

Town of Canterbury
Selectmen's Meeting
April 17, 2023

Selectmen Present: Cheryl Gordon
Kent Ruesswick
Scott Doherty

Town Administrator: Ken Folsom

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM.

Administrative

Kent made a motion to sign Accounts Payable Manifest in the amount of \$91,053.57. Scott seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Kent made a motion to sign the Payroll Manifest in the amount of \$44,940.60. Scott seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Kent made a motion to sign the Welfare Manifest in the amount of \$1,165.00. Scott seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Scott made a motion to adopt RSA 80:52-C to accept credit card payments in the Town Clerk/Tax Collectors office. Cheryl seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Kent made a motion to adopt the Hazard Mitigation Plan as updated in 2023. Scott seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

The Selectmen signed:

Abatement Refund – 141 Baptist Road for buildings removed prior to 4/1
Application for Current Use – Tax Map 249 Lot 2 – 95 Intervale Road

Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes of the April 3, 2023, meeting. Kent made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Cheryl seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Appointments

Tax Collector/Town Clerk Sam Papps

Sam distributed the unpaid receivables report for property taxes. Sam will be sending out deeding notices on May 15, 2023, with a deeding date of June 28, 2023. There are currently two properties that could be deeded.

The Board thanked Sam for attending.

Road Agent John O'Connor

John updated the Board on fleet vehicle maintenance and repairs.

John explained that the new baler is in, and the technician will be coming in on Wednesday to finish the installation and program the variable drive.

Transfer Station attendant Andres Romero will be out for medical reasons starting May 6, 2023, for 4-6 weeks.

John explained that he has some concerns about the activity on Hall Road. The property owner is hauling materials from one lot to another using an off-road dump truck. John is concerned that there may be possible damage to the town road. John feels that an alteration of terrain should have been filed on both properties. Ken will talk to the Building Inspector and have him pull any permits that were filed on those properties.

A brief discussion was held on a Class VI Road Waiver application on the Rangeway off Ayers Road.

The Board thanked John for attending.

Fire Chief Mike Gamache

Chief Gamache reported that Mike Provencher has been promoted to the EMS Director.

Chief Gamache updated the Selectmen on the new Fire Truck purchase. He is planning on finalizing the specifications on Monday. He explained the process of how the truck will be built. Chief Gamache will be hiring a subcontractor that is familiar with the mechanical aspects of the truck and will accompany the Chief when they meet with the builder.

Chief Gamache reported that services for Lt. Nelson's wife will be on Friday April 28, 2023, from 6:00 – 8:00 at Phaneuf in Boscawen.

The Board thanked the Chief for attending.

Police Chief Mike Labrecque

Chief Labrecque distributed the monthly statistics. Chief Labrecque reported that the floors at the Municipal Building are done apart from a small room that will be used for an additional bunkroom.

The Chief explained that there has been an issue with the telephones at the Municipal Building. Ken explained that he had been in contact with the vendor. The system may need to be replaced but he will re-set it for now.

Chief Labrecque explained that the department had received a complaint about guns being fired. The Chief talked to the property owner to let them know that they had received complaints, but they were not in violation of any ordinances.

The Board thanked the Chief.

Library Director Rachel Baker

Rachel reported on upcoming events:

- Memorial Day Parade will be held on May 29, 2023, at 9:45 PM. Kent asked if she was looking to have the Selectmen march in the parade.
- Big Truck Day will be held on July 6, 2023, from 10:00 – 12:00 PM

A brief discussion was held on the door on the back of the library, there is a gap on the bottom. Rachel is waiting for a return call for an estimate to repair. Ken reported that he is getting a proposal to get the air conditioner fixed in the Historical Society room in the library. The challenge is finding someone to work on commercial systems. A discussion was held on the heat in that same room, Rachel will call Bacon Electric to get an estimate on installing a base board heater.

The Board thanked Rachel.

Howard Moffet – Canterbury Community Power Committee (CCPC)

Howard reported that the Coalition Risk Management Committee voted 7 – 0 to authorize Ascend Analytical to begin procuring power to the residents of Canterbury and Portsmouth at 15.8 cents per kw hour base default rate. Enough power has been procured to the first wave towns to include Canterbury and Portsmouth without going into the market again to purchase power.

The Board of Selectmen thanked Howard for all the work he has put into this project.

New Business

Ken explained that Mandy, Planning Board Associate came to him with concerns about a conditional approval that the Planning Board granted to a proposed subdivision. The application and plan are incomplete and missing a lot of the required items outlined on the checklist. The applicant should come back and go through the conditions. Kent said that he will handle this and talk to Planning Board Chairman Greg Meeh.

Cheryl reported that she received a phone call from Randi Johnson notifying her of an upcoming school committee meeting that will occur sometime between April 27 and May 4, 2023.

Scott asked for an update on the Broadband. Ken explained what process that town has done to date. Ken spoke with Comcast Representative Bryan Christiansen. Bryan has explained that the rules for the next round of funding have not been released. If Comcast is awarded, Canterbury would not

expend any funds. The ARPA funds that we have held for the broadband expansion can be used for most anything except for paying off long-term debts.

The Selectmen authorized Ken to send letters to our State Representatives, State Senators and Commissioners asking for their assistance with the expansion of Broadband in Canterbury and express the Towns concerns why the grants were being awarded to only one company when there are multiple companies that serve New Hampshire.

Scott explained that he has been approached by several people to discuss the Broadband issue and asked if a committee should be formed to explore all options available. Scott will reach out for volunteers. Ken will have this put on the website and town email.

Old Business

Kent wanted to discuss the ZBA appointment slip that was put on hold from the last meeting. Kent explained that they now have the ability to make a change to that Board. Cheryl explained that she has reviewed the ZBA minutes and felt that this individual did not bring his own feelings into a particular case and has been a good volunteer. He puts a lot of effort into the board and hates to lose him. Jan mentioned that it is unfortunate that they have someone that is willing to volunteer and then have someone else decide that he should not serve. Jan had mentioned that there would be a vacancy on the Zoning Board next year. After consideration, Scott signed the appointment slip along with Cheryl. Kent did not sign it.

The Selectmen reviewed the budget vs. actual report. Ken highlighted some areas that are overspent or close to it.

Scott made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 PM. Cheryl seconded the motion.

The next scheduled Selectmen's meeting will be held on May 1, 2023, at 5:00 PM at the Meetinghouse.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Stout
Administrative Assistant