

Town of Danbury

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday August 31, 2022, 6:00 PM

Members present: Jessica Hatch, Chair, Ruby Hill

Absent Tracy Shepard

Administrative Assistant Karen Padgett

Appointments: 7:00pm Eric Barnes, Ragged Mountain Resort Manager/Road Agent Cornell

Others present: Deborah Aylward

At 6pm Jessica Hatch opened the meeting.

The approval of the August 17 minutes was tabled until Selectman Shepard is present, as Selectman Hill did not attend that meeting.

Consent/Signature Agenda

- Payroll and accounts payable
- 2022 MS-1 Summary of Inventory Valuation
- Deed for Joseph Bruderman
- Veteran's credit 411-020

The veteran's credit application was removed from the consent agenda until the one-year residency requirement can be verified.

Jessica motioned to approve the remainder of the consent agenda, seconded by Ruby. All in favor.

Building/Driveway Permit Applications

- **31-2022B LANE/MARTISIUS/144 Spear Hill Rd/412-006/New 3-bedroom home/Jessica** motioned to approve the building permit, seconded by Ruby. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

- Brook Dupee of HMC Precision on Dean Road called the office today to inform the Board of Selectmen that a new piece of machinery will be brought in on Friday 9/2 to replace equipment that needs repair. The broken equipment will be placed in the new garage. He asked if the Board could inform the neighbors of this. Jessica will call Evelyn Pagella and ask her to spread the word to the others in her area.
- Per RSA 31:95-b, the Board of Selectmen will hold two public hearings on 9/7 for accepting unanticipated revenue from the American Rescue Plan Act and from the State of New Hampshire SB 401 funds.
- Anna Offen, Town Moderator, will appoint a temporary moderator to officiate the NH primary election on September 13, as she will be unable to fulfill her responsibilities on that date. The Democratic Party has named two election inspectors for the primary. Administrative Assistant Padgett has reached out to the Republican Party to ask if they have appointed any election inspectors. The Republican National Committee has hired Joseph Gagnon as its election integrity director in New Hampshire to recruit and train volunteer poll watchers on a statewide basis for the 2022 elections. However, after contacting Mr. Gagnon several times by phone and email, no response has been received. If the party does not appoint election inspectors, the Board of Selectmen will appoint two election inspectors for the Republican Party. There was discussion about the difficulty in finding volunteers to work elections.
- Chief Martin is still having an issue getting the title for the used pumper truck. While the truck is registered, the DMV returned the title application.
- Jeff McIver of Consolidated Communications will be making a zoom presentation on 9/7 at 7pm to inform the Board about pricing for Fidium Fiber.

New Business

- A letter was signed to the Danbury Christian Church regarding the exemption on the property. The church property has been considered exempt from taxation under NH RSA 72:23 III as a house of worship. However, to qualify for this property tax exemption, the building must be “owned, used and occupied directly for religious training or for other religious purposes”. It is clear that the Danbury Christian Church building has not been used or occupied for religious services for many years. The letter informed the church that the property will be taxed going forward.
- An email request from Deborah Aylward asked to have the absentee ballot application and other voting links on the Town of Danbury website. Town Clerk Tricia Taylor responded to the requests. Absentee ballot applications can be obtained by emailing the Town Clerk at danburyclerk@comcast.net or calling the office, 603 768-5448.

Road Agent Cornell presented two paving quotes: one for the Transfer Station entrance on Pine Drive and the other for the top of Wiggin Road. Jessica motioned to approve paving for Wiggin Road in the amount of \$8,400 and for Pine Drive to the Transfer Station for \$13,465. Motion seconded by Ruby. All in favor.

He also presented a purchase order for 2 tires for the 2019 truck in the amount of \$1,515.20. Jessica motioned to approve the purchase order, seconded by Ruby. All in favor.

Ragged Mountain Road

The Ragged Mountain Resort General Manager, Eric Barnes, along with two others from his management team, met with the Board of Selectmen and Road Agent Cornell to discuss the repair of Ragged Mountain Road from New Canada Road to Deckmans Road.

Jessica stated that the Board wants to start a conversation on a joint partnership to mitigate the problems on the road.

The Resort is already working on a problem with the parking lot that is washing out Deckmans Road. The changes being made should alleviate that problem. Mr. Barnes stated that the other parking lots have been engineered and the flow of the water is into the culverts. However, Jessica disagreed, saying that the water flows right down the middle of the driveway onto the road. She also said that the catch basins and the ditches need to be cleared out, so the water flows properly. This is a town responsibility. In addition, the condition of a large culvert at the bottom of the hill is unknown. In the event that it has to be replaced, that would be a huge and costly project.

She sees the entire road project as a joint venture between the Resort and the Town to combine resources and funds together to fix the road which is in bad condition. The increase in traffic, the change in terrain, and the increased water flow off the mountain difficult for the town road to handle as it was built for different conditions.

Mr. Barnes stated several times that the Resort will take care of whatever they are responsible for financially. The Resort owns the road from Deckmans up to the main mountain parking lots. If any engineering needs to be done on their portion, they will take care of it. They will also ask their engineering company for advice about the drainage on the rest of the road and what it might cost to engineer the lower portion of the road.

Jessica said the Town is looking at this as a one- or two-year project.

Selectmen

Ruby reported on the most recent Article 5 Committee meeting. There was a motion to dissolve the committee, which did not pass. The committee is not making any progress and the Chair of the committee will not call another meeting until there is a proposal on the table.

Ruby inquired about the fees that businesses pay to use the transfer station. Jessica explained that construction debris is charged by the truckload, not by the business. Most businesses have their own

dumpster. Transfer Station fees are set just to cover the cost of removal and collection of these fees has improved over the last few years.

The Board worked on and completed the required information for the MS-434 Estimated Revenues form that is due to the State on 9/1.

FYI

- Newfound Landing article about Danbury Police Chief
- White Farm surplus auction 10/15/2022
- Site plan review notice/9/6/22 7pm for 27 North Road

At 7:29 Jessica motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ruby. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be held on Wednesday, September 7, 2022, at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Padgett, Administrative Assistant