

TOWN OF NEW DURHAM
Board of Selectmen Meeting
November 28, 2023, 7:00 P.M.
New Durham Town Hall, New Durham, NH 03855

Disclaimer: If technology fails, the meeting physically occurring will continue at the location above. Town of New Durham offers no security assurances to those connecting via PC to a third party software and hardware not configured or controlled by our IT Service provider.

PRESENT

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

ALSO PRESENT

Cecile Chase, Interim Town Administrator

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Swenson called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Public Input

No public present.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Interim Town Administrator Chase stated the New Hampshire Municipal Association conference was held recently and she made some good contacts while attending; she worked on the 2024 Healthcare Trust package for employees; the COBRA costs were received today for 2024.

She stated she has been working with the Building Inspector on some resident issues involving building permits and a property in disrepair after the resident was transported to the hospital.

Interim Town Administrator Chase stated she has been working with the Land Use clerk on timber cuts as well as deeds.

The Town Clerk has started working on reorganizing the first floor at Town Hall; repairs and winterization work has been done at Town Hall. TA Chase stated repairs are being started on the bell tower as well.

Appointments / Announcements

Vice Chair Veisel stated the 1772 Meetinghouse Committee has been awarded a grant to host an energy charette.

AGENDA REVIEW

Chair Swenson added a Review of First Quarter Meeting Dates; Electric Contract Discussion;

Interim Town Administrator Chase added Review of Intent to Cut Applications.

OLD BUSINESS

Taser Quote – Axon

Interim Town Administrator Chase stated Police Chief Bernier asked for better pricing from Axon but we have not heard an update recently. The Board reviewed and discussed the current quote. It was the consensus of the Board to approve the purchase of two units.

MOTION: To approve the Axon quote for two units of the 25-foot standard cartridge at \$83.30; two of the tactical battery packs at \$174.40; two of the right-hand holsters for X26P Blackhawk, \$170.20; and two for the tasers, X26P yellow with four year extended warranty, \$3,519.20 for a total of \$3,947.10, with funds to come from ARPA. Motion by Selectman DeCoff. Second by Vice Chair Veisel. Roll Call Vote: Vice Chair Veisel – aye; Selectman DeCoff – aye; Chair Swenson – aye. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Hazardous Waste Day

Chair Swenson noted the cost would be \$1,335.52. The Board discussed whether the residents of New Durham receive that value. Interim Town Administrator Chase stated the cost is estimated based on the actual collections received for the May 2023 event.

MOTION: To approve the contract for the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event for Spring of 2025 in the amount of \$1,335.52 to be held at the City of Rochester collection site. Motion by Selectman DeCoff. Second by Vice Chair Veisel. Roll Call Vote: Vice Chair Veisel – aye; Selectman DeCoff – aye; Chair Swenson – aye. Motion passed 3-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS

NHDOT Highway – Acceptance of Additional Funds

The Board reviewed and discussed a notice from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation regarding additional grant funds distributed to municipalities.

MOTION: To approve the acceptance of the additional highway funds from the State of New Hampshire DOT in the amount of \$32,261.52. Motion by Chair Swenson. Second by Vice Chair Veisel. Roll Call Vote: Vice Chair Veisel – aye; Selectman DeCoff - aye; Chair Swenson – aye. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Presidential Primary Election Site Coverage

The Board reviewed the date schedule for the upcoming elections.

Presidential Primary Election – January 23, 2024

Deliberative Session – February 6, 2024 with a snow date of February 7, 2024

Town Elections – March 12, 2024

State Primary – September 10, 2024

General Election – November 5, 2024

The Board discussed election coverage for Board members. Chair Swenson and Vice Chair Veisel will find someone to appoint their absence.

Land Use Change Tax

The Board reviewed the land use change tax request.

MOTION: For Map 240, Lot 030 to approve the Change Use Tax in the amount of \$8,000 plus the filing recording fees of \$20.66. Motion by Selectman DeCoff. Second by Vice Chair Veisel. Roll Call Vote: Vice Chair Veisel – aye; Selectman DeCoff – aye; Chair Swenson – aye. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Holiday Schedules – 2023 December & Full Year 2024

The Board reviewed the proposed holiday schedule for Town employees and departments.

MOTION: To approve the request for the staff holiday celebration early closure of 1:00 p.m. on December 20, 2023. Motion by Chair Swenson. Second by Selectman DeCoff. Roll Call Vote: Vice Chair Veisel – aye; Selectman DeCoff – aye; Chair Swenson – aye. Motion passed 3-0-0.

MOTION: To approve the holiday closure schedule for 2024 as proposed at the November 28, 2023 Board of Selectmen meeting. Motion by Chair Swenson. Second by Selectman DeCoff. Roll Call Vote: Vice Chair Veisel – aye; Selectman DeCoff – aye; Chair Swenson – aye. Motion passed 3-0-0.

ARPA Fund Usage Update

The Board reviewed and discussed a summary report of funds approved and expended.

Electric Contract

Interim Town Administrator Chase stated the electrical contract expires at the end of November; she explained the process for contracting for the power with the delivery remaining through New Hampshire Electric Cooperative. She stated the contract rate is around \$0.11 per kilowatt and she also discussed rate changes and opportunities with NHEC. She stated savings can also be obtained for municipalities and residents through other community opportunities with other providers; she suggested they research this further. The Board discussed the rate options. It was agreed to lock into the currently lower rate with the Co-op, with an opportunity to look at other options over the year.

MOTION: To approve the 12-month contract and not to exceed \$0.114 per kilowatt hour. Motion by Selectman DeCoff. Second by Vice Chair Veisel. Roll Call Vote: Vice Chair Veisel – aye; Selectman DeCoff – aye; Chair Swenson – aye. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Weston and Sampon Monitoring Contract

The Board reviewed the contract for the solid waste monitoring services. Interim Town Administrator Chase explained meeting minutes indicate the contract was approved in July 2023 but they cannot find a copy so a new approval and signature is needed.

Intent to Cut

The Board reviewed and discussed two Intent to Cut applications as presented.

MOTION: To approve the Intent to Cut for Map 264, Lot 023 and 024. Motion by Selectman DeCoff. Second by Vice Chair Veisel. Roll Call Vote: Vice Chair Veisel – aye; Selectman DeCoff – aye; Chair Swenson – aye. Motion passed 3-0-0.

MOTION: To approve the Intent to Cut for Map 222, Lot 003. Motion by Vice Chair Veisel. Second by Selectman DeCoff. Roll Call Vote: Vice Chair Veisel – aye; Selectman DeCoff – aye; Chair Swenson – aye. Motion passed 3-0-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Swenson distributed a listing of meeting minutes, including non-public meetings, which need approval.

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 the inability to pay or poverty of the applicant; (d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community; (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 Vice Chair Veisel. Roll Call Vote: Vice Chair Veisel – aye; Selectman DeCoff – aye; Chair Swenson – aye. Motion passed 3-0-0.

The Board entered non-public session at 8:18 p.m.

The Board reentered public session at 9:30 p.m.

MOTION: To seal the minutes of the non-public session of the November 28, 2023 meeting for reasons it may adversely affect the reputation of one other than the Board. Motion by Chair Swenson. Second by Selectman DeCoff. Roll Call Vote: Vice Chair Veisel – aye; Selectman DeCoff – aye; Chair Swenson – aye. Motion passed 3-0-0.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting. Motion by Chair Swenson. Second by Selectman DeCoff. Roll Call Vote: Vice Chair Veisel – aye; Selectman DeCoff – aye; Chair Swenson – aye. Motion passed 3-0-0.

168 The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

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171 Respectfully Submitted,

172 *Jennifer Riel*

173 Jennifer Riel, Recording Secretary