

# TOWN OF HILL

## SELECTMEN'S MEETING

April 05, 2022

**Selectmen Present:** Tom Seymour, Chair (2023), Shaun Bresnahan (2024) & Frank Razzaboni (2025)

**Selectmen Absent:** None

**Public Present:** Jim Presher – Concord Regional Solid Waste / Resource Recovery Cooperative (CRSW/RRC), Michael Stanley – Hill, NH CRSW/RRC Representative, Don Boyer – Waste Management (WA)

Tom Seymour brought the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

#### **Highway Department / Transfer Station:**

Road Agent Dean Stevenson reported the new truck has arrived and is performing up to expectations. He is waiting for an inventory check and return call from HP Fairfield to set up an appointment for new truck to be outfitted with remaining equipment. Shaun Bresnahan offered to contact them if Dean has not heard from them by Friday. The truck is expected to be gone at least a week for the outfitting. The department has been removing downed trees on Bunker & Currier roads. The department is also planning to relocate the library's book return box that was damaged during winter snow plowing to the overhang near the front of the building. Library trustees have been involved in this plan and are on board.

Jim Presher, of CRSW/RRC, and Mike Stanley, Hill's CRSW/RRC representative came in to discuss the upcoming renewal of the solid waste removal contract with the Board of Selectmen and Dean Stevenson, Road Agent. Jim Presher began with a brief overview and history of CRSW/RRC and its relationship with Wheelabrator Technologies. Wheelabrator Technologies burns the solid waste producing electricity which it sells on the open market. Transportation costs continue to increase due to limited site availability and higher fuel costs. Jim Presher reported that solid waste volumes were slowly increasing across the state – contrary to popular opinion. When asked about the ability to handle the increases, Jim Presher said CRSW/RRC and Wheelabrator Technologies were poised to handle the anticipated volume. Wheelabrator Technologies can process (burn) up to 580 tons of solid waste daily. He also said that they have several redundancies in their processes to assure stable and dependable systems. The current contract between CRSW/RRC and Wheelabrator Technologies expires in 2029. With 2029 "right around the corner", Jim Presher did not have any idea as to what plans or options might be available at that time. Jim also advised that CRSW/RRC is responsible for the maintenance of the closed ash landfill located in Franklin (on Punch Brook Road, next to the transfer station). He said that all coop members are responsible for the cost of monitoring and any maintenance required at the ash landfill. Jim advised that those towns that have left the cooperative also had to pay a rated share of maintenance that amounted to thousands of dollars. When questioned about this rated share, Jim said it was part of the original agreement reached between member towns in 1985 when the cooperative was established. Jim Presher agreed to send a copy of the original contract for review. The Selectmen will also look for the town's copy of the agreement.

Roy Boyer, of Waste Management, followed CRSW/RRC to discuss HIS 7-year proposed bid to compete for the town's solid waste disposal contract. Roy Boyer advised that WA has several options for ongoing solid waste operations. Solid wastes would likely be delivered to Laconia, with Rochester as another option. WA has other viable locations in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. The current bid is good for 30-days, though Roy offered to have this extended as needed and will contact Lisa Seymour (Administrative Assistant) as the 30-day limit is approached. Roy said that all demolition waste is sorted and they recycle what they can. He also said he was surprised to hear of



the CRSW/RRC ash landfill fees associated with a town's withdrawal from the cooperative. Where he has several towns under contract that have left the cooperative, he offered to check with them to see what their contracts said and what was imposed, if anything. Roy suggested the Selectmen contact that Hopkinton Town Administrator and the Laconia Director of Public Works to find out what was required of them when they withdrew from the cooperative.

Dean Stevenson said the Highway Department will begin road grading in a week or two. Timing will be dependent on the impact of the weather forecast and projected incoming rain for the rest of this week. New signs have come in for posting road ban weight limits and the excessive mud warnings. The new signs are brighter and more visible. Tony Cartier's truck dump bed is 15 years old (2007) and the truck is 9 years old (2013). The grader (vintage 1986) is getting close to end-of-life. The Selectmen agreed they need to evaluate the capital reserve funds and update, as needed, to reflect the life cycle of equipment and current replacement costs more adequately. Most, if not all, capital reserve accounts have had the same amount set aside for many years. This will take place before next budget cycle.

**Town Clerk/Tax Collector:**

Shelly Henry reported that Parks & Recreation have placed sticks around the pond area for possible locations for a flagpole spotlight. Shaun Bresnahan thought the location at the base of the flag pole would be the best place to install a spotlight.

Shelly also reported that Lt. Justin Paquette, of the New Hampshire State Police, stopped in asking to see Don Sullivan, Hill Police Administrator. He told Shelly he had an appointment with Don Sullivan. However, Don Sullivan said Lt. Paquette did not have an appointment. Nothing further has come from this.

Tax notices went and out liens will be placed on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Deeding notices will go out tomorrow.

Shelly reminded the Selectmen that the Water Department increased the service fee to \$58 for water flat rate monthly billing. Quarterly billing will include the actual usage fees. Tom Seymour passed on the negative impressions from those on the system. He thought this have been better received had there been advance notice with explanations. While it was said that the Water Department Commissioners voted and approved the increase, at least one of the Water Commissioners claims to have had no knowledge of such a vote or the increase. It was also reported that town had approved the increase at town meeting. However, no such vote occurred, and the budget number approved was the same number as the last few years. No mention of fee increases had been publicized.

Shelly still has had no luck on recruiting a Deputy Tax Collector. She is, again, lowering the bar and is no looking for an Assistant (does not require town residency). The Selectmen wondered if we could combine the Assistant's position with another existing position.

Utility companies have been submitting vegetation sprayng notices.

Shelly plans to take a vacation from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of May. The public should plan accordingly.

The Selectmen informed Shelly that the air conditioners are being replaced using ARPA funds. With most not working and at least one contaminated with mold, the replacements will improve air circulation and air quality; satisfying the ARPA guidelines.

**Public Session:**

No public present.

**BOARD BUSINESS:**

**Solid Waste Contracts**

Based on information presented tonight (see above – Highway Department / Transfer Station), the decision regarding which firm to contract with will be placed on hold until the CRSW/RRC agreement



can be reviewed. While the proposal from WA is more attractive and can save the town thousands over the contract's duration, the possible withdrawal penalties could be greater than the savings. Plus, the possible withdrawal fees would be payable upfront upon the withdrawal. Frank Razzaboni has offered to contact Laconia's Director of Public Works, Wesley Anderson, to see what their withdrawal experience has been like. Tom Seymour will do the same by contacting Hopkinton's Town Administrator, Neal Cass.

#### **Building Permits:**

Stephen Nye at 667 Murray Hill Road Map R7 Lot 05-02-8, is requesting the re-issuance of an existing permit. The previously approved project had been placed on hold but is now ready to complete. The request was unanimously approved. A new notice for posting will be issued.

#### **Intent To Cut: Notice of Extension**

On March 25, 2022, Peter Thompson and Faith Knowles emailed notification of the extension of timber cutting in accordance with NH RSA 79:10, II. The timber harvest will continue past March 31, 2022 and will be completed no later than June 30, 2022. The email is attached as Exhibit 1.

#### **Ferrin Fund**

Letter requesting transfer of \$70,591.41 was signed by the Selectmen. The letter will be forwarded to the Trustees of Trust Funds. Transfer was approved by legislative body during town meeting held March 10, 2022 (Ref. Warrant Article 7).

#### **Appointments**

Niki Mahoney: Parks & Recreation – Approved  
Jillian Reise: Parks & Recreation – Approved  
December Fortin: Parks & Recreation – Approved  
Frank Marsh: Conservation Commission – Approved

Shaun Bresnahan advised the Board of Selectmen to expect more appointment forms from others including the Budget Committee, Zoning Board of Adjustment, and Planning Board.

#### **Highway Dept**

Diesel fuel price charged to the Fire Department is \$2.20 / Gal using the state pumps in Franklin. Last invoice from Irving for Highway Department was \$5.23 / Gal. The Selectmen will ask Lisa Seymour to see if we can get the 3 highway trucks included in the state system, at least for the summer.

Shaun Bresnahan suggested road reconstruction projects for this summer. First is Burrough Road from High Bridge to the current paved section. Second is Murray Hill Road from the beginning of the Class 5 section to whatever is reasonably priced to do.

Tom Seymour & Shaun Bresnahan attended the virtual workshop on paving put on by NH DOT & UNH. It was suggested that towns are better off incrementally improving road plans. A method known as "Chip Sealing" may offer affordable method for some failing road conditions. There is 1000 ft of Currier starting to show cracks and chip sealing might be a viable method for that section of road.

Shaun Bresnahan reported someone has inquired about purchasing 40 acres that are up for sale in town with the idea of putting in campgrounds. Of concern is the fact there is nothing in zoning regarding campgrounds. Shaun also thought, perhaps, any properties touching RT.3-A be zoned as commercial. The Selectmen thought it would be a good idea to meet with the Planning Board and ZBA to conduct a coordinated zoning ordinance review.

#### **Non-Public Session:**

Shaun Bresnahan made a motion to enter into Non-Public Session at 8:19pm that was seconded by Frank Razzaboni. Motion passed unanimously (Ref. RSA 91-A:3, II (c)).

Shaun Bresnahan made a motion to leave Non-Public Session and return to public session at 8:37pm that was seconded by Frank Razzaboni. Motion passed unanimously.

Shaun Bresnahan made a motion to seal the minutes that was seconded by Tom Seymour. Motion passed unanimously.

With no further business to conduct, Frank Razzaboni made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Shaun Bresnahan seconded. Motion passed unanimously and Tom Seymour adjourned the meeting at 8:58PM.

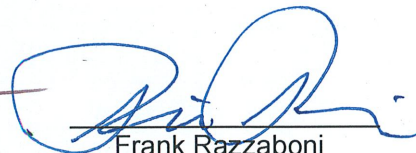
Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Seymour

**MEETING MINUTES ACCEPTED:**

  
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Tom Seymour, Chair

  
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Shaun Bresnahan

  
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Frank Razzaboni