

Town of Danbury
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday January 18, 2023, 6:00 PM

Members present: Jessica Hatch, Chair, Tracy Shepard, Ruby Hill

Also, Karen Padgett, Administrative Assistant

Pierre Couture, Superintendent Newfound Area School District
Norma Ross, Principal Danbury Elementary School
Melissa Suckling, Danbury Representative NASD School Board

At 6:00pm Jessica Hatch opened the meeting.

The Newfound Area School District representatives attended the meeting at the request of the Danbury Board of Selectmen. The Selectmen wanted to discuss the movement of the Danbury Elementary School 5th graders to Bristol Elementary School for the 2023-2024 school year.

While student population is declining in the other district towns, Danbury school population is growing. There is not the space in the Danbury School(5 classrooms). In the past classes have been combined but now they are too large for that. So next year, the 5th graders will be going to Bristol Elementary. Per Norma Ross and Superintendent Couture, the students will be kept together.

Ruby asked what the long-term plans are. Currently, there is an architectural study being done in the school district for the various needs of all the schools. In addition, a building committee has been formed. Possible solutions include adding on to the Danbury school, consolidating buildings or building a new regional elementary school. The building committee is tasked with coming up with options to present to the voters next year.

Selectperson Hill also addressed the issue of transportation. If the Danbury 5th graders are bussed to school using the current route, they would be on the bus for two hours and 40 minutes. That would be the longest bus ride of any of the other elementary students and that should not happen. Changes should be made to alleviate the long bus ride for the 5th graders.

Another concern she expressed is that removing the 5th graders and adding services would increase the cost per pupil in Danbury which would give others in the district incentive to close DES. Superintendent Couture responded that since he has been employed by the district they have never talked about cost per pupil per school.

Superintendent Couture emphasized that the district is a “cooperative” school district. People can’t be in it just for their town, you have to think of the totality of it.

The Board thanked them all for coming in.

Tracy motioned to approve the minutes as amended for a typographical error, seconded by Jessica. Motion passed 3-0.

Consent/Signature Agenda

- Payroll and accounts payable
- January bank reconciliations
- Intent to Cut – 409-077 Somers 537 US Route 4 and 201-037 Ryan US Route 4
- Default budget of the Town
- Evans exempt certificates for diesel and gas

Jessica motioned to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Ruby. Motion passed unanimously.

Building Permit Applications

- 01-2023B Boehmer 1020 US Route 4 412-043 Placement of Manufactured home
Jessica motioned to approve the building permit, seconded by Ruby. Motion passed 3-0.
- 02-2023B Fremont 27 Deckmans Rd 416-036 New Home Construction/3 bedroom
Jessica motioned to approve, seconded by Tracy. Motion passed 3-0.

Old Business

- Selectmen warrant articles were reviewed and discussed for the final time.
- Ruby motioned to request \$29,050 from the Air Pac Capital Reserve Fund. Motion seconded by Tracy and passed 3-0.

New Business

- The Board reviewed a document from the Town Clerk listing the positions that are up for election/reelection this March.

Selectmen

Ruby brought up the subject of the flags throughout town and is willing to follow up on it.

Ruby compared the Highway budget with Hill and Grafton, and it is \$200,000 more than those towns. Jessica said they have a different number of employees and different road mileage to maintain.

Chairman Hatch will prepare the Selectmen's report and Selectperson Hill will write the dedication for the 2022 Annual Town Report will be

FYI

- Septic approval 415-037-001 Wiggin Rd/Giansanti
- NH Employment Security reporting 4th qtr.
- IRS 941 4th qtr. complete

At 7:42pm Jessica motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ruby. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be held on Wednesday, February 1, 2023, at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Padgett, Administrative Assistant