

# TOWN OF HILL SELECTMEN'S MEETING

July 20, 2021

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

**Selectmen Absent:** None

**Public:** Donald Reese, Lee Herterich, David Thomson, Christopher Seufert, Nathan Mills, Isabella Mills, Rylie Mills, Thomas Angeley, Frank Razzaboni, Stephen Thomson and Joann Irving

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

**Fire Dept:** Chief Moulton reported on the status of Engine 4. The green fire truck is beyond repair and is worth about \$15,000 as is. This engine could be sent to auction and then we could look at something that would be more suitable for the town. That would probably be a second-hand tanker truck. Engine 2 will have the air tank replaced this week and will be out of service for a least one – two days. Harold Knott will be doing the work. Nathan Mills explained that we need to have ladder and pump testing done on all of the equipment per NFPA requirements and this needs to be done once a year. Nathan also gave an update on the medical supplies and the rescue is also up to date. Nathan has ordered Pedi and Adult Stat Pads for the AED units. These will be here in time for Old Home Day. The question was asked how long do the pads last and Nathan said between 18 – 23 months. Nathan has updated all of the AED units which are located at Jennie D Blake, Town office and Police department. There was a question regarding the Hill Volunteer Fire Department and when did the town adopt the paying of the Firefighters. 12 years ago, the town started paying the firefighters and this was because of the liability insurance. The fire department is called the Hill Fire Department. Lisa Seymour will write a letter to remove Deanna Ford from Forest Fire Warden and activate Jamie Moulton as the Fire Warden for the town of Hill.

The Board of Selectmen reviewed the New Hampshire Department of Safety Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Grant Agreement Checklist for the purchase of EOC radios. This grant is a 50/50 matching grant and the obligation of the Town of Hill would be \$5,874.00. After a discussion with the Chief Jamie Moulton about the radios, we decided to move forward. Shaun Bresnahan made a motion to accept the grant for the radios. Thomas Seymour seconded the motion. All in favor.

Chief Jamie Moulton explained the need for having a reporting system in place. This software will maintain collected data to standards set by FEMA's National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) and the National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMSIS). It will include modules for inspections, hydrants, permits, maintenance module, truck checks, training module, inventory module, payroll, reports, staffing and safety basics. The selectmen had several questions about the CAD interface because we don't have a CAD interface. Chief Moulton will contact the emergency reporting company for a requote of the system less the CAD.

Chief Moulton stated that we have nine active members in the fire department.

**Highway Dept:** Dean Stevenson not present

**Police Dept:** Not present.



**Town Clerk/Tax Collector:** Shelly Henry answered questions that Frank Razzaboni had on what it takes to become a resident of the Town of Hill.

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

Stephen Thomson and David Thomson came in to discuss the small engine business located at 265 NH Route 3A. David Thompson wanted to know why this business, identified as being in a commercial zone, never received a site plan review by the Planning Board and why he did not receive a notice being an abutter. Steve Thompson raised this issue in December 2020 with the board of Selectmen. A letter to cease and desist was to be sent. However, the letter was never sent. Selectman Thomas Seymour addressed this error as being "human error".

The owner met with the Planning Board on July 22, 2020 and stated that he would like to start a small engine repair shop from his home in the commercial zone and asked the board what he needed to do in terms of town approval. His plans were to work out of his garage and not have vehicles in the yard. At that time, there was concern over the noise, smell and hazardous substances. At that meeting they tried to classify the enterprise as commercial or home occupation but didn't reach a conclusion. At this meeting they were not able to determine if a site plan would be required. Each member of the board agreed to review the zoning ordinance and email their opinions to the chair and then the Board could consider how to proceed. Stephen Thomson read from an email chain between Mr. Avery and Mr. Helmers. Mr. Helmers states that he heard from the other Planning Board via email and he was good to proceed. Without benefit of holding a meeting – and the lack of meeting minutes to support the decision being made at a properly noticed meeting. This email of approval appears to suggest a decision was made by email which violation of RSA 91-A Right to Know.

In reaching out to Mr. Helmers on January 6, 2021 he stated the board decided that the use was a home occupation and that the scale and scope did not require a site plan review. However, an application and permit is required to approve the home occupation. As of that date, no such application is found and no permit, or form for same, existed. Mr. Helmers informed Mr. Avery that he draft an application and would catch up with a permit later. Mr. Avery never applied for a town building permit for the sign. The permit for the sign would need to come from the State of NH because it's on a state road.

The Board of Selectmen voted to send Mr. Avery a letter to cease and desist at the June 15, 2021 meeting. In the letter Mr. Avery was directed to see the zoning board when in fact he should have directed to the Planning Board. Stephen Thomson asked how are we going to fix this? Selectman Shaun Bresnahan will reach out to Mr. Helmers to schedule a special meeting with Mr. Avery to discuss this issue. Selectman Christopher Gronski said that he intends to ask the Planning Board Chair, Mr. Helmers, to attend a future meeting where he intends to ask for his resignation. Selectman Gronski further stated that this issue is indicative of how this town has been managed.

Joann Irving asked if removing Mr. Helmers can be done with a petition? Selectman Thomas Seymour stated that this discussion would be handled in a non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 (c) and that RSA 673 applies. It was further mentioned that the steps for removal of a town official is not as easy as the appointment process. We have a 9-member planning board with 6 openings and a 7-member zoning board with 4 openings. The Board of Selectmen would like to have people apply for these positions by coming to a selectmen's meeting if interested. The election of board officers occurs at their Annual Meeting, which is the first meeting held after the Town's Annual Business Meeting.

Christopher Seufert from Currier Road came to the selectmen's meeting because he is interested in joining the Planning Board. After listening to the discussions about the planning



board and the concerns with the gravel pit, Christopher decided to join the Planning Board. Selectman Bresnahan cautioned Mr. Seufert that he will need to be cautious when reading social media posts as they often have a slanted view and one is better served by thinking for themselves and avoid undue influences. The Board of Selectmen appointed him and Shelly Henry administrated the oath of office. Francis Razzaboni has also expressed interest in the Planning Board. However, he needs to become a resident of Hill and Shelly Henry explained the process to become a resident. If anyone in the community is interested in the openings on either the Planning Board, or any other board in the town, please reach out to either Lisa Seymour or Shelly Henry.

Joann Irving was concerned that the petition letter that was written and had over 200 signatures was never read or review and was dismissed by the Chairmen of the Planning Board. Some of the meeting attendees felt that Mr. Helmers was rude and didn't listen to them. The residents on Currier Road, Bunker Hill Road, Cass Mill Road and Murray Hill Road are concerned about their safety when you have many large dump trucks hauling over our small country roads. In the Master Plan under Strong Community Identity the vision was to maintain and grow a strong sense of community identity, the citizens of Hill need to feel that they come first and are treated fairly. Under Land Use Preservation of Rural Character, the vision in the coming years, was for the residents of Hill to continue to enjoy the scenic views, picturesque farms, and 19<sup>th</sup> century homes that are located throughout the town. The overall aesthetic experience that one enjoys when driving tree lined roads with large open fields, would be protected. The stone walls that adorn most rural roads would remain intact. Under Manage Growth & Development, the vision was that growth will continue in Hill, but at a manageable pace. For more about the visions for the Town of Hill at that time, please refer to the Hill Master Plan – 2007 on the town's website.

Shaun Bresnahan did review Axel Road, which is classified as a class six road and it is improperly posted. There is a "No Trespassing" sign in the middle of the class six road. Despite this, residents are allowed to use this class six road to access the river for swimming.

#### **BOARD BUSINESS:**

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

David & Jeannie Park 365 Currier Road Map R12 Lot 31-03 28' x 58' Cape 3 Bedroom – Needs to clarify setbacks before final approval

James & Kimberley Bean Currier Road Map R12 Lot 31-2-1 20' x 40' slab for RV – Approved

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

Philip Seibel III 897 NH Rte. 3A Map R1 Lot 24 Logger Jeff Gilbert – Approved

Matthew & Nicole Rea 373 Bunker Hill Road Map R12 Lot 50-4 Logger John Whytes – Approved

Mark Hargreaves & Jennifer St Louis 30 Cass Mill Road Map R3 Lot 31 & Map R7 Lot 06  
Logger Erick Polanik – Approved

##### **Other:**

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

The ad for the Chief of Police has been extend to September 7<sup>th</sup> and Lisa Seymour will send it to Pat Sullivan at the NH Association of Chiefs of Police for posting on their website.

Selectmen Meeting Minutes July 06, 2021 – Approved



Andover Snowmobile Club permission for Access – The Board of Selectmen signed the request to allow the club to cross town property. A question was asked if the property that they were crossing was in the village. The Board of Selectmen stated that it's not permitted to ride snowmobiles in the village district.

Health Officer Deputy – Jamie Moulton will be the new Deputy Health Officer in the absence of Natali Mills, the Health Officer.

Driveway Permits – A link will be provided on the town's website that will go to a spreadsheet listing all approved driveway permits.

Andy & Sons provided an estimate to fix the AC unit in the library. The Board of Selectmen would like three quotes for the AC unit. Lisa Seymour will reach out to other business.

The Selectmen will review the proposed software and radios for the Fire Department at the next meeting.

Thomas Seymour made a motion to enter into Nonpublic Session at 9:05 pm seconded by Shaun Bresnahan. Motion passed unanimously. RSA 91-A:3, II(c).

Shaun Bresnahan made a motion to leave nonpublic Session and return to public session at 9:54 pm. Motion seconded by Thomas Seymour. Motion passed unanimously. Motion was made to seal the minutes. All in favor.

Thomas Seymour made a motion to enter into Nonpublic Session at 9:55 pm seconded by Shaun Bresnahan. Motion passed unanimously. RSA 91-A:3, II(c).

Shaun Bresnahan made a motion to leave nonpublic Session and return to public session at 10:03 pm. Motion seconded by Christopher Gronski. Motion passed unanimously. Motion was made not to seal the minutes. All in favor.

Shaun Bresnahan made a suggestion that the Selectmen Office be closed to the public on Wednesday's starting August 4<sup>th</sup> so that Lisa Seymour can have uninterrupted time for getting paperwork completed. Christopher Gronski agreed and Thomas Seymour abstained.

Shaun Bresnahan made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Thomas Seymour seconded the motion. All in favor

With no further business to conduct, motion was made and unanimously approved to adjourn at 10:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa A. Seymour

Tom Seymour, Chairman

Shaun Bresnahan

Christopher Gronski