

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD**  
**Monday October 18, 2021, 7:00 PM**  
**Recreation Building/ Via Zoom**

**Present:** Tom Maher-Chair, Dave McGuckin-Selectman, William Stewart-Selectman and Jennifer Smith-Administrative Assistant to the Select Board and Recording Secretary.

**Public Participants:** Carol White-Historical Society, Jane Finn, Michael McAndrew, Thomas Smith-Town Treasurer, and Larry Doyle.

Chairman Maher opened the public session meeting at 7:00PM.

**1. Approve Select Board minutes of October 4, 2021**

Selectman McGuckin made a motion to approve the Select Board minutes of October 4, 2021. Selectman Stewart seconded and the motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

**2. Public Questions and Answers.**

Carol White, representative of the Historical Society, requested permission to leave the skiff located on the front lawn of the Historical Society building permanently there instead of removing it this fall. Ms. White stated that a patron has offered to purchase the skiff and donate it back to the Historical Society so it can remain on the property in perpetuity. The wooden footing the boat currently sits on will be replaced with a more durable material and the skiff will be tarped through the winter months. Selectman Stewart stated that while he supports the skiff remaining in its current location, he would feel more comfortable reserving the right to discuss the matter in the future should any concerns come up, rather than agreeing to allow it to remain in its location permanently. Chairman Maher concurred with Selectman Stewart's reservation and the Select Board agreed to let the Historical Society keep the skiff on the front lawn of the property indefinitely with the understanding that the matter could be revisited if issues should arise.

Michael McAndrew, 27 Steamboat Lane, asked what the status of the town street paving is. Chairman Maher stated that the select board would be passing along information as it becomes available, but as it stands now, it is most likely that paving will begin at the end of October or the first week of November.

Jane Finn, 169 Portsmouth Ave., asked if the Select Board had received her email regarding Community Choice Aggregation.

Chairman Maher informed Ms. Finn that he had responded to email. Chairman Maher stated that the town's Energy Committee is currently performing an audit for the town and are about 6 weeks away from presenting their report for budget season. Chairman Maher expressed his belief that the Energy Committee had also shared this information with him, but he would pass the information along to them to make certain the committee is aware.

### **3. New Business**

#### **a. Covid and the Re-opening of the Recreation Building**

Chairman Maher announced that the town is planning to re-open the Recreation Building to residents for tennis and basketball reservations starting Monday, November 1, 2021. Guidelines will be provided when reservations are made through the Select Board Office. The Rye Recreation Department will be offering options for tennis lessons come this winter.

Selectman McGuckin agreed that it is the appropriate time to re-open the Rec Building to residents and opined that it will help people feel some normalcy again.

Chairman Maher stated that updates regarding its opening will be posted on the town's website.

#### **b. Acceptance of Safe Path Donations:**

Chairman Maher read into the record two donations to Safe Path which require acceptance by the Select Board:

Peter Reed, Jr. -	\$4,000
Kathy Richards -	\$500

Selectman McGuckin offered a motion to accept the 2 aforementioned donations to the Safe Path Committee. Selectman Stewart seconded and said motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

#### **c. Town Projects Update**

Chairman Maher stated that the town has hired an IT firm to assess our security risks, as well as our physical equipment/networking. It is anticipated that their final report on initial recommendations will be submitted to the Select Board next week. Chairman Maher thanked all the department heads, as well as Ken McDonald, for their time answering questionnaires and working with the IT firm to provide information to them.

#### **d. Neighborhood Water Improvement Program Update**

Selectman Stewart stated that while the transmission part of the Water Main Project along 1B has been completed, the second phase of the project involves two components, private roads and looping. As of right now, there is one private road, Spring Hill/Lavenger Lane, looking to do the water upgrade. The other sections of the project involve loops on Mainmast and Locke Road. Underwood Engineering has completed the engineering analysis and survey work, and we currently have a construction price from the contractor who did the 1B portion of the project, N Granese and Sons. The quote is for \$728,650, with an additional cost of \$50,000 for the engineering, for a total of \$778,650 to do the two loops and

SpringHill/Lavenger Lane. Spring Hill/Lavenger Lane residents will be repaying the cost of the project through a Special Assessment District betterment fee, so there will be no cost to the town.

We are now in the position to award the contract to N Granese and Sons to do that work. Underwood Engineering is comfortable with the work N Granese and Sons has done to date and has recommended we go forward with their proposal of work as a change order.

Selectman Stewart agreed with Underwood's recommendation that the town forego going out to bid and do the work as a change order to the existing contract with N Granese and Sons. Selectman Stewart further stated this route will also speed up the process for the town. Additionally, the town has asked DES for an extension on the SRF loan until December of 2022 in order to complete these 3 remaining components of the Water Project.

Selectman McGuckin questioned what would happen if the town does not receive approval for the extension from DES.

Selectman Stewart responded that he had received an email earlier that evening from DES, in which they agree an extension to December of 2022 is a reasonable request.

Thomas Smith, Town Treasurer, asked if the town has \$700,00 remaining for the project that was voted in at Town Meeting.

Selectman Stewart responded that there is just above one million dollars available. No new monies have been applied for, that there were modifications according to the scope of work.

Larry Doyle, 17 Steamboat Lane, questioned if town residents would be responsible for paying the special assessment for the work being done.

Selectman Stewart explained the residents of Spring Hill Rd and Lavenger Lane will be solely responsible and that these residents have petitioned the town to establish a Special Assessment District by which they will be assessed betterment fees over a twenty year period to pay back the costs of the water improvement project on Spring Hill Rd and Lavenger Lane.

Chairman Maher added that once the project is completed, ownership of the water line will be turned over to the City of Portsmouth and will no longer be private.

Selectman Stewart requested the Select Board approve moving forward with the change order as presented.

Selectman McGuckin offered a motion to approve the change order in the amount of \$728,650 and the awarding of the continuation of work to N Granese and Sons, as well as the engineering costs for Underwood Engineering.

Selectman Stewart seconded, and said motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

**4. Old Business**

No matters were discussed.

**5. Adjourn**

Selectman McGuckin offered a motion to adjourn at 7:45pm. Selectman Stewart seconded and said motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Smith  
Recording Secretary