

Town of Canterbury
Selectmen's Meeting
January 18, 2021

Selectmen Present: Cheryl Gordon
Robert Steenson via teleconference
Town Administrator: Ken Folsom

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

Appointments

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Sam Papps

Sam distributed the uncollected taxes report, with approximately \$200,000 uncollected from 2020. Sam discussed with the Selectmen how to proceed with Town Meeting. Ken reported that SB 2 gives Towns the authority to push the town meeting out up to July, but it is not scheduled to be discussed in the House until Feb. 15th. HB 1129 allows for virtual town meetings. The Selectmen will review HB 1129 and SB 2 and will meet with Sam, Moderator Ted LeClair on Monday, January 25, 2021, to discuss the options available for town meeting.

The Board thanked Sam.

Road Agent John O'Connor

John explained that the International is back up and running. The backhoe has been delivered to Case for repairs.

Bob explained that at the previous Selectmen's meeting, the Selectmen did not have enough information to go forward with the proposed warrant article to purchase a large baler, such as, additional labor needed, building alterations. For the time being, the paper will be transported in the trailers recently acquired. John reported that the trailers are ready, he is just waiting on license plates from the state.

Mr. Carson joined the meeting via telephone.

Bob explained that Mr. and Mrs. Carson have a purchase and sale agreement on the 295 acre "Mourning Dove" property on Route 106. The Carsons would like to build a single family residence on the property with driveway access off Ames Road (Class VI Road). Their future plans include conserving the entire property minus the house lot.

Bob reported that the Conservation Commission had discussed the property, the Class VI Road Waiver and the Carson's conservation intentions at their last meeting. The Conservation Commission supports a single family residence and the issuance of a driveway permit and looks forward to working with the Carson's to help conserve the property in the future. They feel that Ames Road has scenic value in its current condition and that road upgrades beyond basic maintenance are not desirable. The Planning Board discussed the Road Waiver application at their last meeting and has similar recommendations, noting that the Carson's driveway would be closer to the main road than the existing driveways on Ames Road and that there are no wetland crossings or other significant impacts. The Fire Department wanted to address the road narrowing in some spots and make sure fire truck access and turn-around is adequate

Bob suggested that the Selectmen, Fire Chief, and Road Agent meet on site and walk the road to come up with a detailed scope for necessary upgrades. John explained that the standards could be waived, but making the turn into the proposed driveway a large tree at the entrance should be removed or it could be difficult to get a fire truck in. Chief Gamache stated that he drove up the

Road, they can access the houses for medical calls, and his main concern would be the maintenance of the road.

Bob explained that the Carson's purchase and sales agreement expires on January 29, 2021. Bob made a motion for the Board of Selectmen to approve the future issuance of a building permit and the execution of a Class VI Road waiver with road improvements limited to conserve the current look of the road and changes to the least possible. Specifics subject to be determined after the on-site visit. Cheryl seconded the motion.

The Board thanked John,

Fire Chief Mike Gamache

Mike distributed the monthly statistics.

All of the Fire Department members have been offered the COVID vaccination.

Mike reported that he is having discussions with possibly three new members. Two members have been terminated. Deputy Chief Nick Baker has submitted his resignation effective March 1, 2021.

EMS training continues via Zoom, Fire Training has suspended through January, Mike will re-visit in February.

The Cascade system purchased through the grant is scheduled for late January install.

The repairs on E-2 have been completed. The Firehouse software that is being used is no longer being supported, he will be looking into alternatives.

Bob wanted to recognize Deputy Chief Nick Baker, he has been a superb contributor to the Department and the Board expresses their gratitude for his service.

Bob suggested that Mike put the vaccination notification on the Town website.

The Board thanked Mike for attending.

Chief Mike Labrecque

Mike distributed the monthly statistics. All the Officers have been offered the vaccination and the Chief is requiring it

The cameras have been installed in both the booking and interview rooms.

The Selectmen discussed with Mike the option of purchasing the police cruisers instead of leasing them and rolling them into the proposed bond for the Morrill Road Bridge. They are looking to do this with the Fire Department Command Car too. The current bond rate is 0.74% while the lease rate is around 6%.

The Board thanked Mike for attending.

Library Director Sue LeClair and Library Trustee Claudia Leidinger

Ken asked if the heating system issues had been resolved. Sue reported that Larry Martin had been in and moved the thermostats and changed out a fan. Everything is working well.

Sue asked if some crushed stone could be placed at the back entrance. The water is splashing up on the side of the building. The Board will ask John O'Connor to meet with Sue.

Budget Committee Members Tyson Miller & Kent Ruesswick joined the meeting.

Ken reported on the highlights of the proposed budget. The Highway and Fire Department have asked to encumber money left over in their budget to purchase equipment needed and necessary repairs to some of the equipment.

The Town has received additional revenue from the State for COVID 19 reimbursement and a First Responder Stipend.

The Highway Road Improvement budget has increased to allow 2 miles of paving each year. The Fire Department will be holding off purchasing a Fire Truck but would like to purchase a command car. The Building Inspector would like to purchase the Avitar building permit software that will interact with the assessing software.

Tyson questioned if the money from the Planning Board for the Central NH Regional Planning Commission contract would be encumbered. Ken explained that the original contract was for \$7,800 for phase 1 of the contract. They have been paid \$4,800 and have been unable to continue the project because of COVID 19 and unable to set up meetings. If they are able to complete phase 1 this year, there is enough money in the professional services budget to do so.

Bob explain that the Solid Waste Committee was hoping to put in a warrant article for a full-size baler this year. The Selectmen decided not to go forward this year as there are too many unknowns at this point. The Town has purchased 3 trailers and will contract with a local hauler to bring the paper/cardboard to Wilmington, MA.

Library Trustee Claudia Leidinger explained that the Library tried to come under last year's budget and they put in only what was absolutely necessary. She questioned what the Selectmen were proposing for wage increases for town employees. The Library Trustees would like to do the same for the Library employees. Bob explained the Town is proceeding with the standard process for employee performance evaluations and performance based compensation increases. The Board of Selectmen set a range of 0-3% per the CPI.

Ken explained that he is working on an RFP to send to Consolidated Communications and Comcast for expanded broadband service in the underserved parts of town. There may be federal money available in 2021 for infrastructure projects and in order to apply, the town must have a plan ready.

The Board thanked Mike Gamache, Mike Labrecque and John O'Connor for attending the meeting.

Tyson Miller and Kent Ruesswick thanked the Selectmen and left the meeting.

The Board signed:

A/P Manifest a total amount of \$42,315.05

P/R Manifest a total amount of \$37,657.93

Appointment Slip for the Energy Committee

Letter to Rick Crockford & Bob Drew re: use of the Sam Lake Garage

At a prior Selectmen's meeting, they had received a request for an abatement on interest accrued on taxes. The Board asked to have more information on why this request was being made. The

response received was “these are hard times”. Without a specific hardship and in the interest and fairness to other taxpayers, the Board denied the request.

Minutes

The Selectmen reviewed the minutes of the January 4, 2021 meeting. Bob made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Cheryl seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

The next Selectmen’s meeting will be held on February 1, 2021, at 5:00 PM at the Meetinghouse.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Stout
Administrative Assistant