

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING & SELECT BOARD MEETING**  
**Monday October 21, 2019 – 6:45PM & 7:00PM**

**Present:** Damon Frampton, Chair, Tom Maher, Selectman, Bill Stewart, Selectman, and Bette Jane Riordan, Secretary.

**Also present:** Fire Chief Ted Hartnett, Pam Cullen, Administrative Assistant to Select Board, Christiane McAllister, Accountant, Ken McDonald, TAPC, Jim Cerny, Dave McGuckin, Jim Cerny, Tom Smith, John Ireland, Jim Rini, Bill Kingston, Lorn and Rosalie Buxton, Marion Clough, Teddy and Terri Golter, Walter Liff, Paul Hamblett, Peter Rice Jim Zuckerman, Steve Tabbutt, Ann and Michael McAndrew, Ben Jankowski, Marcia and Bill Cronin, Ann Miller, Normand Houle; From Underwood Engineering: Keith Pratt, President, Andrew Sharpe, Project Manager, Marc Guimont, Resident Program Representative, Glenn Kisch, Sally Kisch.

**Public Hearing:**

Chair Frampton opened the meeting for a Public Hearing at 6:45 regarding the acceptance by the Town of \$10,000.00, donated by the Great Island 5K for the purpose of purchasing playground equipment at the New Castle Common. After brief discussion, Selectman Maher made a Motion to Close the Public Hearing which was seconded by Selectman Stewart. Chair Frampton brought the matter back to the Select Board. Selectman Maher then made a Motion to Accept the funds on behalf of the Town, which was seconded by Selectman Stewart. Motion carried. Public Hearing closed at 6:50 PM

Chair Frampton opened the Select Board Meeting at 7:00PM.

**1. Approval of Minutes of October 7, 2019. Tabled until November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

**2. Public Question and Answer:** Chair Frampton asked that the public keep their comments to three minutes as there is a large agenda consisting of the Water Project Update.

**a. Fire department:**

Bill Kingston of the NCFD stated that members of the Fire Department have tried four times to have their grievances addressed. The first time was with the Chief, the second was with Selectman Maher, the third at a Select Board Meeting, and the fourth time a meeting was cancelled on short notice by the Select Board. A letter from Mr. Kingston went out to the public the next day. His concerns are: Resume training, the right to respond to emergency calls, improved communication, cancellation of General Order 1901, need for Chief to reestablish meetings with his officers, need for regular Monday night meetings, resumption of fire inspections. He claims that the he New Castle Volunteer Firefighter Association, a charitable organization, is no longer allowed to meet in the Fire House. Mr. Kingston believes this is mean, and serves no useful purpose. He also wants staff increased for special events.

Mr. Kingston stated that in his opinion, the Select Board is running the Fire Department, when in fact, all it should be tasked with is the Fire Department budget. He described the Select Board's running of the department as "a train wreck".

Peter Rice, NCFD addressed the Select Board. He noted that at the September 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, the Select Board said for the group to learn to communicate better. He noted they have been trying to do this for weeks.

Lorn Buxton stated he had only recently heard about the issues, and cited the NH Constitution and the section that says that government must be open responsible, and accountable which is essential to a democratic society. He feels the Select Board and the Fire Chief are not acting in the spirit of this, and believes it is time to revisit the Fire Department program and plans. Mr. Kingston asked when the group could meet with the Select Board.

Chair Frampton asked the Chief to speak. He stated the letter recently set out was not reflective of the actual state of affairs. According to the Chief, public safety is at an all time high. He invited everyone to come to the fire station and meet with him to discuss his or her concerns and have a dialogue with him. He noted he has worked with the Board to develop plans and policies, and while it has been a difficult dialogue, dialogue has occurred. He will continue to work toward adequate shift coverage and other issues within the constraints of the budget. He has provided an updated letter pointing out the issues from his perspective, and encouraged all to contact him.

Mr. Kingston asked to rebut, and cited General Order 1901: Members of the department are required to schedule a meeting with the Chief regarding official business at least 12 hours in advance.

Dave McGuckin noted he was at the September 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, noting that the first words from a speaker were that change is tough. He noted that the Chief asked to give him a year to implement the proposed changes. Terri Golter reiterated that while change is hard, the communication is not good. She gave examples of not knowing the plans for the rescue vehicle, the boat going away, and the need to know the plans. She wants to be a part of the change, and be a team. However that's not the way it is. We need to work on issues together.

Mr. Kingston asked what the next step is to resolve these issues. Peter Rice commented on the meeting that occurred with the Chief when he first laid out the new changes, and the reaction of the group. He noted at that time that he said change is hard, but we owe it to the Chief to make things work. They have been trying to sit down and communicate with either the Chief and/or the Select Board, and just haven't been able to do that. Both Lorn and Rosalie Buxton stressed the need for the public to be made aware of the plans. After further comments from the public, Chair Frampton stated that the Select Board is willing to have an

informational meeting with residents to learn the plans. But as for employees, that is up to the Fire Chief to manage his employees. The Board hired the Chief, and they know we picked the right person. At least for Chair Frampton, there will be no meeting with the group of employee, only with the general public. Mr. Kingston stated this is the 5<sup>th</sup> time the Select Board has refused to meet. Paul Hamblett asked if regular meetings were taking place with the officers and the Chief. He encouraged that to happen. Chief Hartmann noted that is not currently happening, but could in the future. Marcia Cronin asked about the Chief's regular workday hours. It is normally 7-3, Monday through Friday.

Selectman Stewart believes the Fire Department (volunteers and staff) does an excellent job, We've always been able to pull things together, and make it work. The Select Board does not want to be the manager of the Fire Department. He gave some history as to the reason for hiring the new Chief. He believes they hired the right person. He acknowledges that things could perhaps have been rolled out a little better. He likes the informational meeting. He encouraged all to work together to support the Chief.

Chair Frampton suggested November 4<sup>th</sup> as the date for the informational meeting. It will be held at the Macomber Room. A newsletter and website information should be done. Chief Hartmann has written something for the Islander. Everyone was encouraged to bring all of their questions. Someone suggested that some informational material be provide in advance of the informational meeting. Selectman Stewart cautioned all to remember that the plan is a fluid living document and to remember that when reviewing and plan document.

### **3. Items:**

#### **a. Water Project Update.**

Selectman Stewart provided an introduction to the project status and introduced members of the Underwood Engineering Team who provided a Power Point presentation. Copies of the Power Point will be an attachment to these minutes.

Selectman Stewart said we are in the process of awarding the contract. The contractor has been selected. We are just waiting for some paperwork from Portsmouth. The contractor is Granese. There will be some work late this fall with a heavy push in the spring with the transmission line being installed from Shapleigh Island to Wentworth Road.

Andy Sharpe, is the lead person for New Castle from Underwood Engineering, and will present the material. He introduced Keith Pratt, PE – President, Marc Guimont who is the Resident Project Representative and will be the contact person for all residents. Marc provided copies of his business card to those present. His office will be next to the Accountant's offices in Town Hall. The contractor is Steven Granese, of N.Granese & Sons, and is the Vice President and Project Manager. Andy asked

members of the public to provide them with Email addresses and telephone numbers to streamline communications.

Highlights of the presentation:

The existing 8" water main will be removed and replaced with new 12' pipe. 90% of the pipe is in the roadway. Due to ledge, pipe will be replaced in the existing location for the majority of the route. Hydrants will be replaced along the route.

Proposed work: Existing water services will be tied into the new main. Services will be replaced to the property line only if non-copper service is encountered or the water main alignment is shifted.

The public will be updated regularly via the following sources:

Weekly updates will be posted at the Post Office, Library, and Town Offices.

Updates will also be available on the Town website (when possible).

There will be personnel on site. Notices and handouts will be made available.

Andy noted that while many issues can be resolved simply by contacting on-site personnel to discuss their concerns, a Complaint Form will also be available.

Preliminary Project Schedule: The project went out to bid in July 2019. Bids were received August 16, 2019. The award is pending, waiting for information from Portsmouth).

Construction: New Castle Bridge: Fall 2019; Water Main construction: April 2020.

Project Phasing: Construction will occur in 6 zones, one zone at a time whenever possible. They will begin at Pierce Island/Shapleigh Island and move east.

Temporary Water: Temporary water mains and hydrants will be installed for each zone to provide water service during construction (2-4 weeks) to help maintain reliable water service. The water mains will be above grade with connection to each house. Connection may be at a yard spicket or at the curb stop. The temporary water system will be of NSF materials and go through the same bacteria testing and standards as the permanent water main. Andy noted it is important to know that water service will be briefly interrupted (up to 6 hours) to transition to/from temporary water.

Traffic Controls and Patterns: Andy provided detailed maps as part of his presentation. Traffic control will be by zones. Lane closures will occur with detours. Total road closures are not anticipated. There will be one-way alternating traffic during the day, and flaggers will be present to direct traffic. Police officers will be at barrier intersections. Weekend and holiday work is not anticipated, but may occur.

Daily Impacts of Construction: The work hours will be 7AM to 6PM, and temporary paving will take place on Fridays. He cautioned there will be dust and noise. They will be using a jackhammer for ledge removal in order to avoid blasting. There will

be impacts and disruptions as construction is not a clean process. He encouraged everyone to discuss concerns with field representatives first as many issues can be easily resolved in the field.

Full construction completion is expected in 2020. They will be back in 2021 to do the final paving.

In response to a question, Selectman Stewart clarified the status of the Shapleigh site, indicating that there is money budgeted and the work will be done. This is known as Alternative One and will be awarded in March, as the bid prices are good until March.

Andy did state they will do their best to minimize the impacts of the construction on residents, but cautioned it will be disruptive.

Selectman Maher made a Motion to Adjourn, which was seconded by Selectman Stewart. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,

BJ Riordan  
Secretary.

Attachments: Power Point Presentation