

**Town of Auburn
Board of Selectmen
February 28, 2022
Town Hall
Minutes**

7:00 PM

Selectmen Present: Keith Leclair, Michael Rolfe and Tom Carroll

Others Present: Police Chief Ray Pelton, Fire Chief Michael Williams, Deputy Fire Chief Bob Seling, Fergus Cullen, Library Trustee Nancy Mayland, Michael DiPietro, Brenda Beer, Town Administrator William Herman and Nancy Hoijer, Recording Secretary

Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance

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

Other Business

Approval of Accounts Payable Manifest for the Week of February 7, 2022 - \$5,785

Mr. Leclair motioned to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest for the week of February 7, 2022 in the amount of \$5,785. Mr. Carroll 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.

Approval of Accounts Payable Manifest for the Week of February 21, 2022 - \$241,004.31

Mr. Rolfe motioned to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest for the Week of February 21, 2022 in the amount of \$241,004.31. Mr. Carroll seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Accounts Payable Manifest for the Week of February 21, 2022 - \$18,100

Mr. Leclair motioned to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest for the Week of February 21, 2022 in the amount of \$18,100. Mr. Carroll 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.

Approval of Payroll Manifest for the Week of February 28, 2022 - \$51,382.99

Mr. Rolfe motioned to approve the Payroll Manifest for the Week of February 28, 2022 in the amount of \$51,382.99. Mr. Carroll seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda for the Week of February 28, 2022

Mr. Leclair read out loud and provided for inspection a copy of the Consent Agenda for the week of February 28, 2022 which included: one (1) Notice to Cut Wood or Timber, one (1) Application for Property Tax Exemptions – Veteran’s Credit and two (2) void check manifests.

Mr. Leclair motioned to approve the Consent Agenda for the week of February 28, 2022. Mr. Rolfe seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Public Hearing -- To receive public comment concerning the petition warrant article proposing increasing the size of the Board of Selectmen from three (3) to five (5) members pursuant to NH RSA 41:8-c.

Mr. Leclair opened the hearing to the public for comments and questions at 7:02 PM and read out loud the Public Hearing Notice.

Nancy Mayland stated she was opposed and noted Mr. Carroll is running unopposed in the March election, and how challenging it would be to find five good people. Without the pressure to show up members lose dedication. She stated the Town has a good thing going with three members and would like it to stay there. Mr. Leclair agreed and noted her comments echoed the majority of feedback at the Deliberative Session.

Mr. Leclair closed the hearing to the public at 7:04 PM.

Appointments with the Board

Fergus Cullen – Bright Spot Solar

Fergus Cullen of Bright Spot Solar provided handouts to the Board and those in attendance at the meeting showing other locations with 42-panel Sun Action trackers, and a 24-panel Sun Action trackers, with different system sizes producing varying kWh; three located in Rochester, NH and one in Somersworth.

Mr. Cullen noted his presentation was informational. He discussed different equipment: roof panels, ground-mounted and pole-mounted trackers and the pros and cons of each. Roof mounted systems have limited size and challenges with south facing orientation, shading and snow cover. Ground-mounted equipment requires a rack to be built to attach the panels to but are always at the right angle, more productive and more expensive. Pole-mounted trackers are more productive, and always appropriately angled, leave a smaller footprint and offer a better cost per unit. The life span of the equipment is approximately 20-30 years, degrading at 1% or 2% per year. He noted 14 separate utility meters in Town and a couple that the Town was being charged \$16 per month to maintain, but may not be in use. He noted poles are mounted 12-14' off the ground and can be located behind buildings and in other nooks and crannies. Brownfields and dump sites can generate income but NH has different regulatory requirements than other states making them difficult to build.

Mr. Cullen then discussed technology and storage. He put together an estimate based on the use by Town facilities. He noted the Safety Complex used the most; 80,000 kWh per year with a total use by Town facilities of approximately 151,000 kWh and an annual cost of \$24-\$25,000. He added that it was not a solution to power outages, when the power went out the solar also goes out to protect line workers. Mr. Cullen noted three-phase power is a requirement for installation and can be built for you. There are federal tax incentives for residential use and depreciation incentives for commercial, but not for municipal use.

Mr. Cullen explained the estimated cost of the units and how the cost could be offset by a purchase power agreement or PPA with no upfront cost. He explained how the power generated is purchased by the utility at approximately 11 cents per kWh and sold back to the consumer at 16 cents per kWh reducing consumption costs by approximately one-third and avoiding future rate increases.

Mr. Leclair asked about the unused power being bought back from the utility and potential revenue from that and Mr. Cullen noted the rates are reset twice a year and are currently at 10.05 cents per kw up from 8.8 cents. Mr. Leclair asked how close the trackers need to be and Mr. Cullen indicated within hundreds of feet. Mr. Leclair asked how many would be needed to satisfy the current utility consumption. Mr. Cullen noted two to three 46-panel trackers (each costing \$60,000) with an 8-9 year payback. Those panel trackers are about 42' long and 24-25' tall, poles are 12.'

Fire Chief Mike Williams – Monthly Meeting

Fire Chief Williams presented the Department's monthly report for January 2022. He noted 60 calls for service. The PPE extractor and dryer have been installed and they are waiting for a couple of parts held up by shipping issues. The Association purchased a new boat for the Department purchased a new boat a year or so ago which is stationed at the Lake where 80% of the water rescue calls are. The Chief indicated they would like to sell the old boat and use the proceeds to purchase a portable rubber raft which could be used at other locations as needed. The Board noted no objection.

Chief Williams reported EMT refresher classes were held and are provided annually as part of the ambulance contract with the Town of Derry. The Chief noted a resident claimed at the Deliberative Session that the contract didn't provide training and he wanted to set the record straight that the EMT annual refresher class is part of the contract with Derry.

Chief Williams reported that a fisherman was rescued on February 27th after falling through the ice. The boiler at the Safety Complex is leaking again and he met with Bill Twombly to get an estimate. The first 15 portable radios have been received and training is being conducted.

Chief Williams noted some struggles with night coverage especially medical. Deputy Selinga noted per diem shifts are being filled. Mr. Leclair asked about long-term plans and Chief Williams noted he could offer more attractive 3 day on/3 day off shifts if he had two more full-timers. Automatic agreements were working well with Chester. Night calls are a big issue.

Proposed SOP #201 – Weekly Vehicle Checks

Chief Williams presented proposed SOP #201 for weekly checks on fire apparatus and how they are documented using the new Red Alert software system.

Mr. Rolfe motioned to approve SOP #201. Mr. Carroll seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

New Hampshire 10-Miler Road Race – Saturday, August 27th

Mr. Herman provided the Board with a letter from Millennium Running dated February 15, 2022 planning the August 27, 2022 10 Miler Road Race. The Board reviewed the information with Police Chief Pelton.

Old Business

Town Hall Lift Replacement

Mr. Herman provided the Board with a proposal from National Seating & Mobility to remove and replace the existing lift. The Board tabled approval to get a few more estimates. Mr. Carroll will reach out to REQ and Mr. Leclair will ask a vendor in Epsom.

Mr. Herman noted NSM stated the work would take two months from order to installation with three days to remove the old lift.

Mr. Leclair asked the balance of the Building Rehabilitation Fund and Mr. Herman noted it was a little over \$100,000 and will get that information for the next meeting.

Report/Comments of Ex-Officio Board Representatives

Mr. Rolfe reported on Planning Board activity with condominium across from the storage units and triplex condos at the Bypass. The brewery was extended to March.

Other Business

Mr. Herman reported the submission for the NH Locality Equipment Purchase program for the 15 portable radios for the Fire Department that had already been purchased. The program allocates up to \$50,000 per municipality for each community and the GOFERR Office confirmed to the Town that it could use its ARPA funds for the Town's required 10% match.

Chief Pelton reported on changes in vehicle purchases this year and the difference in the two-year payments from \$36,000 to \$38,000. Selectman Leclair signed the required finance documents on behalf of the Town.

Next Meeting/Events

- Tuesday, March 8, 2022 – Town & School Elections – AVS 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM
- Monday, March 14, 2022 – Board of Selectmen’s Meeting – 7:00 PM
- Monday, March 28, 2022 – Board of Selectmen’s Meeting – 7:00 PM

Minutes

February 14, 2022 Public Meeting

Mr. Rolfe motioned to approve the February 14, 2022 Public Meeting Minutes. Mr. Carroll seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

February 14, 2022 Non-Public Meeting

Mr. Rolfe motioned to approve the February 14, 2022 Non-Public Meeting Minutes. Mr. Leclair seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Non-Public Session pursuant to provisions of RSA 91-A: 3, II (d) and (I) Consideration of the acquisition or use of real property and review of current legal matters

Mr. Leclair motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to the provisions of RSA 91-A: 3, II (d) and (I) consideration of the acquisition or use of real property and review of current legal matters. Mr. Rolfe seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Leclair voted aye, Mr. Rolfe voted aye and Mr. Carroll voted aye. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting room was closed to the public at 8:09 PM.

Mr. Leclair motioned to come out of non-public session. Mr. Rolfe seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting room was reopened to the public at 8:56 PM.

Mr. Rolfe motioned to seal the minutes of the non-public session. Mr. Leclair seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, he motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn

Mr. Rolfe motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 PM. Mr. Carroll seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Hoijer, Recording Secretary