

Town of Canterbury
Selectmen's Meeting
May 16, 2022

Selectmen Present: Robert Steenson
Cheryl Gordon
Kent Ruesswick

Town Administrator: Ken Folsom

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 PM.

Appointments

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Sam Papps

Sam distributed the outstanding tax collections report. Sam will be sending out deeding notices and deeding two properties if they remain unpaid. Sam will be sending out tax bills with a due date of July 5, 2022. Sam will be on vacation the 2nd week of July. Deputy Town Clerk Jamie Huard will be working evenings to catch up on phone calls, emails, and mail.

The primary will be held on September 13, 2022, at the Town Hall.

The Board thanked Sam for attending.

Fire Chief Mike Gamache

Mike distributed the monthly statistics.

The Department assisted with two mutual aid fires in Loudon and Chichester. The department has responded to multiple brush fires. Mike explained that he could shut down the burn permit access on the website when there was high fire danger. He did so last week when the fire danger was extremely high. He also notified permit holders that they were not allowed to burn because of the fire danger. This was only for a few days over the weekend. Lt. Nelson received some angry calls from a few residents who could not burn.

Inspections were completed at New Freedom Academy, Canterbury Hall, and Canterbury Woods.

The river access signage/life safety equipment will be put soon. Mike updated the Selectmen on repairs to Engine 2.

Mike updated the Board on the rail operation with Eversource and Northern NE railroad. Mike is comfortable with the operation after he initiated a few additional restrictions. Bob felt they should be coming before the Planning Board for a site plan review. The Selectmen will further discuss.

Mike updated the Board on the Fire Engine grant; he anticipates hearing if they will receive the grant shortly. The Department was awarded a \$38,000 grant through GOFFERR for protective clothing and SCBA masks.

Mike has submitted a grant application to purchase extrication equipment in the form of a set of pneumatic airbags.

The Board thanked Mike.

Resident Rene Brooks

Rene wanted to discuss the discontinuance of a portion of Hannah Dustin Drive. She owns the property on both sides of the road at the end of Hannah Dustin Drive; she would like to merge the two properties and is looking to see if the portion of the road that runs between the two properties will be discontinued. Bob noted that the Selectmen don't have the authority to discontinue a road; this would have to be presented to the Townspeople at the town meeting through a warrant article. The Board asked Rene to have her Surveyor prepare a plan showing the proposed discontinuance. Rene asked the Selectmen to email her precisely what they needed from the surveyor.

Rene thanked the Board.

Road Agent John O'Connor

John updated the Selectmen on culvert replacement and paving projects. John explained that a person working at the Transfer Station through People Ready would like to work at the Transfer through the Town but would be available for limited hours/days. Ken will contact him to discuss his availability.

A brief discussion was held on mowing the town properties and cemeteries. Ken will place an ad for seasonal help.

The Board thanked John for attending.

Police Chief Mike Labrecque

Mike distributed the monthly statistics. Mike reported that Katelyn graduated from the Academy and is out on her own.

Mike stated that the cruisers are being outfitted with printers.

Mike will have his officers start opening and closing the Riverland gate. Kent mentioned that he had received a complaint from a resident that there are trees down in the parking lot at Riverland. Ken noted that they are being taken care of.

A discussion was held on purchasing a flashing speed sign. Mike explained that he had had conversations with a resident about speeding in the center and is looking to have a flashing speed limit sign put up. Mike said he is not opposed to the idea; the cost is approximately \$4,000 - \$5,000. Mike will research to see if a grant would be available to assist in purchasing.

Kent stated that he would get back to the resident.

The Board thanked Mike.

Library Director Rachel Baker

Rachel explained that the Library policies are being updated. Rachel and Sam have received the moose plate grant that would provide leather binding for the Town Reports from 1996-to 2021.

Rachel stated that they have been having issues with the security system sending out trouble signals which originate at the Meeting House. Rachel said that she received a bill from Mango Security for \$531.28 for services regarding the trouble signals. She questioned why a bill was sent when the problems is still occurring. Ken will contact Mango Security to discuss the invoice. A brief discussion was held on contracting with one security system company for all town buildings.

Rachel reported that water is coming off the back corner of the building during a rainstorm and is starting to eat away the concrete. Ken and Rachel will take a look at it.

Administrative

Bob made a motion to sign the Accounts Payable Manifest in the amount of \$537,269.95. Kent seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Bob made a motion to sign the Payroll Manifest in the amount of \$40,699.52. Kent seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

The Selectmen signed: Yield Tax – Tax Map 220 Lots 6 & 9 – Tupper – Ayers Road
Property Tax Warrant - \$3,706,104

Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes of the May 2, 2022, meeting. Bob made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Cheryl seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried

The Board reviewed the non-public minutes of the April 4, 2022, meeting. Bob made a motion to approve the minutes as written and to permanently seal the minutes due to the personnel matter discussed. Cheryl seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried

New Business

The Selectmen reviewed the Action Item List.

School District Review Committee –

- The Committee will be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month.
- Discussed soliciting letters of interest for other Community Members
- Obtain copies of recent withdrawal studies

- Enrollment numbers

Cash/Deposit/Investment Policy – Ken is working with NHMA. Bob suggested looking at other communities for samples of their policies/procedures.

Facilitate Ingress/Egress easement for emergency lane from Nottingham Road to Old Gilmanton Road. The Selectmen want to retain ownership with a 5-year renewable easement.

Ken reported that he received a request from the custodian asking for a slight increase in wages due to the rising costs of gasoline and supplies. The Selectmen approved the request.

A brief discussion was held on purchasing air purifiers. Ken explained that a representative from Volara contacted him, and the average cost of a purifier is approximately \$1,000.

Ken reminded the Selectmen that the Sherwood Forest Association meeting is next Saturday; Kent will attend.

Ken updated the Selectmen on an email from a concerned citizen regarding the Pachamama sanctuary.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on June 6, 2022, at 5:00 PM at the Meetinghouse.

Kent made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 PM. Cheryl seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Stout
Administrative Assistant