



TOWN OF THORNTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Approved on: 4/7/21
BOS Initial: RAS
Rec'd by Town Clerk on: 4/7/21
Town Clerk Initials: for DM

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes March 24, 2021

3:00 PM Chairwoman Marianne Peabody opened the Thornton Board of Selectmen meeting work session with the Pledge of Allegiance.

This meeting was held via Zoom. The Zoom code was referenced on the posted agenda.

ROLL CALL: Chairwoman Marianne Peabody, Selectman Roy Sabourn, Selectman Peter Laufenberg, and Selectman Joseph Monti.

PUBLIC PRESENT: Jeff Schultz (via Zoom)

STAFF PRESENT: Debra Shepard, Town Administrator

Chairwoman Peabody welcomed new Selectboard member Peter Laufenberg. Chairwoman Peabody announced that this meeting would be her last as the Chair and gave thanks for the experience this past year.

MOTION: "To nominate Roy Sabourn as Chairman for the Thornton Board of Selectmen until March 2022."

Motion: M. Peabody

Seconded: P. Laufenberg

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: Marianne Peabody – yes, Brad Benton – yes, Roy Sabourn – abstained, Joseph Monti – yes, Peter Laufenberg - Yes.

Motion Passes: 4 – Yes, 0 – No

Abstained: 1

MOTION: "To nominate Joseph Monti as the Vice-Chairman for the Thornton Board of Selectmen until March 2022."

Motion: B. Benton

Seconded: M. Peabody

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: Marianne Peabody – yes, Brad Benton – yes, Roy Sabourn – abstained, Joseph Monti – abstained, Peter Laufenberg - Yes.

Motion Passes: 3 – Yes, 0 – No

Abstained: 2

Chairman Sabourn thanked Marianne Peabody for her hard work as Chair during the difficult year of 2020.

Brad Benton motioned to nominate Marianne Peabody for the ex-officio to the Planning Board position, Joseph Monti seconded the motion. Marianne Peabody declined the nomination.

MOTION: "To nominate Peter Laufenberg as ex-officio to the Planning Board until March 2022."

Motion: R. Sabourn

Seconded: B. Benton

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: Marianne Peabody – yes, Brad Benton – yes, Roy Sabourn – yes, Joseph Monti – yes, Peter Laufenberg - abstained.

Motion Passes: 4 – Yes, 0 – No

Abstained: 1

Peter Laufenberg was sworn into this position by TA Shepard who is a Justice of the Peace.

MOTION: "To nominate Marianne Peabody to continue to serve on the Beautification committee until March 2022."

Motion: R. Sabourn

Seconded: P. Laufenberg

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: Marianne Peabody – abstained, Brad Benton – yes, Roy Sabourn – yes, Joseph Monti – yes, Peter Laufenberg - yes.

Motion Passes: 4 – Yes, 0 – No

Abstained: 1

Payroll Manifest

MOTION: "To approve the payroll manifest dated 3/26/2021 in the amount of \$40,968.43."

Motion: M. Peabody

Seconded: B. Benton

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: Marianne Peabody – yes, Brad Benton – yes, Roy Sabourn – yes, Joseph Monti – abstained, Peter Laufenberg - Yes.

Motion Passes: 4 – Yes, 0 – No

Abstained: 1

Vendor Manifest

MOTION: "To approve the vendor manifest dated 3/26/2021 in the amount of \$402,765.98."

Motion: Peter Laufenberg

Seconded: B. Benton

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: Marianne Peabody – abstained, Brad Benton – yes, Roy Sabourn – yes, Joseph Monti – abstained, Peter Laufenberg - Yes.

Motion Passes: 3 – Yes, 0 – No

Abstained: 2

MOTION: "To approve the second vendor manifest dated 3/26/2021 in the amount of \$498.10 as part of LCJ Holdings Escrow Account."

Motion: J. Monti

Seconded: Peter Laufenberg

Discussion: None.

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

Motion Passes: 5 – Yes, 0 – No

Abstained: 0

Meeting Minutes

MOTION: "To approve the Board of Selectmen meeting minutes of February 24, 2021 as amended."

Motion: M. Peabody

Seconded: R. Sabourn

Discussion: R. Sabourn corrected one typo in the final draft.

Roll Call: Marianne Peabody – yes, Brad Benton – abstained, Roy Sabourn – yes, Joseph Monti – yes, Peter Laufenberg - abstained.

Motion Passes: 3– Yes, 0 – No

Abstained: 2

MOTION: "To approve the Board of Selectmen nonpublic meeting minutes of February 24, 2021 as submitted."

Motion: M. Peabody

Seconded: R. Sabourn

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: Marianne Peabody – yes, Brad Benton – abstained, Roy Sabourn – yes, Joseph Monti – yes, Peter Laufenberg - abstained.

Motion Passes: 3 – Yes, 0 – No

Abstained: 2

Consent Agenda

The Board reviewed the following consent agenda dated February 24, 2021:

1. Certification of Appointment for Michael Boisvert to the Conservation Commission. Appointment to expire December 6, 2022.
2. Timber Tax Warrant for Edward and Susan Danis, PID 15-4-55, Logan Street. Total Yield Tax: \$144.41
3. Timber Tax Warrant for Ralph and Ruth Bradley, PID 3-3-12, Johnson Brook Road. Total Yield Tax: \$57.80
4. Mountain River Development, PIDS 11-1-6710 through 11-1-6718, Falls Road. Abatement Amount: \$1,925.65
5. Abatement Request – Anthony and Chloe LaMonica, PID 7-2-13-30, 91 Joshua's Lane. Assessor recommends BOS denies request.
6. Abatement Request – Michael and Marilyn Pomerantz, PID 8-4-3, 27 Wanosha Road. Assessor recommends an abatement in the amount of \$126.69.
7. Abatement Request – William Meyerjack, PID 15-6-4-7, Maxies Way. Assessor recommends an abatement in the amount of \$195.07.
8. ZCA 2021-15, Sanborn, David, Holland Trail, PID 17-17-24. Description: 24x38 SF 3-Bedroom house.
9. ZCA 2021-16, Smith, Craig and Lacasse, Karen, 85 Wanosha Road, PID 8-4-10. Description: 44x34 SF 3-Bedroom house with 40x32 attached garage.
10. ZCA 2021-17, Juniper, Dennis and Susan, Beacon Hill Road, PID 15-4-63. Description: 48x28 SF 3-Bedroom house with 23x22 attached garage.
11. ZCA 2021-18, Ryan, Christopher and Shelley, Levi Road, PID 10-11-16. Description: 60x36 SF 3-Bedroom house.
12. ZCA 2021-19, Havlock, Jessie and Karen, 51 Mirror Lake Road, PID 6-2-1. Description: 26x30 Garage.
13. Small balance abatements – Tax Collector – Liening process - \$9.62.

MOTION: "To approve the consent agenda dated March 24, 2021 as submitted."

Motion: B. Benton

Seconded: M. Peabody

Discussion: None.

Roll Call: Marianne Peabody – yes, Brad Benton – yes, Roy Sabourn – yes, Joseph Monti – yes, Peter Laufenberg - Yes.

Motion Passes: 5 – Yes, 0 – No Abstained: 0

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

2021 Annual Investment Policy

The Board reviewed the 2021 Annual Investment Policy.

MOTION: "To approve the 2021 Annual Investment Policy."

Motion: J. Monti

Seconded: P. Laufenberg

Discussion: None.

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

Motion Passes: 5 – Yes, 0 – No Abstained: 0

2021 Fund Balance Policy

The Board reviewed the 2021 Fund Balance Policy.

MOTION: "To approve the 2021 Annual Investment Policy."

Motion: J. Monti

Seconded: P. Laufenberg

Discussion: None.

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

Motion Passes: 5 – Yes, 0 – No Abstained: 0

Concerned Citizen Complaint

Chairman Sabourn discussed a concerned citizen complaint received from Judy Taylor regarding zoning compliance at property at 3261 US Route 3. After a brief discussion, Selectman Monti and Selectman Peabody agreed to view the property and report back to the Board.

TA PRESENTS:

Health Trust Rates

TA Shepard stated that in January HealthTrust had estimated a 7.1% rate increase for budgeting purposes until the final rate could be released in March. The final Health Trust rates were received for 2021 and are lower than expected at .6%. There will be approximately \$11,000 in budget surplus for this line.

TA Shepard stated that Sally Davis presented questions regarding the Conservation fund during Town Meeting. In 2007 there was a warrant article to put the first \$10,000 into the Conservation Fund as collected from the current use fees. This was amended from the floor to \$1,500 and passed. The amount collected in 2007 was up to \$1,500 of the amounts collected from current use fees. There were no funds collected for a few years due to no current use fees collected. In addition, fees have not been collected since 2013. The town needs to deposit \$7,275.00 into the Conservation Fund account for the time period from 2013 to 2020. Chairman Sabourn asked that the TA find the specific definition as to what the fund was established for and for the Board to

consider if they would like to continue this fund. Chairman Sabourn feels that the current use fees should be used to offset the tax rate rather than purchasing open space land.

CIP Resignation

Bill DeLeo has submitted his resignation from the Capital Improvement Plan committee effective immediately. The Board agreed to send Mr. DeLeo a framed certificate for his valuable service.

MOTION: "To regrettfully accept the resignation from Bill DeLeo from the Capital Improvement Plan committee."

Motion: R. Sabourn

Seconded: J. Monti

Discussion: None.

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

Motion Passes: 5 – Yes, 0 – No Abstained: 0

Assistant Manager Zach Simon received a compliment from a resident while visiting the Transfer Station. This will be placed in his personnel file.

A resident had made an error while using the online vehicle registration system. Her payment was returned to the town due to her data entry error rather than for insufficient funds. The resident is requesting a waiver from the town's no check writing policy due to this situation.

MOTION: "To waive the no check writing policy for Donna McGee."

Motion: J. Monti

Seconded: P. Laufenberg

Discussion: None.

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

Motion Passes: 5 – Yes, 0 – No Abstained: 0

TA Shepard presented the 2020 auditor questionnaire for the Board to complete. The Board reviewed the questionnaire and signed.

MOTION: "To approve the Plodzick & Sanderson questionnaire for 2020 as presented."

Motion: M. Peabody

Seconded: R. Sabourn

Discussion: None.

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

Motion Passes: 5 – Yes, 0 – No Abstained: 0

Pemi-Baker Solid waste

The Board of Selectmen signed a letter of support for the Household Hazardous Waste Program facilitated by the Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District.

MOTION: "To sign the Pemi-Baker Solid Waste district letter of commitment dated March 24, 2021 as presented."

Motion: R. Sabourn

Seconded: B. Benton

Discussion: None.

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

Motion Passes: 5 – Yes, 0 – No

Abstained: 0

Transfer Station Vehicle Purchase

TA Shepard explained that Steve Chiocca, Transfer Station Manager was asking about the process to purchase the new pickup truck for the Transfer Station and when that could be completed. TA Shepard explained that Campton is holding their town meeting in May and nothing could be done until after their budget is approved. TA Shepard contacted Carina Park, the Town of Campton Town Administrator, regarding the purchase and was informed that "the Campton Board of Selectmen did not allocate any funds to the purchase of a new pickup truck for the Transfer Station in their CIP for 2021, as their Board was undecided of their support for a new truck." Carina further explained that there may be some available in their budget and that this will be discussed by the Campton Board at their next meeting on Monday, March 29, 2021. Carina will follow up with TA Shepard after the 29th. Several Board members expressed their frustration with the current situation involving the joint planning for the transfer station truck purchase.

SELECTMEN PRESENTS

Peter Laufenberg asked how the Transfer Station Advisory Committee should present their recommendations to the Town of Thornton and their partnering towns (Town of Campton and Town of Ellsworth). Selectman Monti recommended that the Thornton Board of Selectmen discuss the recommendations amongst themselves first and then decide how to proceed. After further discussion, the Board agreed to have the advisory committee present to the Thornton Board of Selectmen on April 21, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. and to further discuss an approach to meet with the partnering towns.

Selectman Monti discussed concern with the U.S. Forestry Service regarding the Wanosha timber project. TA Shepard shared with the BOS what the response was from the WMNF and she will reach out to them again for another update.

4:24 p.m. MOTION: "To enter nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3, II (b, c, I)."

Motion: P. Laufenberg

Seconded: M. Peabody

Discussion: None.

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

Motion Passes: 5 – Yes, 0 – No

Abstained: 0

5:10 p.m. MOTION: "To exit nonpublic session."

Motion: J. Monti

Seconded: P. Laufenberg

Discussion: None.

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

Motion Passes: 5 – Yes, 0 – No

Abstained: 0

MOTION: "To hire a part time temporary motor vehicle clerk."

Motion: J. Monti

Seconded: M. Peabody

Discussion: None.

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

Motion Passes: 5 – Yes, 0 – No Abstained: 0

MOTION: "To discontinue town clerk office hours for Tuesday evening until further notice."

Motion: P. Laufenberg

Seconded: J. Monti

Discussion: None.

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

Motion Passes: 5 – Yes, 0 – No Abstained: 0

5:12 p.m. MOTION: "To adjourn."

Motion: B. Benton

Seconded: P. Laufenberg

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 Abstained: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Jessi Fleury
Board Secretary