their N-95 masks.

Mr. Gannon asked for his statement to be made part of the meeting minutes:

During a previous meeting it was mentioned that "the program the vehicle was intended for never materialized" (You were referring to Rescue 1). And that statement is wrong and the reason I am here tonight. Prior to my arrival much of the technical rescue gear had been purchased and was found sitting on the floor in the officer's room. The town had purchased the equipment, but no one was ever trained on its proper use, so it was never placed on the rescue. Because technical rescues are such a low occurrence high risk situations Technical Rescue Auburn Candia (TRAC) was formed. Monthly training was scheduled with members of both departments working together as one team. TRAC was activated on four separate occasions. Twice for lost person searches, once for a large animal rescue and once for a low angle carry out on an icy slope on the side of route 101. The team had a training manual that was forty-eight pages when last edited. Had the program continued that document today would easily be over 100 pages as there was and still is much work to do.

When the rescue was purchased, an old police vehicle was given to the Fire Department to be made into an EMS response vehicle. This would provide a smaller vehicle to cover in home EMS and MCI responses. This would dramatically reduce the wear and tear on Ladder one and the new rescue making both vehicles last longer. The department still has the vehicle it's identified as Car 2 and is now used as a utility vehicle for the building fires which the town no longer has.

There was also the discussion of a new Tanker. Why? It has been at least eight years since this town has had an actual building fire that required a water flow greater than 125 GPM for 5 minutes. In fact, water isn't even a priority! If it was, Engine 2 with 1000 gallons of water would have been left at the Safety Complex and Ladder 1 with only 500 gallons of water would be at Pingree hill. What's the difference? Simple the ability to conduct interior operations for twice as long which during the weekday when manpower is low is critical to successful outcome of any fire. Secondly, for reports of smoke in the building or a building fire Auburn receives automatic aid from either Candia, Chester, Derry, or Manchester whoever is closest. This brings extra apparatus, water, and personnel directly to the scene so, do we really need a new tanker?

70% of fire department EMERGENCY CALLS are now EMS related. Fires are down considerably but EMS and Technical Rescue calls are on the increase. I spoke of four activations of TRAC during the same time frame the town had zero building fires.

Training in another colossal waste of money the town now hires out its monthly EMS training. Instead of making it part of the contract for Ambulance service with Derry. It was my intention to make that part of the new Ambulance contract, but I was never consulted, and the contract never went out to bid as required by the towns purchasing policy. Why did I call this a colossal waste of money? Recently my mother-in-law was experiencing dizziness and the fire department was called. Two people arrived in the million-dollar ladder truck but **neither one of them knew how to properly use the cardiac monitor**. One told me "Her EKG looks good" he didn't even realize he wasn't looking at her heart tracing he was in fact looking at her respiratory waveform. Where are the competencies to verify that these people know what they are doing? To make matters worst the officer in charge didn't even take the time to properly don his N-95 mask exposing the patient and the rest of my family to possibility of COVID. Instead, he just stood there with his mask hanging off his face with a blank stare while I showed the young firefighter how to properly use the equipment off his truck.

The fire department budget has increased 61% since my departure. That's not Mike Williams fault his job is to ask for the moon, your job is to control how big the moon is. Can we afford another half million dollars for a tanker that will sit there and do nothing? Look at the stats for tanker two if you can get them. I have recently submitted several Right to know requests that were denied, or I received only part of the information which is why I have had to file a complaint in Superior court.

Thank You all for your time.

asked to inc in minutes @ mtg

*12/16
asked
W. Ed Gannon*

Mr. Leclair noted the Board has had ongoing conversations with the Fire Chief concerning the next truck to be purchased, but no decision has been made to purchase a tanker truck. The Chief has said he will put a committee together in the next year to discuss what the next apparatus purchase might be and what is needed.

Mr. Leclair asked Chief Williams to follow-up on the call concerning Mr. Gannon's mother-in-law.

FY 2022 Town Budget

Mr. Herman reported the Budget Committee has finished meeting and is in sync with the Selectmen in terms of the proposed FY 2022 budget and Warrant Articles. Mr. Rolfe noted the Budget Committee will further review Warrant Article #7 for recommendation at 6:00 PM prior to their January 13, 2022 at 7:00 PM meeting.

New Business

Heating System Repairs – Safety Complex

Mr. Herman provided the Board with a copy of an invoice dated November 5, 2021 from AAA Energy Service for burner services at the Police Department in the amount of \$1,246.12 and noted payment could come from the Town Buildings Rehabilitation Reserve Fund.

Mr. Rolfe motioned to approve the expense of \$1,246.12 for repairs to the heating system at the Safety Complex from the Town Buildings Rehabilitation Reserve Fund. Mr. Leclair seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, Mr. Leclair voted aye, Mr. Bedard voted aye and Mr. Rolfe voted aye. The motion passed 3-0-0.

Report/Comments of Ex-officio Board Representatives

Mr. Leclair reported the Budget Committee has finished reviewing the proposed FY 2022 budget and all but one of the Warrant Articles which they will discuss and finalize prior to their January 13, 2022 meeting.

Mr. Rolfe reported the Planning Board will meet on December 8th.

Other Business

Mr. Leclair asked if the workshop meeting on December 13th at 4:00 PM concerning Griffin Mill Bridge would be a public meeting and Mr. Herman indicated it would likely begin as a public meeting but could move into non-public if the Board got into negotiations.

Next Meeting/Events

- Monday, December 13, 2021 – Board of Selectmen's Meeting – 4:00 PM
- Monday, December 20, 2021 – Board of Selectmen's Meeting – 7:00 PM

Minutes

November 29, 2021 Public Meeting

Mr. Rolfe motioned to approve the November 29, 2021 Public Meeting Minutes as amended. Mr. Leclair seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Bedard abstained, Mr. Leclair voted aye and Mr. Rolfe voted aye.

Adjourn

Mr. Rolfe motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 PM. Mr. Leclair seconded the motion. A roll vote was taken, Mr. Leclair voted aye, Mr. Bedard voted aye and Mr. Rolfe voted aye. The motion passed 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Hoijer
Recording Secretary