



TOWN OF THORNTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Approved on:	7-15-20
BOS Initial:	me
Rec'd by Town Clerk on:	7/16/20
Town Clerk Initials:	dpm

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes July 1, 2020

10:00 AM Chairwoman Peabody opened the Thornton Board of Selectmen meeting work session with the Pledge of Allegiance. This meeting was held via teleconference call. The teleconference code was referenced on the posted agenda.

ROLL CALL: Chairwoman Marianne Peabody, Vice-Chairman Brad Benton, Selectman Roy Sabourn, Selectman Jack Gaites, and Selectman Joseph Monti (joined meeting via teleconference at approximately 10:33 am).

STAFF PRESENT: Debra Shepard, Town Administrator, Jessi Fleury, Board Secretary

Chairwoman Peabody stated that the Town Hall will be open for normal business hours on July 6, 2020. She is hopeful that COVID19 will not get ahead of the town and the office will be able to remain open.

Chairwoman Peabody took time to extend gratitude for all of the town employees, mentioned as a whole and individually for their contributions during the last few months dealing with the pandemic. She further stated that the town is in good shape and ready to serve the people of Thornton.

Chairwoman Peabody stated that the Board of Selectmen is a five-member board. She feels that it is very important that each board member has their own opinion on whatever subject it may be and that the Town Administrator remains neutral.

TA Shepard replied that she does try to stay neutral with the Board of Selectmen.

Minutes

MOTION: "To approve Board of Selectmen public meeting minutes of June 17, 2020 as amended, and to include the rebuttal comments from Joel Freeman as an attachment."

Motion: R. Sabourn

Seconded: B. Benton

Discussion: Chairwoman Peabody stated that Joel Freeman issued a rebuttal to the Board of Selectman meeting minutes of June 17, 2020 and asked that a copy of Mrs. Freeman's letter be attached to the approved minutes of June 17, 2020 for reference.

Roll Call: Marianne Peabody – yes, Brad Benton – yes, Roy Sabourn – yes, Jack Gaites – yes.

Motion Passes: 4 – Yes, 0 – No

MOTION: "To approve Board of Selectmen non-public meeting minutes of June 17, 2020 as presented."

Motion: R. Sabourn

Seconded: B. Benton

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: Marianne Peabody – yes, Brad Benton – yes, Roy Sabourn – yes,
Jack Gaites – yes.

Motion Passes: 4 – Yes, 0 – No

MOTION: "To approve Board of Selectmen public meeting minutes of June 24, 2020 as amended."

Motion: R. Sabourn

Seconded: J. Gaites

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: Marianne Peabody – yes, Brad Benton – abstained, Roy Sabourn –
yes, Jack Gaites – yes.

Motion Passes: 3 – Yes, 0 – No

Abstained: B. Benton

Manifests

MOTION: "To approve the vendor manifest dated 7/3/2020 in the amount of \$568,138.21."

Motion: B. Benton

Seconded: R. Sabourn

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: Marianne Peabody – abstained, Brad Benton – yes, Roy Sabourn –
yes, Jack Gaites – yes.

Motion Passes: 3 – Yes, 0 – No

Abstained: M. Peabody

MOTION: "To approve the payroll manifest 7/3/20 in the amount of \$27,384.94."

Motion: J. Gaites

Seconded: R. Sabourn

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: Marianne Peabody – yes, Brad Benton – abstained, Roy Sabourn –
yes, , Jack Gaites – yes.

Motion Passes: 3 – Yes, 0 – No

Abstained: B. Benton

Caulder Gravel Pit

R. Sabourn asked if the Board members reviewed the bond release for the Caulder gravel pit. He informed the Board that he looked at the gravel pit with Brian Regan and given the circumstances, the bond release is the best answer. The Board agreed unanimously.

MOTION: "To remove ZCA # 2020-31, applicant John Kubik Jr. from the consent agenda until information is received on whether a licensed plumber is required for the proposed addition."

Motion: R. Sabourn

Seconded: B. Benton

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: Marianne Peabody – abstained, Brad Benton – yes, Roy Sabourn – yes, Jack Gaites – yes.

Motion Passes: 3 – Yes, 0 – No

Abstained: M. Peabody

MOTION: "To approve the consent agenda dated July 1, 2020 with the removal of ZCA #2020-31."

Motion: R. Sabourn

Seconded: B. Benton

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: Marianne Peabody – abstained, Brad Benton – yes, Roy Sabourn – yes, Jack Gaites – yes.

Motion Passes: 3 – Yes, 0 – No

Abstained: M. Peabody

The following items were approved as part of the consent agenda:

1. BOS approval to release Bond BLV6791638 for reclamation work on property owned by Caulder Construction LLC located on LaBreque Road, Thornton NH.
2. ZCA: 2020-23, Sean Byrnes, 532 Upper Mad River Road, Map/Lot: 17-7-46.
Description of project: 24 x 24 addition to existing garage.
3. ZCA: 2020-30, Scott and Linda Ivers, 227 Snowood Drive, Map/Lot: 17-14-6B.
Description of project: 16 x 12 Shed
4. ZCA: 2020-27, James and Donna Bates, 52 Amory Leland Drive,
Map/Lot: 13-7-15. Description of project: 28 x 32 Garage.

Hubbard Brook PILT/Scholarship Discussion

Chairwoman Peabody explained that she has attended the awards ceremony at Plymouth Regional High School for many years to present the Hubbard Brook Scholarship award. She further explained that many other entities granting scholarships provide a much large amount than the Hubbard Brook scholarship and asked that this be discussed as an agenda item.

The Board discussed the amount of the scholarship payment in lieu of taxes, since Hubbard Brook is a tax-exempt property, and that this amount has not changed in 15 years. R. Sabourn suggested asking Hubbard Brook if the scholarship could increase by at least \$500.

The Board agreed to send a letter to the foundation requesting that they consider reviewing the amount of the scholarship and increasing the amount on behalf of the

students applying for the grant. The Board also agreed to provide an option to meet with Hubbard Brook representatives to discuss this further if they choose.

MOTION: "To draft a letter to Hubbard Brook regarding the possibility to increase their scholarship amount."

Motion: M. Peabody

Seconded: B. Benton

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: Marianne Peabody – yes, Brad Benton – yes, Roy Sabourn – yes,
Jack Gaites - yes.

Motion Passes: 4 – Yes, 0 – No

CIP Committee

TA Shepard asked for any ideas or needs that should be considered for CIP. M. Peabody suggested looking into upgrading the bathrooms if the necessary upgrades cannot be included in the GOFERR Grant Application.

Millbrook email – Wanosha Integrated Project

TA Shepard informed the Board that she received approximately 60 letters (containing the same content) from residents on Millbrook Road in reference to the Wanosha Integrated Project. The Board reviewed the letter.

Chairman Peabody asked if the Board of Selectmen should offer a letter of support from the Town. R. Sabourn acknowledged that there is productive conversation between the White Mountain National Forest and the residents on Millbrook at this time, and recommended forwarding copies of all of the letters received to the White Mountain National Forest office as they are received by the town.

(10:33 p.m. Selectman Monti joined the meeting via conference call.)

MOTION: "To send copies of the letters received from concerned property owners in Millbrook relative to the Wanosha logging operation to the White Mountain National Forest Office in Campton."

Motion: R. Sabourn

Seconded: B. Benton

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: Marianne Peabody – yes, Brad Benton – yes, Roy Sabourn – yes,
Joseph Monti – yes, Jack Gaites - yes.

Motion Passes: 5 – Yes, 0 – No

GOFERR Grant Application for Broadband Expansion

Present: Tim McGrath, Chairperson Internet access committee and Joseph Monti, committee member/Selectman.

Selectman J. Monti explained that a few weeks ago, the Board created a broadband advisory committee to assist with an upcoming franchise agreement between the town and the cable service provider. The committee will also assist with lack of broadband access within the town. He explained that the lack of service was evident during the

recent stay-at-home order when households were working and learning from home. The committee held their first meeting a few weeks ago and unanimously appointed Tim McGrath as the Chairperson. He stated that the amount of work that the committee has completed is nothing short of miraculous.

T. McGrath informed the board that he is a Massachusetts resident and built his house on Millbrook Road in 2001. He is a structural engineer in Massachusetts. He explained that the committee renamed itself to the Internet Access Committee rather than the Cable Access Committee since this name is more in line with their purpose. T. McGrath updated the board on information acquired so far.

- Thornton originally signed a cable service contract in 2001.
- Charter Communications administers the service. Cables are owned by Comcast. A situation that is unique to Thornton, Campton, and Woodstock.
- Consolidated Communications provides telephone service, as well as DSL service.
- NH Electric Co-op may propose broadband service.
- Town originally signed a contract in 2001 and renewed without changes. Charter Communications administers cables owned by Comcast. Consolidated communications offer DSL service and are also interested in expanding but has no definite plans.
- NH has \$50 million in funding from the CARES Act for this purpose that must by December 15, 2020.
- Discussion continued on pole ownership and pole permits that will be needed.
- Cable contract is due for renewals in April.
- The town needs leverage to provide a better position to negotiate. R. Sabourn encouraged the committee to contact Senator Maggie Hassan's Office as her office has recognized the need for better service.
- J. Monti stated that \$50 million is a large amount of funds and is the immediate priority of the new committee. The committee is pursuing 3 different options from companies submitting proposals. The current cable provider, NHEC, and Consolidated Communications. The only option that seems viable is through the town's existing cable company.
- National opportunities are being created for better broadband across the country and the committee will be paying attention to those opportunity.

The Board thanked the committee for their actions and appreciates their time.

Mr. McGrath provided his phone number for public use concerning cable/internet (781) 424 – 3972.

Paving Update

RA Kubik asked the Board if he can move forward with his paving schedule. He explained that the paving companies need to put Thornton on their schedule for the week of July 20th or the town paving will be pushed back to August. The paving schedule would include Judges Road, Orris Road, Harris Road, Windswept Circle and Waterville Valley Road.

R. Sabourn asked if the tax revenues are being received as expected. TA Shepard confirmed that taxes seem to be coming in at a steady pace. R. Sabourn confirmed that there is no economic reason not to move forward.

RA Kubik informed the board that the water pipes have been replaced on Judges Road and the water company is concerned with a water valve and has contracted with dig safe to replace the valve before paving.

RA Kubik explained that he hit a cable line while working on a culvert on Judges Road. Dig safe had come and marked cables. The cable has been repaired.

RA Kubik asked if he is permitted to purchase gravel and materials as needed and allocated in his budget. The Board agreed that he is able to spend the funds in his budget at this time.

MOTION: “To approve ZCA 2020-31. John Kubik, PID# 17-19-9 for a 1 story addition the property owner after confirmation that homeowners can install their own plumbing in their own residence.”

Motion: R. Sabourn

Seconded: B. Benton

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: Marianne Peabody – yes, Brad Benton – yes, Roy Sabourn – yes, Joseph Monti –yes, Jack Gaites – yes.

Motion Passes: 5 – Yes, 0 – No

TA Reports

Tax Deeded Property Update

TA Shepard expects \$21,305.93 for back taxes for five lots on Maher Avenue that was deeded to the Town through the tax deeding process. This amount includes taxes through 2020 for all five lots.

Letter from Julie Piehn

Julie Piehn submitted an email to Chair Peabody regarding concern with a ZCA for Owl's Nest for a lake house building that was discussed and conditionally approved during the June 17th BOS minutes.

R. Sabourn explained that the application has been in the office for 3 months, a few days before the office closed due to COVID19. R. Sabourn explained that the ZCA was

submitted to build a Lake house that would be used for special events such as weddings. R. Sabourn further explained that the length of time it has taken to approve the ZCA (due to COVID) has put the applicants in a time sensitive situation. The design of the structure includes its own septic system. The septic system approval has been submitted to the state and is currently pending. The contractors are ready to install the bladder for the pond but cannot do that until the concrete slab is poured for the structure because it extends out into the water. R. Sabourn was informed that the applicant would not be constructing the wooden structure yet, only the concrete pad so that the pond bladder can be installed.

During the July 17, 2020 meeting, the Board approved the application pending confirmation from Brian Reagan that the application is complete and compliant with zoning. R. Sabourn explained that the Governors Emergency Order allow construction at the applicant's own risk based on the fact that approvals are not being given for projects due to the stay at home order.

The application is not complete yet as the site plan still needs to be reviewed by the Planning Board. The Planning Board has not had a meeting since the stay at home order. The Planning Board has the site plan scheduled on their July agenda. R. Sabourn expects this process to be completed within the next month. The Board cannot offer an official approval until the process is complete, but they will not stop the commencement of work due to the Governor's Emergency order.

M. Peabody requested that the Planning Board Notice of Decisions be emailed to Board members in the future once the new planning director position is filled. R. Sabourn added that the notices are also available in the Selectmen's mail folder.

Board of Selectmen Meeting Schedule

M. Peabody asked the board what time meetings will be scheduled from this point forward. Discussion was held.

MOTION: "To approve the Board of Selectmen meeting time to will be alternating from 10:00a.m. to 4:00 p.m. July 15th, 2020 will be at 10:00 a.m."

Motion: J. Gaites

Seconded: R. Sabourn

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: Marianne Peabody – yes, Brad Benton – yes, Roy Sabourn – yes,
Joseph Monti – yes, Jack Gaites – yes.

Motion Passes: 5 – Yes, 0 – No

Personnel Policy

Chairman Peabody would like to review the personnel policy beginning next meeting.

Transfer Station Update

Steve Chiocca provided an update as to the Transfer Station business. He explained that since reopening, they are busy with furniture and construction debris, but business is moving along well.

11:25 a.m. MOTION: "To enter into Non-public pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3, II (c-reputation)."

Motion: R. Sabourn

Seconded: J. Gaites

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: Marianne Peabody – yes, Brad Benton – yes, Roy Sabourn – yes,
Joseph Monti – yes, Jack Gaites – yes.

Motion Passes: 5 – Yes, 0 – No

12:13 p.m. MOTION: "To exit non-public session."

Motion: R. Sabourn

Seconded: J. Gaites

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: Marianne Peabody – yes, Brad Benton – yes, Roy Sabourn – yes,
Joseph Monti – yes, Jack Gaites – yes.

Motion Passes: 5 – Yes, 0 – No

12:14 p.m. MOTION: "To adjourn"

Motion: M. Peabody

Seconded: J. Gaites

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: Marianne Peabody – yes, Brad Benton – yes, Roy Sabourn – yes,
Joseph Monti – yes, Jack Gaites – yes.

Motion Passes: 5 – Yes, 0 – No

Respectfully submitted,

Jessi Fleury
Board Secretary