

MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD
Monday January 18, 2022, 7:00 PM
Macomber Room / Via Zoom

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

Public Participants: Curt Springer

Public Participants via Zoom: Chris Robillard-DPW Superintendent

Chairman Maher opened the public session meeting at 7:02PM.

1. Approve Select Board minutes of January 3, 2022

Selectman McGuckin made a motion to approve the Select Board minutes of January 3, 2022. Selectman Stewart seconded and the motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote of 3-0.

2. Public Questions and Answers

Curt Springer, 98 Cranfield St, asked what the correct date is for residents to appear before the Budget Committee to request the town purchase the full Avitar package for tax assessment, creation of digital tax cards, and creation of a GIS property database for the public to access full time.

Chairman Maher stated that the BOS had received an email with a similar request from resident Jim Cerny. Chairman Maher stated that the Select Board has taken this under advisement and plans on doing due diligence to investigate the cost for a possible future project. Presently, the Select Board is focusing on bringing the town offices current with IT needs.

Selectman Stewart stated that town departments have until the end of the month to submit their budget requests. The Select Board will present the proposed budget to the Budget Committee mid-February. Select Stewart suggested any public commentary or budgetary request should be presented to the Select Board early to mid February.

Chairman Maher stated that any requests to be on the Select Board agenda should be submitted at least a week before the meeting.

Mr. Springer stated that he would also like to discuss the topic of hybrid Zoom meetings. Mr. Springer opined that hybrid zoom meetings can be problematic. He suggested the town recruit of crew of volunteers (2) to manage the equipment for each hybrid town meeting to make them more seamless events. Mr. Springer further opined that the issues with hybrid Zoom meetings he has been involved with appear to be more of an organizational problem than financial.

Selectman McGuckin expressed his belief that currently the hybrid meetings appear to be working for the town possibly due to the small number of public participants.

Chairman Maher informed Mr. Springer that he would be happy to meet with him to further discuss his ideas on the matter.

3. New Business

a. Covid

Chairman Maher stated that after the holidays New Hampshire saw a surge in hospitalizations. On January 3, 2022 the daily number for positive cases was 1854. Today the number was 1785. While the 7 day average appears to be going down slowly, it is a reminder that we are still navigating this virus. Vaccines remain highly recommended.

b. Town Projects Update

Chairman Maher stated that the town is currently working on a substantial IT project for town offices, including security upgrades, installation of Microsoft 365 and firewalls. Unfortunately, some of the supplies are caught in the supply chain. The Select Board is hoping to have systems significantly upgraded by March or April.

Chairman Maher closed by stating the town hall renovations are now complete and the offices have returned to normal.

c. Neighborhood Water Project

Selectman Stewart stated that both the Main Mast Circle and Locke Road projects are complete. Over all, everything went according to plan, but Locke Road did need a small amount of unexpected extra pipe with some added expense involved.

Chris Robillard, DPW Superintendent, stated via Zoom that the initial paving is complete and all the water samples were taken and have come back as good.

Selectman Stewart stated that invoicing should be wrapped up over the next week or two.

d. Parking During Snow Removal

Selectman McGuckin reminded residents that while there is no parking on the streets during snow storms, parking is allowed in the town parking lots (the school parking lot, town hall parking lot and the area located near the Coast Guard) during snow storms.

Cars must be vacated from the lots by 6am to allow for snow removal.

e. Trash Tie-Down During Windy Days

Selectman McGuckin requested residents please remember to properly secure their trash and recycling receptacles during windy days.

f. Briefing on Budget Committee Progress

Selectman Stewart stated that the Budget Committee met earlier this evening to review the school budget. The school's budget was presented with a 5.6% decrease from last year's budget due to the retirement of 2 staff members. Only one staff member is being replaced. The Budget Committee will not be meeting next Tuesday, but is still scheduled to meet on February 1, 2022.

4. Old Business

No matters were discussed.

5. Committee Reports

No committee reports were presented.

6. Adjourn

Selectman McGuckin offered a motion to adjourn at 7:27 pm. Selectman Stewart seconded and said motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote of 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Smith
Recording Secretary