

Town of Canterbury
Selectmen's Meeting
February 19, 2019

Selectmen Present: Art Hudson
Cheryl Gordon
George Glines

Town Administrator: Ken Folsom

The meeting was called to order 4:01 PM.

Administrative

The Board signed: A/P Manifest
P/R Manifest
Elderly Exemption
Restoration of Involuntary Merged Lot
Interfund Transfer – Land Use Change Tax

Minutes

The Selectmen reviewed the minutes of the February 4, 2019 Selectmen's meeting. George made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Cheryl seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Appointments

Road Agent – John O'Connor

John explained that they have gone through almost twice of much resident sand since it has been moved to the entrance of the Transfer Station. Art explained that they are working on getting a new heater installed in the office at the Transfer Station.

John reported that the new truck is working out, David is happy with it.

Keith Brown stated that it is much appreciated having the sand pile at the dump. He also commented on the plowing of Shaker Road, they are doing a great job.

The Board thanked John for attending.

The Selectmen opened the discussion on proposed warrant article #3 *"To see if the Town will Vote to discontinue the combined office of Town Clerk/Tax Collector under the provisions of RSA 41:45-a."*

The Selectmen explained that if this passes, the position would be split next year. It doesn't necessarily mean that the same person would not hold both positions.

Laurie Lockwood stated that there are two people running for the 3 year position, would the newly elected person be approved to continue or would the Selectmen appoint a new one. Art explained that their envision would be to appoint the Tax Collector. The position would be advertised/posted, the Board would have the opportunity to choose the most qualified person for the position.

Charlie Sanborn asked what the specific problems and why is the Board thinking it's a good idea. Cheryl explained that the position handles a lot of money with no oversight with the exception of the voters. The Selectmen are responsible that the office is running responsibly.

Cheryl Himes explained that she is running for the position. She went into this thinking it is a 3 year term and feels that it is a hardship if the position is split.

Cheryl G. explained that if the person is not doing their job, the Selectmen would have the ability to replace them. She feels that the person in that position should have some oversight.

Al Edelstein commented that it seems that one of the Boards major concerns is that the salary is dependent about how people feel you are doing the job. Chris Blair believes that the Selectmen should do personnel reviews across the board.

Tyson Miller spoke in favor of the warrant article. It's more of a business position, as an employer, you will get more qualified applicants. You won't be taking the chance of getting an unqualified person.

Chris Blair asked what towns in the area are doing. Ken explained that he did some research and found that there is no consistency.

Keith Brown stated that if the Selectmen are unhappy with that person, they don't get a raise. Cheryl G. explained that she is not comfortable with doing a review on an elected person. The review has no teeth.

Doris Hampton explained that we are fortunate to have people step forward and run for these positions. She expressed concerns that the Tax Collector would not have any oversight, but what knowledge do the towns people use to elect the Selectmen. Art explained that most have been involved in other town committees and build up a reputation. Art further explained that the Tax Collector has unique skills, accounting, etc.

Cheryl Himes explained that she is not in favor of splitting the position. Sam Papps feels that this needs to be elected and the qualifications would evolve.

George explained that it is not the Boards position to necessarily get rid of the Tax Collector in one year.

Charlie Sanborn stated that it seems to be a hasty decision and would like to see a list of pros and cons. He is not comfortable making the decision with the information that he has. Kathy Doherty explained that she is not getting a clear understanding from the Selectmen and would like to know the reasons behind the Selectmen's decision.

Tyson suggested that the Selectmen could commit to hire the person who ran for the remaining two years. Hire the person that was elected, then they become a town employee.

Sylvia Stiles feels that it's unfair to people running today, to address the position down the road. There should be a better concept of what would happen.

A general discussion was held on when and where the elected official would get training for this position.

Beth Blair questioned if the warrant article could be amended to reflect a 3-year position. Art explained that no it can't, it's on the ballot.

The Selectmen thanked everyone for attending.

Police Chief Mike Labrecque

Mike reported on the Police Department monthly statistics.

Art asked to have Kimball Pond Road monitored for speeding.

The Board thanked Mike for attending.

Fire Chief Guy Newbery

Guy distributed the monthly statistics of the department.

He updated that Selectmen on the monthly training. Guy reported that they are working with a vendor on the intermittent pump engaging problems on E2.

The Board thanked Guy for attending.

Laurie Lockwood asked why the Selectmen are not recommending the warrant article #17 *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) for the replacement of the dam at Turning Mill Pond at Canterbury Shaker Village.*

Art explained that when the article was first proposed, the Board did not feel it was a good use of tax payer money. They felt that it should come from the Conservation Commission.

Kevin Bragg asked as Selectmen, do you feel it would be worthwhile. The Village is Looking at it more of a fire safety.

Art explained that the Selectmen would support the money coming from the Conservation Commission Capital Reserve.

A brief discussion was held on possible amending the warrant article. Kathy Doherty stated that she would like to see the Selectmen offer information on the warrant article and explain to the tax payers their position. Art explained that the Selectmen will be

explaining this at town meeting.

The Board thanked Kevin Bragg, Scott and Kathy Doherty and Laurie Lockwood for staying and discussing warrant article #17,

Art made a motion to change Energy Committee Member John Hebert to an alternate position and appoint Jeff Beltramo as a regular member. George seconded the motion. Motion passed by roll call: Art – Yes, George – Yes, Cheryl – No.

The Selectmen reviewed a policy on Storage of Personal Property on Town Property. George made a motion to establish a storage policy and agreement. Cheryl seconded the motion. All in favor, the Selectmen signed the policy.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on March 4, 2019 at 5:00 PM at the Meeting House.

Art made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 PM. George seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Stout
Administrative Assistant