

**Town of Auburn  
Board of Selectmen  
Stritch Meeting Room  
Town Hall  
June 5, 2023  
Approved Minutes  
7:00 PM**

**Selectmen Present:** Keith Leclair, Michael Rolfe and Tom Carroll

**Others Present:** Police Chief Ray Pelton, Lieutenant Charles Chabot, Alan Villeneuve, Janice Baker, Dan Carpenter, Mike DiPietro, Dennis McCarthy, Road Agent Mike Dross, Town Administrator Chris Sterndale and Recording Secretary Nancy Hoijer

**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Leclair called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. Public Comments**

Mr. Leclair asked if there were any comments from the public at 7:02 PM and there were none.

**III. Appointments with the Board**

A. Alan Villeneuve

Alan Villeneuve appeared before the Board to request that the doors to the Safety Complex be unlocked and the building open to the public during business hours. He noted that the building serves the Police Department, Fire Department and a community room. He stated that members of the public have to be buzzed in the front door.

Chief Pelton responded that in March of 2020 at the beginning of COVID the community room became a training room and staging area. He noted there remains a current safety need to keep the doors locked. The issue came up last year Chief Pelton noted and after extensively pointing out the reasons, the Board of Selectman ruled that the current system be in place. The Severance School is being used now for the Boys Scout and Girl Scout meetings and other community needs.

Mike DiPietro questioned what was the difference between the Town Hall which is open during business hours, and the Safety Complex. Lt. Chabot noted that sex offenders come to the police station to register as well as other not nice individuals. Mr. Villeneuve responded that there were a lot of scenarios where someone may need to get in the door quickly to be safe. He noted that even at the school you can walk in the front door and see a person's face.

Steve Hodge of Bunker Hill Road spoke in favor of the community being able to use their resources, that they pay for with their taxes.

Mr. Leclair agreed that the public should have access to any posted meetings. Mr. Sterndale reported that he emailed other towns to see what they were doing, and a dozen got back to him. Mr. Leclair stated that while he supported the system put in place in 2020 there were 8-10 people here tonight to express differing opinions.

Dennis McCarthy spoke in favor of public access.

***Mr. Rolfe motioned to open the Safety Complex to the public during normal business hours. Mr. Carroll seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 3-0-0.***

#### **IV. Manifests**

Highway Payables – 5/31 \$19,135

***Mr. Carroll motioned to approve the Highway Payable Manifest dated May 31, 2023 in the amount of \$19,135. Mr. Leclair seconded the motion. A vote was taken, Mr. Rolfe abstained, Mr. Leclair voted aye and Mr. Carroll voted aye. The motion passed 2-0-1.***

#### **V. Consent Agenda**

Mr. Leclair read out loud, and offered for inspection, the Consent Agenda dated 6/5/23 which consisted of a payroll manifest for the week ending 6/7//23 in the amount of \$69,316.52, an accounts payable manifest dated May 31, 2023 in the amount of \$93,948.58, a surety reduction for Tax Map 9 Lot 16 to \$480,098, a raffle permit for the Duck Race on 9/9/23 and a step increase for the Town Clerk from Labor Grade 12, Step 12 to Labor Grade 12, Step 13.

***Mr. Leclair motioned to approve the Consent Agenda for June 5, 2023. Mr. Rolfe seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 3-0-0.***

#### **VI. New Business**

#### **VII. Old Business**

##### **A. Highway Management Committee**

Town Administrator Sterndale provided a list of goals, membership and timeline for the committee, which Mr. Leclair read out loud and proposed a meeting schedule. Mr. Leclair noted the first meeting would be to flush out ideas and appoint a chair.

Mr. Cote recommending thinking about funding and next year's budget. He noted that selecting someone for the administrative position with the expectation of their being available 24-7, 365 days/yr. was not going to fit a small department. He recommended

thinking about the facility maintenance vacancy. He questioned whether the position should be more management than boots on the ground.

Mr. Hodges agreed that 2024 was not far away and with the time they have they should have targets in mind. Mr. Dross noted that his term would expire in March of 2024. Mr. Leclair indicated that would only give them one more winter and that is the season that wears on people.

Mr. Leclair asked if there was a night that was better for the meetings to take place and it was agreed the meetings would be every other Monday beginning at 5:00 PM and piggy back ahead of the BOS meetings, with the exception of July 4<sup>th</sup>. The first meeting would kick off on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June. Mr. Sterndale recommended visiting other towns.

## **VIII. Committee Reports**

Mr. Rolfe reported the Planning Board met and discussed the request for a surety reduction for Auburn Self Storage, which was approved, landscaping for Chinburg Development at the Cliffs at Evergreen, completion of Auburn Woods Condominium on Londonderry Turnpike and drafting new surety regulations. With a warrant article coming to remove 55 and over, the Board received an application in advance.

Mr. Leclair reported that Mr. Plaza has been working on the big field converting the last field. Mr. Carroll reported that people are learning where they can park now.

Mr. Carpenter reported that there will be a bus trip departing the Historical Society on June 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 to noon with about a dozen seats available. Mr. Leclair recommended recognizing volunteers and employee appreciation with a cookout in late summer/early fall.

## **IX. Minutes**

A. May 22, 2023 Public Meeting Minutes

***Mr. Rolfe motioned to approve the May 22, 2023 public meeting minutes. Mr. Carroll seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 3-0-0.***

## **X. Adjournment**

***Mr. Rolfe motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 PM. Mr. Carroll seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Hoijer, Recording Secretary