

Town of Canterbury  
Selectmen's Meeting  
March 15, 2021

Selectmen Present: Cheryl Gordon  
Art Hudson  
Bob Steenson  
Town Administrator: Ken Folsom

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM.

Cheryl made a motion to go into a non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) at 4:02 PM to meet with a Welfare applicant. Bob seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Bob made a motion to exit the non-public session at 4:55 PM and to permanently seal the minutes due to the personal and financial issues discussed. Art seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Bob made a motion to open the public hearing at 5:00 PM for the proposed warrant articles that require borrowing funds.

Bob read the proposed warrant articles.

- Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred One Thousand Fifty-Three Dollars (\$101,053) to purchase two police cruisers and, to further authorize the issuance of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. Three-fifths ballot vote required.
- Article 4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Fifty-Eight Thousand Dollars (\$158,000) to replace two culverts on Morrill Road with a concrete spanned bridge and, to further authorize the issuance of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. Three-fifths ballot vote required.
- Article 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Three Thousand Dollars (\$53,000) to purchase a new Command car for the Fire Department and to further authorize the issuance of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. Three-fifths ballot vote required.

The Selectmen asked for if there was any public comment.

Kathy Doherty asked for an explanation why the decision was made to purchase the police cruisers vs. the leasing program.

Bob explained that the finance rate for the lease is currently 6% and that the municipal bond rate to purchase the vehicles is at 1%. Makes financial sense to borrow vs. lease. Kathy thought there was an agreement in the lease that the cruisers could be purchased at the end of the lease. Bob explained that a capital lease program is a finance to lease with a zero residual. You make the final payment of \$1.00 and you own the vehicles. The proposal is to finance the vehicles for the same period of time at a less interest rate. We now own the two cruisers that were leased and this warrant article is to replace two more cruisers.

### **Appointments**

#### **Town Clerk/Tax Collector Sam Papps**

Sam distributed the uncollected taxes report. Sam sent out the lien notices and will be processing the liens on April 1, 2021.

Sam reported that the newly elected officials have been coming into the office to be sworn into their prospective offices.

The Board thanked Sam for attending.

#### **Road Agent John O'Connor**

John explained that the new truck is back at the shop for repairs. John said that the mud season has arrived, they have used 400 tons of material so far.

Art explained that he had received a request to have signs (not town maintained) installed at the Class VI Roads. John stated that there is no policy for the signage. They only put them up if requested. Bob didn't think we needed to post every Class VI road.

Cheryl received an inquiry on why Burrough Road did not have a weight limit sign. John explained that all the roads leading to Burrough Road were posted and didn't feel the need to post that road too.

The Board thanked John for attending.

#### **Police Chief Mike Labrecque**

Mike distribute the monthly statistics. Mike reported that a stolen truck has been recovered.

The Department has received 4 applications so far for the vacant full-time officer's position and possibly another part-time officer.

Mike stated that he has been emailing the IT Company on a weekly basis trying to get the tablets to sync with the Merrimack County Sheriff's office. The tablets haven't worked since the switch to U.S. Cellular. Bob asked if they anticipated switching back to Verizon. Ken explained that as part of the contract if all the equipment wasn't able to be up and running, they will switch back to Verizon.

The Board thanked Mike for attending.

#### **Deputy Fire Chief Scott Doherty**

Scott distributed the monthly statistics. There were 38 calls, mostly from the high winds and tree branches, 3 or 4 chimney fires, 1 motor vehicle accident and 1 accident on I-93 involving an automobile and pedestrian.

Bob explained that since the town meeting has been moved to May 1<sup>st</sup>, the time frame for purchasing the command car will be shortened and suggested that they have the exact information for the vehicle come town meeting.

The Board thanked Scott for attending.

#### Treasurer Al Edelstein

Al attended the meeting to discuss investments of town funds.

Al asked the Selectmen what they were thinking in terms of investing. Al has talked to TD Bank and Claudia Leidinger (Library Trustee). Claudia had told Al that the Library Trustees invested their funds with Cambridge Trust.

Bob stated that the cash balance is could be up to a million dollars at times and that a short-term investment vehicle should be looked into. Art explained that when the Board met with Al in December 2019 they discussed investing being part of his goals.

Al wanted the Selectmen to tell him what sum of money they talking about and what the interest rate was. Bob reported about a million dollars. Ken stated that the Town of Chichester made enough off the investments to pay the Treasurer's salary and another Town was able to purchase a police cruiser. Al wants to have a group meeting with TD Bank and the Selectmen. Al asked if this needed to be presented at Town meeting. Bob stated no, it's part of the duties of the Treasurer.

The Board thanked Al for attending.

#### Administrative

The Board signed: Yield Tax Levy – Tax Map 239 Lot 15 (\$2,770.74)

Land Use Change Tax Penalty – Tax Map 221 Lot 16 (\$7,500)

Current Use application – Tax Map 249 Lot7

Letter to Wilbrod & Belkis Gravel – formal denial of abatement

Cheryl made a motion to sign the Accounts Payable manifest in the amount of \$17,663.06. Bob seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Cheryl made a motion to sign the payroll manifest in the amount of \$34,663.05. Art seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

#### Minutes

The Selectmen reviewed the minutes of the March 1, 2021 Selectmen's meeting. Bob made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Cheryl seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

## **New Business**

The Fire Department received a donation for the amount of \$500.00 as a memorial for Elaine DiStefano.

Art updated the Selectmen on the recent HDC meetings. They are reviewing article 13 of the zoning ordinance and may propose changes for the 2022 town meeting.

Ken reported that the fireworks are set for July 2<sup>nd</sup> with being first on the cancellation list for July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Ken explained that he received an email asking the Town if they had any land that they would consider leasing for a solar farm. Bob explained that the Selectmen's authority on short-term leases is limited. The Selectmen are not interested in pursuing this proposal.

Bob stated that he has been in contact with Cinde Wormington from the Executive Council. She is pushing for shovel-ready projects in hand as part of the 1.9 trillion federal funding. Infrastructure will be a large part and Bob thought that the idea of upgrading the electric at the Transfer Station be considered.

Ken reported that he heard back from the Loudon Selectmen regarding taking Canterbury's paper/cardboard. The volume that Canterbury would ship is greater than they could handle and are not interested at this time. Bob will discuss this at the next Solid Waste Committee meeting.

Ken and Bob had a virtual meeting with Comcast representative Bryan Christianson. Bryan explained that Canterbury has approximately 1,000 homes and all but 163 have access to their service. Their density requirement is 15 houses per mile, but, doesn't take any gaps in the density into consideration.

Andrew Fournier of joined the meeting and explained that anything the Town could do to expand broadband services on Intervale would be greatly appreciated. The current internet is unreliable.

Ken is currently working on a RFP for broadband services.

Bob made a motion to close the public hearing at 6:25 PM. Art seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Art made a motion to nominate Cheryl Gordon as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Bob seconded. Cheryl accepted the nomination.

Art reported that he received a call from Chance Anderson to discuss the cease and desist on his Air B&B. The cease and desist is still in place, but the Board will stay the fines because he has applied for a special exception for a camp ground with the Zoning Board.

Cheryl made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 PM. Bob seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Stout  
Administrative Assistant