

**Board of Selectmen  
TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD, NH  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

February 9, 2022  
6:00 PM at Town Offices and Via Zoom

Note: This meeting may be recorded

**CALL TO ORDER**

Gary Winn called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M. In attendance were, Fran Shippee, Kelli Hanzalik, Alissa Thompson, and Tricia Lachenal (via Zoom)

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Public hearing per RSA 41:8-b Petition Warrant Article

"Are you in favor of increasing the Board of Selectmen to 5 members?"

Winn recessed the Board of Selectmen's meeting at 6:06 PM and opened the public hearing per RSA 41:8-b.

Winn noted that a request was submitted by petition which had the required 25 signatures asking if the Town is in favor of increasing the Board of Selectmen to five (5) members. Winn noted that this public hearing is required per the RSA.

Winn stated that the question will be placed on the town warrant at the time of the Town Meeting. Winn noted this is voted on during Town Meeting and not voting day.

Winn opened the meeting to the Board of Selectmen. There were no additional comments from the board.

Winn opened the hearing to the public:

Cathy Harvey (50 Forestview Drive) noted that she signed the petition and wanted to give a few reasons why she believes it should pass. Harvey noted that the amount of time the board members have to put in is unfair and a great deal of work. Harvey noted that it would make the workload lighter if there were five (5) people to split up the work instead of just three (3) people. Harvey noted that all other boards in town have five (5) people. Harvey noted that she believes that if you have five (5) people on the board and the workload is less, there will be more people willing to run for the office. Harvey noted that Chesterfield has been lucky with their board, but with a five (5) member board, it would be harder for someone with a personal agenda to sway the rest of the members. Harvey noted that she is in support of the petition.

Ron Rzasa noted that he does not need to repeat all of the things Mrs. Harvey noted but does agree with her.

Jeff Scott noted that he agrees with Mrs. Harvey and Mr Rzasa. Scott noted that if the workload was smaller there would be more people willing to run. Scott noted that he knows of three (3) people that would run if it was a five (5) member board. Scott noted they are all good, qualified people. Scott noted that his concern is the possibility of write-ins. Scott noted that write-ins would be unfair. Scott noted that he would like to suggest some parameters to the board. Scott noted that he would like the board to not allow write-ins and to require candidates to declare

their candidacy and require them to attend the meet and greet. Scott noted that he would also like to point out that if only 4 run, there would be an issue with an even number so he would suggest that if only 4 run, that only the top three are sworn in to avoid an even number.

Winn noted that the wording in the petition is the wording that will be voted on at town meeting. Winn stated that the Board of Selectmen do not have the power to restrict write-ins and or put stipulations on the candidates. Winn noted that if there is an open seat after election, the Board of Selectmen would appoint someone to fill the vacancy.

Rzasa asked how the board feels about it. Winn noted that personally speaking, when the schoolboard went to five (5) members, he was concerned about them being able to fill all of the seats, but to his knowledge, they have been successful in filling the board. Winn noted that he does agree that splitting up some of the duties especially sitting on other boards would lighten the load for the individual board members. Winn noted that he has spoken with a Hinsdale Selectmen who states that a five (5) member board is the only way to go. Winn noted that he has not made up his mind yet, but he does agree with some of the points made.

Scott asked what kind of recourse the board would have if a member was not doing their job.

Winn noted that he is not familiar with a way the board is allowed to remove a member for anything that is not egregious.

Riendeau noted that right now with a three (3) member board, there cannot be any communication between two (2) members. Riendeau asked with five (5) member board if two (2) members would be allowed to talk outside a meeting. Riendeau noted that if it is allowed, it does not seem right. Winn noted that there shall be no decisions made and there should not be any communication outside a meeting even without having a quorum present.

Roscoe noted that board members can talk if it is not a quorum. Harvey noted that some things are considered a non-meeting and would allow board members to meet without a noticed meeting. Harvey noted that passing information back and forth would be considered a non-meeting and allowed.

Riendeau noted that there may be an impact to the office staff with five (5) people trying to communicate instead of just three (3). Riendeau asked if this would be debated on the floor.

Winn noted that it is a warrant article, so discussion can happen on the floor.

There were no more questions/comments from the public.

Winn closed the public hearing at 6:38 PM.

The board returned to the Board of Selectmen meeting.

## **SUGGESTION BOX**

The suggestion box was empty.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### Letter from Agnes Darlynn Marsh

Winn noted that there was a letter received concerning a property appraisal. Thompson noted that she sent a letter and an abatement form to Marsh. The abatement form has not been returned to the office to date. Winn noted that the board will wait for the abatement form, which will be sent to M&N Assessing and then come to the board.

### Letter from Steven & Tracy Perrin

Winn noted that the letter concerns property on Wildwood. Winn noted that the letter states there is an error in the billing records. Lachenal noted that she has a meeting with the Perrins and with M&N Assessing on February 24, 2022, to get it straightened out.

### Notification of Shoreland Permit Application – Map 5L, Lot A10

Winn noted that the application is for a new leach field and two car garage. Winn noted that this is a notification of an application which is under review and a copy of the application will be available for public review at the Town Clerks office or at the NHDES office in Concord by calling 603-271-2147.

### Email John Koopmann

Winn noted that the board received an email regarding the municipal budget session. Winn noted that the email expressed displeasure with the announcement at the hearing that comments would only be accepted from residents and/or taxpayers.

Winn noted that he would like more information and to do some research before responding to an email.

Thompson noted that if Zoom causes issues, the board can decide not to utilize it in the future. Thompson noted there is no requirement that the town offer a Zoom option.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Barbara Girs noted she is representing the farmers market. Girs noted that the market would like to invite farmers from outside Chesterfield to participate in the farmers market. Girs noted that the intent is not to grow huge, but to make it worth people coming. Girs noted they will stay in the footprint and are not looking for crafters as they do not want it to become a craft fair. Winn noted that as long as they stay in control of who sets up, he has no objections. Shippee and Hanzalik do not have any objections as long as they stay in the area parameters and in control of traffic. The board noted they would like the farmers market to survive.

Bob Maibusch noted that he hopes that the board is not giving any serious consideration to getting rid of Zoom. Maibusch noted that he does agree with limiting comments to residents and taxpayers only.

Cathy Harvey noted she has always believed it to be up to the Chair of the board who can and who cannot speak at a meeting. Harvey noted that she encourages the board in their research of this question, to consider past practice. Harvey noted that when she speaks at board meetings, she stands, introduces herself and states her address. Harvey noted that this how it has been in the past and should continue.

Jeff Scott noted that under 664:17, all political advertising shall be removed no later than the second Friday following the election. Scott noted he would like the board to instruct code

enforcement to address the political advertising at Performance Auto. Winn noted that he believes the statute refers to signs in the state right-of-way. Scott noted that it also refers to private property.

Scott noted he drove up Old County Road and would like to know what recourse the abutters have that are located below the property that clear cut the land. Scott noted that if we get rain like we have in the past year, the abutters will suffer the consequences of erosion. Scott noted it will also potentially cause damage to Old County Road. Winn noted that other than court, he is unaware of any recourse abutters would have.

Ron Rzasz noted that he is the representative to the SWRPC and they have been investigating how to promote the Monadnock area. Rzasz noted they have gotten a grant allowing them to hire a consultant that specializes in promoting communities. Rzasz noted that the program should be put together sometime in June. Rzasz noted that it could be good for the area.

## **WEEKLY REVIEW**

### Code Tracker

The board reviewed the code tracker. There was no action taken.

### Building Permit List

The board reviewed the building permit list. There was no action taken. A question was asked if these were all open permits. Lachenal noted that the list does not include closed permits or projects that have been issued a certificate of occupancy.

Winn noted that it is possible that some that look like they should be closed but may be having issues with supplies.

## **FINANCIALS**

### Audit for 2020 auditor will be February 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>

Thompson noted the auditor will be here on Monday February 14<sup>th</sup> and if necessary on Tuesday February 15<sup>th</sup>. Thompson noted that they will be doing quality checks. Thompson noted that the board members are welcome to stop in, but there will not be a report ready.

### Profit & Loss YTD

The board reviewed the information with no action taken.

Winn noted that there has been money spent out of the police department reimbursable detail line. Winn noted that we are hoping the revolving fund warrant article would pass and then we will go back to the regular budget and delete the reimbursable detail from the budget. Thompson will check with the DRA about how to handle this now that there has been money has been spent from the reimbursable detail line.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

## Town Report Dedication

The board discussed the 2021 Town Report dedication.

## **TABLED UNTIL FUTURE DATE**

Personnel Policy Review

IT CMP (WWCS working on this)

Unknown Owner Property (Erin is researching old assessor cards)

Repointing of Monument at Town Annex

Ratigan's Letter to UNFI

Annex Dishwasher

Community Power

Petition for Bradley Road to Summer Cottages (notice in April, Public Hearing mid-May, Road opens April 10)

Deeded Property (After Holiday will be scheduling)

Camp Spofford Agreement (Letter sent to Camp Spofford)

Annex Door (\$3,039.96 left in Annex CRF)

Street Lighting (Waiting on recommendation from Chief Chickering)

## **GUESTS**

There were no guests scheduled for the meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Historical Society Building Lease

The board reviewed the draft lease. Winn noted that the reason for coming up with a lease is that the building was not being maintained and there was an emergency repair needed on the furnace due to not having scheduled maintenance.

The board will remove section 9 and 15 and Shippee will reword section 5, leaving the intent, but making it easier to understand.

*Gary Winn moved to adopt the lease for 518 Route 63, the Historical Society as amended. The motion was seconded by Kelli Hanzalik and passed unanimously.*

## **OTHER BUSINESS -**

Shippee noted she would like an update about the septic evaluations. Shippee noted she would like to know what properties all done and what properties still need to address the regulation.

Shippee noted she spoke with Lynn Borofsky about the concerns on Pinnacle Springs Road. Shippee noted that Borofsky will speak with Thatcher. Winn noted that the request will have to go to the conservation meeting for approval to make the inquiry with the state. Shippee noted she will check in with them and make sure that they will be addressing the concerns.

Winn noted that the budget was approved as presented, although there was still discussion on the cell phone line. Winn noted that there was also a question about the purchase of AVITAR and with the increased efficiency, there should be a reduction in work in the office. Winn noted that there is plenty of work in the office and the efficiency of AVITAR is allowing the office to get things done that were getting pushed to the side.

Winn noted that there was some trouble hearing at the Budget Committee Public Hearing and at the Town Meeting, people will have to come up to the microphone to make sure everyone can hear all of the comments.

Thompson noted she has been asked if non-resident town employees may pay the resident rate to send their kids to camp. The board noted that non-resident town employees can get on the list as residents, but will have to pay the non-resident fee.

Thompson noted that HB 108 came out January 1, 2022 and the office will need to keep a record of non-public minutes and make it available for citizens that request it. The board scheduled a non-public working session for February 19, 2022 at 8:30 AM to go over previous non-public minutes to unseal them if they no longer qualify to be sealed.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No additional comments

#### **LEGAL– Update from Shippee and Hanzalik on meeting with legal counsel**

*Gary Winn moved to go into non-public session #1 under 91-A:3, II (e), for an update on meeting with attorney, at 8:58 PM. The motion was seconded by Fran Shippee and passed unanimously.*

*Gary Winn moved to come out of non-public session at 9:20 PM. The motion was seconded by Fran Shippee and passed unanimously.*

*Gary Winn moved to seal non-public minutes. The motion was seconded by Fran Shippee and passed unanimously.*

#### **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

*Fran Shippee moved to accept the January 26, 2022, minutes, as amended. The motion was seconded by Kelli Hanzalik and passed unanimously.*

*Gary Winn moved to accept the January 26, 2022; nonpublic #1 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Fran Shippee and passed unanimously.*

*Fran Shippee moved to accept the January 26, 2022; nonpublic #2 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Kelli Hanzalik and passed unanimously.*

*Kelli Hanzalik moved to accept the January 26, 2022; nonpublic #3 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Fran Shippee and passed unanimously.*

*Fran Shippee moved to accept the January 26, 2022; nonpublic #4 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Kelli Hanzalik and passed unanimously.*

*Kelli Hanzalik moved to accept the February 2, 2022; minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Fran Shippee and passed unanimously.*

The next meeting will be held February 23, 2022, at 6:00 pm in the Town Offices and via Zoom.

### **ADJOURN**

*Kelli Hanzalik moved to adjourn at 9:46. The motion was seconded by Fran Shippee and passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

Tricia Lachenal  
Administrative Assistant

Approved by:

Gary Winn, Chairman

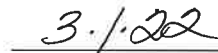


Fran Shippee



Kelli Hanzalik

Date



Date



Date