

SELECTMEN'S MEETING– November 27, 2023

Present: Margo Connors, Richard Bielefield, Chris Ellms
Jennifer Gaudette

Guests: Nick DeMayo, Kenneth and Donna Leavitt, Ed Hansalik

Correspondence was read and acted upon.

There will be two hearings for Community Power with Franconia and Bethlehem at the Profile School Library on December 7th and 14th at 6:00pm. The town will also hold a community power hearing on Monday December 18th at 6:00pm at the Crapo Building. The board will include community power information with the tax bill mailing.

DONNA LEAVITT submitted a written statement and expressed her concern in the process used to adopt the Equality Resolution. Mrs. Leavitt feels it violates freedom of speech and is discriminatory. Why was it recommended without public comment and why has the board not rescinded the resolution which is inappropriate. The board will be discussing in nonpublic session, correspondence from the town attorney regarding the resolution.

NICK DE MAYO presented the board with a letter requesting that the board adopt a resolution for all town boards and committees to include The Pledge of Allegiance to begin their meetings. The board will submit Nick's letter for a legal opinion.

JENNIFER GAUDETTE shared with the board her concern about vandalism that occurred near her home in Franconia.

The board has received both a legal and an insurance review of the Vertex Lease. The board may not enter into any lease agreement without approval at town meeting. Jennifer will advise Vortex of this and inquire if they have ever leased with a municipality previously and if so a timeline of how the project was handled.

The board will send a draft of Select Board policies and procedures to town counsel with two minor changes including quorum of 2 and manifests signed on Monday.

Septic Plans: Map 227, Lot 13.2 Perkins Trust Approval for Construction
Wetlands Permit: Map 214, Lot 39.2 Birches Road

MR. BIELEFIELD made a motion to approve the minutes of the Tri Town Meeting held on November 6, 2023, seconded by CHRIS ELLMS. The motion passed unanimously.

MARGO CONNORS participated in a Community Power Zoom Meeting with Andrew Hatch. Mr. Hatch will be presenting at the Community Power hearings. Subjects discussed included different sign-up levels 100%, 50% 25%. Also, how net metering will work out with PUC, Eversource and NHECOOP. Residents may opt out and there is no fee for canceling at any time.

MARGO CONNORS notified the board that the group investigating regional EMS has put the study on the back burner for now.

JENNIFER notified the board of two different welfare situations that the Health Officer, Police Department, and town office are dealing with.

CHIEF CLARK requested and received approval to apply for a USDA Grant to help finance the purchase of air tanks for the Fire Department. Chief Clark will be in Concord on Wednesday regarding the FEMA funds for both the past project Lafayette, Grandview Road, and current Indian Brook Project.

The one-time payment from the State for \$14,365.00 goes to the Highway Block Account.

The Zoning Board will have a hearing on November 28th for Ryan Coulter for a variance as the building proposed does not meet setbacks.

MS. BIELEFIELD made a motion to approve the minutes of November 20, 2023, seconded by MS. CONNORS. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion to enter Nonpublic Session made by Dick Bielefield seconded by Margo Connors.

Specific Statutory Reason cited as foundation for the nonpublic session:

91-A3 I (1) Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or more members of the public body, even where legal counsel is not present.

Roll Call vote to enter nonpublic session: Margo Connors-Yes, Richard Bielefield-Yes, Chris Ellms – Yes Motion passed.

Entered nonpublic session at 5:50pm.

Motion to seal the minutes made by Chris Ellms, seconded Richard Bielefield, because it is determined that divulgence of this information likely would render a proposed action ineffective

Roll Call Vote to seal minutes: Margo Connors – Yes, Richard Bielefield – Yes Chris Ellms - Yes Motion: PASSED

Motion to leave nonpublic session at 6:24 pm., by Margo Connors, seconded by Chris Ellms. Motion: PASSED

With no more business before the Board, MR. ELLMS made a motion to adjourn, seconded by MR. BIELEFIELD, the meeting was adjourned at 6:24 PM. The next regular scheduled meeting is Monday December 4, 2023, at the Carolina Crapo Building @ 5:00PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Jennifer Gaudette,
Administrative Assistant