

Town of Canterbury
Selectmen's Meeting
June 21, 2021

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

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

Administrative

Sign: Intent to Cut – Tax Map 247 Lot 37

Bob made a motion to sign the Accounts Payable Manifest in the amount of \$15,842.21. Cheryl seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Bob made a motion to sign the Payroll Manifest in the amount of \$42,441.47. Cheryl seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes of the June 7, 2021 meeting. Cheryl made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Art seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Appointments

Fire Chief Mike Gamache

Mike distributed the monthly statistics of the Department. Mike reported that they were dispatched for a lost hiker off Sunset Hill Road. Fish & Game, Loudon Fire and a neighbor assisted. The situation ended with a positive outcome with the person being returned safely to his family.

Mike reported that EMS training will resume in person. Mike received a call from NH Motor Speedway asking to have Fire personnel and a Fire Truck at the north gate for the July NASCAR race. The detail rate was discussed. Bob made a motion to adopt the same rate as the Police rate for details. Art seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Mike has made arrangements for 2 Fire Department Members to be present at the fireworks display.

The floatation devises have been ordered and will be put with the signs at the beaches.

The delivery date for the command car has been moved up to August-September 2021.
The Board thanked Mike for attending.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Sam Papps

Sam distributed the collections report for tax payments. Sam reviewed with the Selectmen four properties that will be deeded on Thursday, June 25, 2021. The Selectmen will review the properties and get back to Sam if they find it is not in the best interests of the Town to take the properties for back taxes.

The Board thanked Sam for attending.

Road Agent John O'Connor

John reported that the backhoe is back in the shop for a hydraulic pump repair. He has placed 25 mph signs on Old Gilmanton Road.

A discussion was held on the delayed installation on the Morrill Road Bridge. Ken will contact Aries Engineering to see if DES has responded to their requested information. Ken will also contact M.A. Bean to see about rescheduling the bridge installation.

There have been three employment applications received, two for the full-time position and one for the seasonal position. Ken has contacted the applicants and is waiting for return calls.

The Board thanked John for attending.

Police Chief Mike Labrecque

Mike distributed the monthly statistics for the Department.

Mike reported that he is in the process of hiring a Full-time Officer that will be attending the Police Academy in the fall.

The Department of Corrections crew is back at the Municipal Building finishing up painting the interior.

Mike explained that he has been having difficulty getting officers to work at the NHMS gates for the NASCAR race in July. Other agencies are paying the officers more per hour than what Canterbury is offering. Mike asked to raise the detail pay from \$42.00 to \$45.00 per hour and keep the administrative rate at \$10.00 per hour. Bob made a motion to increase the Officer's detail pay to \$45.00 per hour. Cheryl seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

The Board thanked Mike for attending.

Bob Drew and Rick Crockford

Bob D. and Rick were there to discuss the Canterbury Fair using the Sam Lake garage to store items used at the Canterbury Fair. Bob Drew explained that at town meeting two years ago a vote was taken, and a large majority wanted the garage be available for the Fair. Bob D.

explained that as he sees it that garage has not been used according to the will of voters and allowing the fair to use it is a perfect use.

Bob S. gave a brief history on how the fair equipment ended up in the Town Hall. After Marcia Scarponi's barn was deemed unsafe, the Selectmen said they could house the fair equipment in the town hall basement short term. The Town never entered into an agreement to store the equipment permanently. The Town Meeting vote that Bob D. referred to in his opening remarks was non-binding, which is reflected in the minutes of the Town Meeting. Bob S. reminded the meeting that the Sam Lake House Committee determined the best use for the garage is for climate controlled storage of town records. Bob S. further stated that he is not comfortable with the legality or the precedent set by granting a private non-municipal entity exclusive use of a town building in perpetuity. Kevin Bragg stated that most people in town think of the Fair as a Town function and don't think of it as a church function. The selectmen acknowledged that while this may be the popular perception, legally the Fair is a private entity.

Rick stated that there were 240 volunteers that worked at the 2019 fair and he feels that the Board is not supporting in the spirit of the Fair and is not community spirited or neighborly. Bob S. said that he was sorry to hear that they feel that the Selectmen aren't neighborly. The BOS and the Town have provided support and Town resources including police, fire, trash disposal and the use of Town buildings for the fair for many years. .

Al Edelstein questioned that since a lot of the town records are being digitized does the town still need the garage to house records. Bob S. explained that yes, some original records must be kept in perpetuity and right now we are using the unused office space at the Sam Lake House to store them. The design of the new SLH was intended to serve our office needs far into the future. The office space currently used for storage will be needed for town officials in the future. Ken explained that the current storage area in the unused office is already over-full and some records have been moved to the basement and that there has always been a plan to use the garage for storage. Ken explained that the records being stored in the basement of the Sam Lake are not handicapped accessible, not in compliance with A.D.A. and are at risk from humidity and other issues

Bob S. explained that a year ago the Selectmen agreed to let the Committee store the items in the garage for a second year and requested they use the extra time afforded by the cancellation of the Fair to identify alternate storage solutions that do not involve the SLH garage. It is unfortunate that the time was not used productively for this purpose and the Committee remains fixated on the garage as the only solution. There was no fair last year and will not be one this year and here we are still having the same conversation.

Rick discussed drafting a warrant article for town meeting to allow the Fair to use the garage. Rick asked what the time frame was to convert the garage into a climate controlled space. Ken explained that money from the Sam Lake Trust is put into the Sam Lake capital reserve annually. Bob S. stated that the renovations are on the radar within the next 2-3 years.

Al stated that climate control can be costly. Al discussed fund raising or using the Canterbury Fund. Bob noted that the Canterbury Fund is a private fund and not a Municipal fund.

Bob and Rick asked the Selectmen to get town counsel's opinion on granting town property to a private entity.

The Board thanked Bob D. & Rick for attending

Kevin Bragg asked to have a HDC alternate appointment slip for Harry Kinter be made up.

Kevin explained that on July 3rd the "Friends of the Canterbury Store" will be having an event and asked to close the parking lot from 6:00 to the time the store is closing. The event schedule is

6:30 - 7:30 sell hot dogs, ice cream sandwiches, etc.

7:00 – 8:00 music at the Gazebo

The Selectmen will have the highway bring down some saw horses to block off the flow of traffic.

Kevin thanked the Board.

Art made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 PM. Bob seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Stout

Administrative Assistant