

# TOWN OF HILL

## SELECTMEN'S MEETING

August 3, 2021

**Selectmen Present:** Tom Seymour, Shaun Bresnahan, Christopher Gronski & Lisa Seymour (Administrative Assistant)

**Selectmen Absent:** None

**Public:** Donald Reese, David Thomson, Thomas Angeley, Frank Razzaboni, Stephen Thomson, Caroline Hines, Michael Hines, Jennifer Kulacz, Joseph Sullivan, David Testerman, Michele Munson, Bruce Blazon and Francis Marsh

Thomas Seymour brought the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

**Fire Dept:** Chief Moulton asked that we hold the purchase order for the software for reporting because the State Fire Marshall Office is implementing a software program with the same reporting features. This software is free. However, we would need to purchase the CAD portion to be compatible with Lakes Region Mutual Aid. Chief Moulton is meeting with the State Fire Marshall and Lakes Region Mutual Aid tomorrow for more information on the software. Chief Moulton reported on the fire at 109 King Road. When they arrived, the building and the shed on the property were fully involved. The State Fire Marshall said the cause is undetermined. A thank you to Shaun Bresnahan for bringing Gatorade and sandwiches and Marissa Sylvester for bringing coffee for the firefighters. It was very much appreciated. The new air tank on one of the engines needs to be checked because it's still not working correctly. The Smokey sign needs repairing and a resident has offered to fix this for the town at no cost. Christopher Gronski asked about finishing the painting on the station. Jamie said they are working this and would like to repair the roof as well. The Fire Department is working on fixing the cold air return in the station which currently is venting into the meeting area and the walls are all black soot. Jamie took out the washer and dryer to repair the drain, paint and put in a shower; all of which they already have. Lisa Seymour asked about the oil tank to the furnace because that freezes every year. Jamie is looking to resolve this recurring problem. Jamie is working with Verizon to get a phone and tablet dedicated to the Fire Station.

**Highway Dept:** Dean Stevenson reported that everything is great. Shaun Bresnahan asked about grading the gravel roads. Dean said that they are working on them and on King Road where the catch basin needs to be repaired. Shaun Bresnahan asked Dean about the new driveway on Murray Hill that faces uphill thinking will this pose an issue in the winter. Dean said they had to change the driveway because of ledge. It will still need a culvert, but Dean thinks it's okay. Michele Munson from Currier Road is concerned with the grading and trenches on the road. Some of these trenches are very deep, there are loose rocks and the road is narrow. Is there a plan to face it off and repair the shoulders as a car could bottom out and could also cause an accident. Shaun Bresnahan suggested using either 6" or 4" miner rock to hold the trenches

Shaun Bresnahan talked about the clothing stipend that was approved for \$500. Christopher Gronski asked is this just for clothing or can they use at their discretion. It can be used as they want. Christopher Gronski was wondering if we could give them a gift card from a clothing store instead. Shaun Bresnahan explained that this a benefit and is taxable Lisa Seymour will include this in the next payroll.

**Police Dept:** Not present.

**Town Clerk/Tax Collector:** Shelly Henry asked about the AC units being repaired or replaced as the one in the Tax/Collectors office doesn't work half the time. Tom Seymour asked that we get quotes for replacement where the ACs are very old and not energy efficient. We have collected 92% of the first tax billing. Shaun Bresnahan asked about the Deputy Town Clerk's position and if Shelly was planning to filling it. Shelly, has had some interest in the position, but would like to run the ad again because this is a difficult position to fill. Shelly, is concerned with the comments on social media about the Town Website, timely postings and items not posted correctly. Shelly explained that if a posting for a meeting comes in on a Friday, it will not get posted until the next business day. Having the link to the school on our website is a nice to do. However, Shelly believes it is the school website that should be responsible for changes in their postings. Post draft meeting minutes need to be posted within five business days after the meeting, except in the case of a nonpublic session meeting minutes which must be made available within 72 hours, unless the body has voted to seal the minutes of the nonpublic session per RSA 91-A:1-a. It was further noted that some departments are not updating their posted draft meeting minutes with the final, approved versions. Shelly is happy with the website. Shelly asked about the security camera system. Lisa Seymour stated we have not heard for Advance Lock and Alarm and would like to look into other companies. Jennifer Kulacz mentioned that they use Pelmac or Mason Alarm and will email the information to Lisa.

#### **PUBLIC SESSION:**

David Thomson, wanted to know if the Selectmen had a follow up on the last meeting in the nonpublic session. Christopher Gronski contacted the State Attorney and the Selectmen have no authority to change the board structure as these are governed by RSA's. David's concerns are that more damage is being done while this person is still working this position. Thomas Seymour, Shaun Bresnahan and Christopher Gronski are planning on a meeting with the Chairman of the Planning Board. Christopher Gronski would like to see more people get involved.

David Thomson was reading the Selectmen meeting minutes from June 15<sup>th</sup> where it stated that the new house on Ferrin Street needed an inspection of the boiler, placement of the propane tank and Chimney. He stated that when doing this the town has accepted the liability. Dave is concerned about the building permit because we have no building inspector. Thomas Seymour said we don't have a building code inspector so we fall under state codes. Thomas Seymour stated it is a requirement that heating systems be inspected by the fire department and is defined within NH RSA's and the State Fire Marshall's office. David asked how did this happen and how is it paid for? The State of New Hampshire is not a Home Rule State. The Board of Fire Control based on the state RSA 153:5 sub para 5 addresses this issue. Stephen Thomson researched this and the Fire Department has the right to do this. Fire Codes are not Building Codes. Building Permits are issued through the Board of Selectmen's Office and follows the Zoning Ordinances and, after all plans are approved, it will be assigned a Building Permit number. The question was asked if we were considering adopting the 674 codes? The town doesn't vote on this as the requirement is driven by State law. The contractor will notify the State Fire Marshall after installation. Stephen Thomson said things have changed, but where did it come from? Jamie Moulton will research when it was adopted and when this became affected. David Thomson asked if this should this be on the bottom of the building permit? This can be added at any point in time. At this time, the town doesn't require an occupancy permit so it would need to be adopted. Stephen Thomson stated that they need to fold together. David Thomson said he feels like he is being ripped off. Shaun Bresnahan stated we need to meet with the Fire Chief again. Stephen Thomson stated that many towns don't have inspectors. Chief Moulton said it comes to a life safety issue. Christopher Gronski stated that employees are paid for hours worked.

Shaun Bresnahan said to David Thomson that the building permit fees have been in place for a while. Thomas Seymour stated the increase in the building permit fees was in 2018 after a review of surrounding towns.

Joseph Sullivan is a Junior Assistant Scout Master of Bridgewater Troop 50 and Jennifer Kulacz scoutmaster. Joseph has chosen to do is Eagle Scout project here in Hill. He will be renovating four of the eleven town owned cemeteries. The four are the Bunker Hill, Ferrin, Murray Hill and Hill Center Church. In the Bunker Hill cemetery, he will be placing a flag pole with a light. All of these cemeteries will have a sign at the entrance listing all of the Veterans in the cemeteries. Joseph will be mowing, cutting back the brush on the perimeters, and working on the sunken graves. Thomas Seymour asked about the fundraisers for this project? Joseph said that he was planning to have a car wash, which would be done at the Hill Fire Department; Chief Moulton said to just let him know when. Joseph also said he might open a gofund me page. Thomas Seymour said to let Shelly Henry know and she can include this in an email blast of what's happening in Hill. Joseph will be looking for fellow boy scouts, family and friends to assist. Joseph will be sharing pictures of before, during, and after the project is completed. Jennifer's son, Tyler, has completed his eagle scout project of the Old Hill Village signs and hopefully he can come to the August 16<sup>th</sup> meeting to give a recap of his project.

Carol and Michael Hines own a very small piece of property on the corner of NH Route 3A and Quimby Road. They have friends that are interested in placing a 5<sup>th</sup> wheel camper on the property during the summer and wintering in Florida. Stephen Thomson pointed out that property is only 0.3 acres and doesn't meet the zoning code requirements. Stephen said he would need to research to see if it would be grandfathered. This becomes very complicated. The Zoning Board would also need to review the qualifications. Stephen Thomson said they could meet with the Zoning Board on August 12<sup>th</sup> to further discuss their options.

#### **BOARD BUSINESS:**

##### **Building Permits:**

None

##### **Intent To Cut**

None

##### **Other:**

Town Warrant for Payroll and Accounts Payable was reviewed and approved.

Selectmen Meeting Minutes July 20, 2021 – Approved

Lori Jardullo emailed the selectmen in regards to paperwork they received for an unregistered dog from the police department. When the paperwork was served no boxes were checked and was told if they paid before July 1<sup>st</sup> there would be no fees. They were charged anyway and now they would like to be reimbursed the civil forfeiture fees as well as the late fees. The Board of Selectmen discussed the issue and agreed to refund the fees due to the conflicting paperwork and instructions. Thomas Seymour made a motion that the town clerk refunds the fees. Christopher Gronski seconded the motion. All in favor.

PA-16 Application for Reimbursement to Towns and Cities in which Federal and State Forest Land Situated – Signed

Christopher Gronski asked what the open area was for on the opposite side of Bunker Hill Bridge heading toward the Bunker Hill Cemetery. This area is for the Fire Department to draft water for the trucks. Christopher asked if we could have no parking signs placed to keep this open.

Lisa Seymour will send the certified letter that Shaun Bresnahan drafted for Mr. Lehman regarding the "No Trespassing" posting of a class six road.

Francis Razzaboni inquired about the position open on the Zoning Board earlier and Lisa Seymour suggested that he review the Rules and Procedures before making a decision. Francis reviewed the document and decided that he would like to join the Zoning Board. Thomas Seymour made a motion to appoint Francis Razzaboni to the Zoning Board. Shaun Bresnahan seconded the motion. All in Favor. Thomas Seymour swore him in.

Thomas Angeley asked if he has a pistol permit issued in Bristol does he need have it changed to Hill. Thomas Seymour said only when it expires then you can renew it in Hill. It was noted that NH no longer requires a permit, but permits may still be issued should someone want one.

Thomas Seymour wanted to double back to discuss the open position in the Police Department. Christopher Gronski asked if we can't find anyone, can we get the cost in the event of interest of other options such as coverage from other towns, State Police or Merrimack County Sheriff. If we change to this option, it would have to be a warrant article. Shaun Bresnahan stated that we need to move forward with hiring a part-time admin. We have two people in the town interested in this position. This person would oversee the operations of the Police department.

The Elderly Credit was last reviewed in 1996 under warrant article 21 which read, "shall we modify the elderly exemptions from property tax in the Town of Hill, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers based on age, income and assets." To change these limits that were voted on in this warrant article, The Board of Selectmen would need to review the current elderly exemptions in surrounding towns of similar size and population. This would then become a warrant article for the town to vote on.

The Zoning Board has requested that the town's counsel legal come to the meetings on the Gravel Pit and they do have a budget line for these fees.

**Health Issues:**

Blake Chaplin from 17 Liden Road came in and complained about a camper and porta-potty near their property and they have had enough of the porta-potty aroma. The Board of Selectmen will have the Health Officer look into this with her Deputy.

Michael Gormley 14 Ferrin Street stated that there is a very strong odor coming from behind his house and it smells like dirty chickens. The Board of Selectmen will have the Health Officer look into this with her Deputy.

The Board of Selectmen would like a letter written defining the status of the septic issue at 20 Shop Road. Lisa Seymour will reach out Corporal Williamson for the status with the court case.

At 9:50 pm, with no further business to conduct, Shaun Bresnahan made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Christopher Gronski seconded the motion. All in favor

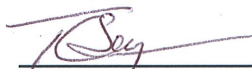

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa A. Seymour

Tom Seymour, Chairman

Shaun Bresnahan

Christopher Gronski

  
AS AMENDED  




\_\_\_\_\_