

TOWN OF NEW DURHAM
August 8, 2023, 4:00 P.M.
New Durham Community Room, New Durham, NH 03855

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PRESENT

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

ALSO PRESENT

Nicole Zoltko, Town Administrator
Greg Anthes, Resident
Rudy Rosiello, Resident
Bob Bickford, Resident
Celeste Chasse, Parks and Recreation

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Swenson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Meetinghouse Committee: Discuss Grant and Donations

Bob Bickford, 1772 Meetinghouse Committee, stated the Committee is working on a grant application; he stated a subcommittee has been formed for this project. He stated he has talked with a local architect who has offered to do the conceptual drawings at cost and also provide recommendations with regard to the architectural process with conceptual plans. Mr. Bickford stated conceptual plans are going to be needed to move forward with grant applications. He stated they have also researched an additional funding source through a community block grant. He stated they are also working on advertising to get the information out to the community and to gain support and involvement. There was a discussion about having a public meeting for a presentation.

MOTION: To receive and accept the donations in the amount of \$212.66 for the time period of July 12, 2023 to August 4, 2023, for the 1772 Meetinghouse Restoration Committee and the donations to be deposited in the 1772 Meetinghouse Charitable EFT. Motion by Chair Swenson. Second by Vice Chair Veisel. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Mr. Bickford stated they have discussed plans with Vision Solar and information was presented for review by the Board; Mr. Bickford explained part of the grant requires renewable energy sources.

Public Input

Greg Anthes, resident, submitted 91-A Right To Know Requests (RTK) in regard to a complaint sent to the New Hampshire Department of Labor. He asked who investigated the complaint and whether it had been resolved; he also asked if the complaint against Chair Swenson had been investigated and

resolved. Mr. Anthes asked if there had been an investigation into the complaint against Police Chief Bernier; he also asked about the legal costs to the town for these issues. Chair Swenson publicly acknowledged receipt of Mr. Anthes RTK requests and copies were given to Chair Swenson and TA Zoltko.

Rudy Rosiello, resident, stated he is concerned about posting public meetings; he stated there needs to be two public posting locations and the last Board wanted the Town website utilized for this. He stated the postings are not being put on the Town website in a timely manner, nor are the agendas. Mr. Rosiello stated a few years ago a technology policy was developed with guidelines for social media use to ensure the Town is not liable for sites where they can't control the content; he asked the Board be careful and not allow that to occur.

Town Administrator's Report

Town Administrator Zoltko stated an email went out on Thursday regarding Town Hall operating hours and she provided an outline for review by the Board. She stated she discussed the changes with Town Hall staff and research was done by the Town Clerk / Tax Collector to compare with neighboring communities; she suggested this information be posted on the website because there has been so much public interest on the topic.

Selectman DeCoff gave an update on the meeting by the Public Building Site Committee; he stated the idea is to have a campus that will allow for expansion in the future.

Parks & Recreation BBQ Date Change

The Board reviewed a request to reschedule a Parks and Recreation event.

MOTION: To approve the request to change the date of the volunteer celebration and the opening to the Town from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Ballfield for Parks and Recreation. Motion by Chair Swenson. Second by Vice Chair Veisel. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Ms. Chasse presented a recommendation for the hiring of a beach attendant.

MOTION: To hire Brady Call, as a beach attendant for Parks and Recreation at a rate of \$10 per hour, effective July 12, 2023. Motion by Chair Swenson. Second by Selectman DeCoff. Motion passed 3-0-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Breezeline Extension

The Board reviewed the proposed renewal contract. Town Administrator Zoltko stated there were concerns about customer service delays and after discussing this with the cable consortium, ultimately asking for a five-year extension is not possible. She stated the recommendation is the Town continues to work with Donahue and Tucker, the attorneys working on the consortium franchise agreement renewal process. The Board discussed whether there are other companies they can look into contracting with as well as extending the contract for only one year. Selectman DeCoff noted the current contract has been used since 2000. The Board agreed to table this for further discussion at the next meeting.

Cyclical Monitoring Results & Scheduling/ Assessing Questions

Postponed.

89

90 ***Land Use Change Tax***

91

92 The Board reviewed requests for land use change taxes. Chair Swenson noted additional paperwork is
93 needed for the land in current use and the dollar amount needs to be provided; paperwork is also
94 needed for the non-current-use property.

95 **MOTION: To approve the application for property tax credits for Map 212, Lot 011 for the**
96 **Veterans Tax Credit in the amount of \$750. Motion by Selectman DeCoff. Second by Vice Chair**
97 **Veisel. Motion passed 3-0-0.**

98

99 **NEW BUSINESS**

100 ***SWF Discount for New Durham Elementary***

101 The Board reviewed a request from the New Durham Elementary School to receive discounted fees for
102 disposal of electronics at the Solid Waste Facility. Selectman DeCoff stated he is opposed and does not
103 want to set a precedent. Chair Swenson stated he would have no problem approving the request for
104 discounts provided there are no constraints with the Town utilizing the gym for election voting.

105 **MOTION: To allow the disposal of three electronics from the New Durham Elementary School to**
106 **the New Durham Solid Waste Facility and allow them to dispose at no cost; this is a one-time,**
107 **non-precedent setting action. Motion by Chair Swenson. Second by Vice Chair Veisel. Motion**
108 **passed 2-1-0. Selectman DeCoff opposed.**

109

110 ***Town Property Bid Update***

111 Town Administrator Zoltko provided information compiled by the Tax Collector which lists the
112 specifics of the bids; it was confirmed the bids are from abutters but would not meet the minimum
113 requirements. The Board reviewed the information presented.

114 **MOTION: To accept the bid on Map 210, Lot 009, 016, and 017, in the amount of \$15,000 cash,**
115 **per the bid dated July 19, 2023 from Samuel West of New Durham. Motion by Selectman**
116 **DeCoff. Second by Vice Chair Veisel. Motion passed 3-0-0.**

117 **MOTION: To accept the bid on Map 210, Lot 008, in the amount of \$2,500 and Map 210, Lot 019**
118 **in the amount of \$2,000, per the bid dated July 20, 2023 from Timothy Dinges of New Durham.**
119 **Motion by Selectman DeCoff. Second by Chair Swenson. Motion passed 3-0-0.**

120

121 ***Budget Schedule FY 2024***

122 August 9, 2023 - Joint meeting with Budget Committee

123 ***Voting Machine Demo – Concord***

124 Chair Swenson stated he and Selectman DeCoff, along with Town Moderator Callaway, went to
125 Concord to look at three different voting machines. He stated there are four elections in 2024 and
126 explained the Board would make a decision on the machines after the State has approved them.

127

MOTION: To enter nonpublic session pursuant to RS 91:A-3II, (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; (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; (l) Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or more members of the public body, even where legal counsel is not present.* Motion by Chair Swenson. Second by Selectman Veisel. Roll Call Vote: Selectman Veisel -aye; Selectman DeCoff-aye; Chair Swenson-aye. Motion passed 3-0-0.

The Board entered non-public session at 6:00 p.m.

The Board reentered public session at 7:18 p.m.

MOTION: To seal the minutes of the non-public session of August 8, 2023 for reasons it may adversely affect the reputation of one other than the Board. Motion by Chair Swenson. Second by Vice Chair Veisel. Motion passed 3-0-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meeting of July 24, 2023 – **MOTION: To approve the minutes as amended. Motion by Selectman DeCoff. Second by Vice Chair Veisel. Motion passed 3-0-0.**

Meeting of July 27, 2023 – **MOTION: To approve the minutes as presented. Motion by Vice Chair Veisel. Second by Selectman DeCoff. Motion passed 3-0-0.**

Meeting of July 31, 2023 – **MOTION: To approve the minutes as presented. Motion by Selectman DeCoff. Second by Vice Chair Veisel. Motion passed 3-0-0.**

Meeting of August 3, 2023 – **MOTION: To approve the minutes as written. Motion by Selectman DeCoff. Second by Vice Chair Veisel. Motion passed 3-0-0.**

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting. Motion by Chair Swenson. Second by Vice Chair Veisel. Motion passed 3-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Riel

Jennifer Riel, Recording Secretary