

Town of Canterbury
Selectmen's Meeting
October 17, 2022

Selectmen Present: Bob Steenson
Cheryl Gordon
Kent Ruesswick
Town Administrator: Ken Folsom

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 PM.

Administrative

Kent made a motion to sign Accounts Payable Manifest #1 in the amount of \$37,299.97. Cheryl seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Kent made a motion to sign the Payroll Manifest in the amount of \$39,606.00. Cheryl seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

The Selectmen signed:

Master Plan Update Phase 2 contract with CNHRPC
Joint Power Agreement for Community Power
Intent to Cut: Tax Map; 229 Lot 60 – Shaker Road
Map 225 Lot 20 – Shaker Road
Tax Map 248 Lot 17 – Ayers
Yield Tax Levy – Tax Map 248 Lot 15
MS-535 – Financial Report of the Budget
MA-1 – Valuation Summary

Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes of the October 3, 2022, meeting. Kent made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Cheryl seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried

Appointments

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Sam Papps

Sam distributed the unpaid property tax list, the total outstanding, including tax liens, is \$123,284.68.

Sam will be sending out notifications that the November elections will be held at the Elementary School.

The Board thanked Sam for attending.

Road Agent John O'Connor

John updated the Board on vehicles & trailer repairs. They have been removing some trees along Burrough Road and have widened a small section of the road.

A brief discussion was held on employee wages at the Transfer Station. The Selectmen will further discuss.

The Board thanked John for attending.

Fire Chief Mike Gamache

Mike distributed the monthly statistics for the department.

They completed a demonstration for the elementary school students for fire prevention week.

Mike reported that he met with residents of Harmony Lane to discuss the upcoming culvert replacement and an access road.

Mike updated the Selectmen on the Department Membership. One member has been hired full-time in Franklin, Tilton/Northfield has hired one member; one member is finishing up with the firefighter 2 certifications. Mike is talking to two potential new members.

Mike attended a Hazmat conference in Laconia. He and Dave Nelson will be attending a Carbon Monoxide Summit on October 27th.

Mike updated the Selectmen on the AFG Fire Truck Grant, and it is unlikely that we will be awarded the funds. A new grant will be opening up in December or January.

Ken discussed having the lights replaced in the garage at the Fire Station. Ken has received a quote for approximated \$6,500 to replace the fluorescent lights with LED lights. The Selectmen agreed to proceed with the replacement.

The Board thanked Mike for attending.

Library Director Rachel Baker

Rachel reported that the programs are being well attended. She has been working on the 2023 proposed budget and will be presenting it to the Library Trustees.

The book bin has been moved from the front of the library to the parking lot. This bin is for donated books that service other municipalities and school districts.

The Board thanked Rachel.

Police Chief Mike Labrecque

Mike updated the Board on a potential new hire. The background check is going well, he and will be meeting with the candidate this week.

Bob mentioned that on the weekends, there is quite a bit of traffic coming from the Orchard that is speeding. Mike will look into this.

The Board thanked Mike for attending.

Howard Moffett

Howard attended the meeting to discuss the Canterbury Community Power Committee. Howard had emailed Ken a list of residents willing to serve on the Committee. Howard thanked Kent for agreeing to serve as the Selectmen's representative on the Committee. He also thanked Ken for his help in sending correspondence to the utility companies asking them to supply the town with the aggregate data load.

Bob made a motion to approve the committee members as presented. Kent seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Howard reported the next Board of Directors Thursday, October 20th in Warner. The Canterbury Community Power Committee (CCPC) will be holding their first meeting on October 27th at 7:00 PM at the Municipal Building.

The Board thanked Howard for attending.

Jay and Ann Berry

Jay and Ann attended the meeting to discuss a land use change tax bill they received. Jay explained that the assessment seemed high to them. Bob explained the process to them, and Mandy looked at other properties with similar characteristics and assessed their property at the median value. Jay explained that they have spent \$150,000 to upgrade the road and bring in power.

Jay felt that the assessment should be in the \$40,000 range. Bob explained that the DRA has said that Canterbury values are where they should be, and he stands by the value and does not advocate changing the assessment. Kent stated that he would stick with Mandy's number.

Jay thanked the Selectmen for their time.

Ken presented the updated Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) to the Selectmen. Committee members Evan Hauptman, John O'Connor, and Jan Stout were present.

Ken explained that the Hazard Mitigation Committee (Cheryl Gordon, Ken Folsom, Jan Stout, Mandy Irving, Sam Papps, Joel French, Evan Hauptman, John O'Connor, and Mike Crockwell) updated the Hazard Mitigation Plan to current 2022 standards. They met between March and October.

The original Canterbury HMP was approved in 2006. The HMP 2022 is the 4th version. Every 5 years, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires the Canterbury HMP to be updated to current state and federal standards, including re-approval of an updated HMP by NH Homeland Security and FEMA to ensure Canterbury remains eligible for specific programs.

Ken reported that Canterbury had received approximately \$190,000 through grants and reimbursements that were weather-related in the last 20 years.

There were no questions from the Selectmen or the public.

New Business

The Cemetery Trustees have submitted a proposed warrant article for \$250 for cameras at the Maple Grove Cemetery. The Selectmen have authorized them to purchase them this year out of their budget.

Bob updated the Board on the “Withdrawal Committee” process. The committee has determined that they do not have enough information to make a decision and have asked the Department of Education for an extension. A warrant article may be proposed at the Canterbury town meeting to fund town counsel and consultants for the committee to continue its work.

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The Selectmen will hold a budget work session on November 7, 2022, at 1:00 at the Sam Lake House.

The next regular Selectmen’s meeting will be held on November 7, 2022, at 5:00 PM at the Meetinghouse.

Respectfully submitted,

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