

**TOWN OF NEW DURHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
April 13, 2023, 6:00PM
New Durham Town Hall, New Durham, NH 03855**

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PRESENT

Marc DeCoff, Select Board Chair
Dorothy Veisel, Select Board Member
David Swenson, Select Board Member

ALSO PRESENT

Will Cardinal, Road Agent
Alicia Housel, Town Clerk
Kathleen Blaney, Tax Collector
Ron Uyeno, resident
Ellen Phillips, resident
Janis Anthes, resident
Greg Anthes, resident
Rudy Rosiello, resident

CALL TO ORDER

Chair DeCoff called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Roll Call & Pledge Allegiance

Roll call was taken for Board members present. The Pledge of Allegiance said by those present.

Public Input

Ellen Phillips, resident, asked the Board to consider having a professional arborist trim the evergreen tree at the front of Town Hall.

Janis Anthes, resident, stated she has concerns about Mr. Swenson returning to the Board of Selectmen; she explained her concerns about his poor oversight of Town employees and contract services as well as alleging, in her opinion, harassment and bullying within the workplace.

Greg Anthes, resident, reiterated the same concerns in regard to Mr. Swenson being on the Board of Selectmen. He stated he also has concerns with a member of the Board being absent as frequently as Mr. Swenson and attending meeting via zoom.

Ron Uyeno, resident, stated many of the comments made by the Anthes are unfounded and pointed out the election results show many voters don't agree with them; he stated most residents' perception of what goes on in Town is limited and thanked the Board for their efforts.

Mr. Swenson stated Copple Crown Village District has a public hearing on April 22, 2023, 9:00 AM at 81 Mountain Drive.

Mr. Swenson stated that in response to prior comments made during public input, he doesn't believe there was any factual information presented.

Chair DeCoff stated a letter was received from Southeast Land Trust (SELT), requesting the Board nominate a resident to serve on the management committee. He encouraged interested individuals to contact himself or Town Administrator Zoltko.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Chair DeCoff stated Town Administrator Zoltko was unable to be present due to a death in her family.

Committee Nominations

The Board reviewed the following nominations for committees:

1. CIP Committee Member At Large – Thomas Baker

Selectman Swenson made a motion to nominate Thomas Baker as a member of the Advisory Capital Improvement Plan Committee for a one year term. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

2. CIP Committee Member At Large – Mark McFadden

Selectman Swenson made a motion to nominate Mark McFadden as a member of the Advisory Capital Improvement Plan Committee for a one year term. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

3. Parks & Recreation Commission – Jamie L. Bamford

Selectman Veisel stated Ms. Bamford has been a very valuable volunteer to the commission and is well versed in insurance and liability.

Selectman Swenson made a motion to nominate Jamie Bamford as a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Chair DeCoff seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Signed Appropriations as Voted (MS-232)

The Board reviewed the MS-232 form.

Selectman Veisel motioned to approve MS-232 Report of Appropriations for the Town of New Durham for the period beginning January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2023. Chair DeCoff seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Chair DeCoff motioned to add a non-public session to the agenda. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Selectman Swenson thanked Mr. Uyeno for his recent service on the Board of Selectmen in order to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Rudy Rosiello.

Energy and Climate Opportunities in New Hampshire for New Durham

Tabled.

NHMA 91-A Training Course for Boards, Committees, and Employees

Tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Select Board Election of Officers

1. Chair and Vice Chair

Selectman Veisel nominated David Swenson as Chair of the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Swenson seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-1-0. Mr. DeCoff opposed.

Chair Swenson nominated Dot Veisel as Vice Chair of the Board of Selectmen. Selectman DeCoff seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

2. Select Board Committee Appointments

Chair Swenson motioned to have Selectman DeCoff be the Board representative to the Planning Board. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Chair Swenson motioned to have Selectman Veisel be the Board representative to the Advisory Capital Improvement Planning Committee. Selectman DeCoff seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Chair Swenson motioned to have Selectman DeCoff be the Board representative to the Meetinghouse Committee. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Selectman Veisel motioned to have Chair Swenson be the Board representative to the Budget Committee. Selectman DeCoff seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Department of Public Works Highway Division, request for modified summer hours

Will Cardinal, Road Agent, presented a request for the work schedule to be four, ten hour workdays per week. Chair Swenson asked how long this would be effective. Road Agent Cardinal stated last year it was until the first snowstorm; he stated the hours would be 6:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Thursday. Selectman Veisel stated she believes it worked well last year and was an advantage for the crew. It was noted the payroll was down an employee in 2021 but in 2022, the crew was able to complete more jobs and downtime was diminished.

Selectman DeCoff motioned to approve the summer hours of 6:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Thursday for the Highway Department beginning May 1, 2023 until December 31, 2023 or the first snowstorm. Chair Swenson seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Acceptance of charitable donations for the Meetinghouse Restoration Committee

Ms. Phillips, Chair of 1772 Meetinghouse Restoration Committee, presented a request from the Meetinghouse Committee to accept charitable donations totaling \$1,249.42.

Selectman DeCoff motioned to accept the charitable donations for the 1772 Meetinghouse Restoration Committee from the period of February 17, 2023 to April 12, 2023 in the amount of

\$1,249.42 to be deposited in the Meetinghouse Charitable Checking Account. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Community Development Finance Authority Grant Opportunity

Ms. Phillips presented information and a request to apply for federal ARPA funds through a grant for community centers only. She stated it is to help towns and municipalities have community centers; she stated the Meetinghouse Committee voted on April 12, 2023 to pursue moving forward with the application. She explained it would be for Phase 2 of the project. She stated they also have an architect willing to draw plans at no cost. Ms. Phillips stated there will be a Zoom call on Monday with a representative to discuss their project and the grant program. Chair Swenson suggested considering the formation of group to develop a marketing or usage plan for the Meetinghouse. Selectman Veisel stated she will strongly advocate for police and fire department involvement in youth and community service programs. It was noted the grant application will be due in August, 2023.

Tax Collector Department, Request for Modified Summer Hours & Tax Abatements

Kathleen Blaney, Finance Manager, presented a request for modified summer hours for the Tax Collector. She stated the current hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM; the proposal is for the PT Tax Collector office hours to go to three days per week, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Alicia Housel, Town Clerk, stated she is fine with the change in hours although her hours won't change. She stated it offers residents extra hours at the end of the day. Chair Swenson stated he is concerned about not having two people in the building during open hours. Selectman Veisel suggested one of the days being Tuesday as there are Planning Board meetings in the evening as well. Ms. Blaney stated she is comfortable being here on her own and has done so in the past when she worked in Middleton; she stated Ms. Zoltko is often here that late as well each night.

Selectman DeCoff motioned to approve the adjustment of the Tax Collector's hours in the office, to Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM, from May 8, 2023 to November 30, 2023. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

The Board reviewed requests for tax abatements. Ms. Blaney confirmed these were reviewed by the contract assessor.

Selectman DeCoff motioned to approve the request for abatements for Map 209, Lot 095 and Lot 094 for a lien in the amount of \$272 and for the first tax bill in the amount of \$126 for a total abatement of \$398. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

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Selectman DeCoff motioned to approve the request for abatement for Map 209, Lot 068 that was merged with lot 069 in the amount of \$315. Chair Swenson seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Selectman DeCoff motioned to approve the request for abatement for Map 210, Lot 033 that was merged with Map 209, Lot 069 in the amount of \$20. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Tax Credit Application & Timber Tax Abatement

The Board reviewed a veteran tax credit application and confirmed eligibility requirements were met.

Selectman DeCoff motioned to approve the request for a Veterans Tax Credit for Map 234, Lot 049 in the amount of \$750. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

The Board reviewed a timber bill of April 2022 which went to SELT in the amount of \$76.13; per RSA 79:8 the owner has to file an abatement request within 90 days and a letter was not received by the Town in that time frame. Chair Swenson noted the recommendation from the assessor is to not approve the abatement request due to it not being filed on time. Selectman DeCoff stated taxes aren't charged on the property but the timber is being taken for revenue and believes the taxes should be paid. Chair Swenson agreed.

Selectman DeCoff motioned to deny the request for an abatement for the April 2022 timber tax for Southeast Land Trust in the amount of \$76.13 as the requirements of RSA 79:8 were not met. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Chair Swenson motioned to enter nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91:A-3 II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted; (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee; (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant; (e) Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed by or against the public body or any subdivision thereof, or by or against any member thereof because of his or her membership in such public body, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. Any application filed for tax abatement, pursuant to law, with any body or board shall not constitute a threatened or filed litigation against any public body for the purposes of this subparagraph.

Selectman DeCoff seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Selectman Veisel -aye; Selectman DeCoff -aye; Chair Swenson-aye. Motion passed 3-0-0.

The Board entered nonpublic session at 7:05 PM.

The Board reentered public session at 7:54 PM.

Chair Swenson motioned to seal the minutes of the nonpublic session of April 13, 2023 for reasons it may adversely affect the reputation of one other than the Board. Selectman DeCoff seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Chair Swenson motioned to hire Candidate #1 for the Solid Waste Facility position at a rate of \$14.00 per hour conditional on candidate passing a driving test within three months of employment and the candidate not operating any drivable solid waste equipment until driving license is obtained and proper training is completed with an estimated start date of May 1, 2023 with continued employment conditional upon completion of all background checks. Selectman DeCoff seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Town of New Durham Board of Selectmen Meeting

April 13, 2023

NEXT MEETING

April 24, 2023, 6:00 PM, New Durham Town Hall

Chair Swenson motioned to adjourn. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Riel

Jennifer Riel, Recording Secretary