



TOWN OF THORNTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Town of Thornton • 16 Merrill Access Road • Thornton NH, 03285 • 603.726.8168

Approved on: 3-30-20
BOS Initial: MP
Rec'd by Town Clerk on: 4/6/2020
Town Clerk Initials: dgm

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes March 11, 2020

4:00 P.M. Chairman Benton opened the Thornton Board of Selectmen meeting work session with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Chairman Brad Benton, Vice-Chairman Roy Sabourn, Selectwoman Marianne Peabody, Selectman Jack Gaite and Selectman Joseph Monti.

STAFF PRESENT: Debra Shepard, Town Administrator.

Action Folder:

MOTION: "To approve payroll manifest dated 3/13/2020 in the amount of \$29,439.95."

Motion: B. Benton

Seconded: J. Monti

Discussion: None.

Motion Passes: 4 – Yes, 0 – No

Abstained: R. Sabourn

MOTION: "To approve the vendor manifest dated 3/13/2020 in the amount of \$222,194.19."

Motion: J. Gaite

Seconded: R. Sabourn

Discussion: None.

Motion Passes: 3 – Yes, 0 – No

Abstained: M. Peabody and J. Monti

Minutes

MOTION: "To approve Board of Selectmen nonpublic meeting minutes of February 21, 2020 as written."

Motion: J. Monti

Seconded: M. Peabody

Discussion: None.

Motion Passes: 4 – Yes, 0 – No

Abstained: M. Peabody

MOTION: "To approve Board of Selectmen public meeting minutes of February 26, 2020 as written."

Motion: J. Monti

Seconded: J. Gaite

Discussion: None.

Motion Passes: 5 – Yes, 0 – No

ZCA Review

MOTION: "To approve ZCA# 2020-03 for PID #18/6-3 to construct a garage and deck."

Motion: J. Monti

Seconded: R. Sabourn

Discussion: None.

Motion Passes: 5 – Yes, 0 – No

Town Administrator Presents:

NH Electric Coop

TA Shepard explained that a group has formed to pressure the NH Electric Coop to provide better service and more opportunity for high speed internet in the Thornton area. The group is asking town's if they would be willing to allow a petition to the NH Electric Coop be made available at their town meetings for residents to sign. The group would also like the petition to be sent back to them after town meeting so they can present the signatures to the NHEC. The petition brings attention to the NH Electric Coop that high speed broadband WiFi service is important to its constituents. The Board discussed this request.

The Board agreed that there would be no harm in allowing the petition to be available for signatures at the Town of Thornton Town Meeting. R. Sabourn suggested that Selectman Monti inform residents of the petition since he is working to improve cable internet access for the town. Selectman Monti agreed.

Trustee of Trust Fund Request

MOTION: "To approve a request to the Trustee of Trust Funds to withdraw funds from the Capital Reserve- Municipal Building fund in the amount of \$7,167.20 for Dumont Construction."

Motion: R. Sabourn

Seconded: J. Monti

Discussion: None.

Motion Passes: 5 – Yes, 0 – No

MOTION: "To approve two certificates of appointments to the ZBA, Kenneth Miller for a term ending March 11, 2023, and Joan Marshall from alternative member to a full member for a term ending March 11, 2023."

Motion: R. Sabourn

Seconded: J. Monti

Discussion: J. Monti stated that Joan Marshall is moving to a full member because Dennis Day is not able to be a member of the ZBA any longer. Mr. Day has been on the ZBA for 30+ years and should be recognized. The Board recalled that the town report was dedicated to him a few years ago but agree another form of recognition should be sent from the Board.

Motion Passes: 5 – Yes, 0 – No

Trustee of Trust Funds

Richard Baker provided a report to the BOS relative to have how the Coronavirus is affecting the financial market. The BOS members asked TA Shepard to provide each of them with a copy.

Highway Department – Backhoe Purchase

RA Kubik is researching the purchase of a backhoe and has an opportunity to have a demo machine for a few days from John Deere. Having this demo machine will help RA Kubik decide if this is the best backhoe for the town to purchase. John Deere requires Equipment Loan Agreement signed by the BOS chairman to permit the demo. Discussion followed relative to insurance coverage. TA Shepard will research the insurance question. Chairman Benton signed the agreement with the condition that TA Shepard receive an answer as to who needs to provide insurance for this demo equipment.

MOTION: “To sign the Equipment Loan Agreement with John Deere to test drive a backhoe for three days provided that the equipment is covered by the town insurance.”

Motion: J. Gaite

Seconded: M. Peabody

Discussion: J. Monti asked if there is an insurance rider that can be applied towards the rental to protect the town. TA Shepard stated that she will contact the insurance company to be sure that the equipment is covered.

Motion Passes: 5 – Yes, 0 – No

Agenda Items: (no public input unless approved by the Chairman)

5:00 Board nominations; Chair, Vice-Chair, PLBD ex-officio, Beautification Comm.

MOTION: “To nominate Selectwoman Marianne Peabody for chairman of the Board of Selectmen.”

Motion: B. Benton

Seconded: J. Monti

Discussion: None.

Motion Passes: 4 – Yes, 0 – No

Abstained: M. Peabody

Selectwoman Peabody accepted this nomination.

MOTION: “To nominate Brad Benton for vice-chairman of the Board of Selectmen.”

Motion: J. Monti

Seconded: R. Sabourn

Discussion: None.

Motion Passes: 4 – Yes, 0 – No

Abstained: B. Benton

Selectman Benton accepted this nomination.

MOTION: "To nominate Roy Sabourn as the ex-officio member of the Planning Board."

Motion: R. Sabourn

Seconded: B. Benton

Discussion: None.

Motion Passes: 4 – Yes, 0 – No

Abstained: R. Sabourn

Selectman Sabourn accepted this nomination.

MOTION: "To nominate Marianne Peabody as the ex-officio member for the Beautification Committee."

Motion: R. Sabourn

Seconded: J. Gaites

Discussion: None.

Motion Passes: 4 – Yes, 0 – No

Abstained: M. Peabody

5:15 Town Meeting Review and Planning

The Board reviewed the Town Meeting process and responsibilities for Board Members during Town Meeting.

- Selectman Monti will discuss the petition to NH Electric Coop as discussed previously this evening.
- Chief Miller will present the warrant article referencing the additional full time police officer.
- Article 3 – Elderly Exemption – Marianne Peabody will present this article.
- Article 4 – All Veterans Credit - Marianne Peabody will present this article.
- Article 5 – Solar Energy Exemption - Roy Sabourn will present this article.
- Article 6 – Additional Full Time Police Officer Position - Chief Miller will present this article.

Complaint Form:

Mr. Boyd met with the Board to discuss a complaint he had relative to an application for an abatement regarding his property values after the reassessment. Mr. Boyd informed the Board that he met with the Avitar Assessor to review his assessment in August. The assessor denied his request. He then came in to Town Hall to deliver a letter relative to his assessment in November. He talked with Mary Conn in the Assessing Department. Mary provided him with an Abatement Application at that time. He informed the board that Mary told him to return the abatement application after March 1, 2020. He stated that when he returned from his business trip after March 1, he came to the office to drop off his application and was then informed that the application was due prior to March 1. He stated that he was trying to follow directions given to him and the difference in his land value is significant. He is requesting that his abatement application be accepted now even though it is after the March 1st deadline.

Chairman Benton reviewed the packet of information provided by Mr. Boyd. In the packet was a letter from Dave Woodward, Assessor, the abatement application and the RSA relative to filing for tax abatements. All of these documents clearly showed March 1st as

the deadline to file for an abatement. Mr. Boyd he was told by staff to return the application after March 1. Discussion continued.

Selectwoman Peabody pointed out that the letter from Avitar that was attached to the letter submitted by Mr. Boyd's clearly states the deadline date of March 1st, as does the Abatement Application provided to Mr. Boyd.

Selectman Monti stated that it was clear to him that Mr. Boyd's intent was clear to file an abatement and because of a misunderstanding, his paperwork was not submitted on time. He recommends that the Board accept the application so that the abatement can be adjudicated.

Selectman Sabourn disagreed with Selectman Monti's recommendation, and stated that many other applications were submitted within the deadline. He further stated that every correspondence clearly states the deadline date. After a lengthy discussion, the Chairman stated that he too felt it was clear to him that all documents clearly state the deadline date of March 1st.

MOTION: "To deny the request of Mr. Boyd to allow him to submit an abatement application after the deadline of March 1st."

Motion: R. Sabourn

Seconded: M. Peabody

Discussion: None.

Motion Passes: 4 – Yes, 0 – No

Abstained: J. Monti

Selectman Sabourn stated that Mr. Boyd can appeal this decision with the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Town Administrator Report Continued

MOTION: "To approve a Yield Tax Levy Warrant in the amount of \$655.92 for PID #15/4-11, Fraser Family Trust for timber taxes."

Motion: R. Sabourn

Seconded: J. Gaites

Discussion: None.

Motion Passes: 5 – Yes, 0 – No

MOTION: "To approve a Yield Tax Levy Warrant for \$923.37 for PID #3/3-2, Hall Heritage Realty Trust for timber taxes."

Motion: R. Sabourn

Seconded: J. Monti

Discussion: None.

Motion Passes: 5 – Yes, 0 – No

Application for Current Use

TA Shepard received an application for current use for the Steele Joint Revocable Trust for PID #11/1-66. After discussion, the Board agreed that additional information is needed before the board can approve this application. Selectman Sabourn will review this application further and will be looking for a copy of the survey relative to this parcel of

land. Once this information is received and reviewed, this application will come back before the board.

Abatements

The Board reviewed batches two and three of the abatements received to date. Each batch has 10 abatements. .

MOTION: "To approve the following assessment revisions included in batch 2 as recommended by the Assessor as follows for PID# 6/8-1, 6/7-1A, 16/1-10-5, 16/5-5, 17/17-26, and 17/14-58."

Motion: B. Benton

Seconded: M. Peabody

Discussion: Selectman Monti asked to review the abatements.

Motion Passes: 5 – Yes, 0 – No

MOTION: "To deny the following abatement requests included in batch 2 as recommended by the Assessor as follows for PID# 6/8-2, 6/7-2, 2/6-9, and 10/3-17."

Motion: B. Benton

Seconded: M. Peabody

Discussion: None.

Motion Passes: 5 – Yes, 0 – No

MOTION: "To approve the following assessment revisions included in batch 3 as recommended by the Assessor as follows for PID# 2/4-1-A, and 10/3-46."

Motion: M. Peabody

Seconded: R. Sabourn

Discussion: None.

Motion Passes: 5 – Yes, 0 – No

MOTION: "To deny the following abatement requests included in batch 3 as recommended by the Assessor as follows for PID# 11/1-48, 15/1-1A, 15/3-6B, 16/1-402, 16/1-414, 16/1-416, 16/1-418, and 16/1-421."

Motion: M. Peabody

Seconded: R. Sabourn

Discussion: None.

Motion Passes: 5 – Yes, 0 – No

5:30 Non-public pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3, II (e-litigation)

The Board agreed that they do not need to meet in nonpublic session.

SELECTMEN REPORT

M. Peabody stated that in the past, the Town would hold distribution of the Town Report until a town official hand delivers the Town Report to the dedicated individual. The Board continued to discuss the previous practice. The Board agreed to present the town report in hand to the dedicated person prior to Town Meeting. The Board also agreed that they would continue this practice in the future.

6:35 p.m. MOTION: "To adjourn."

Motion: R. Sabourn

Seconded: J. Monti

Discussion: None.

Motion Passes: 5 - 0

Respectfully submitted,

Jessi Fleury
Board Secretary