

TOWN OF HILL

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

May 2, 2023

Selectmen Present: Shaun Bresnahan Chairman, Frank Razzaboni, Stephen Thomson & Lisa Seymour (Administrative Assistant)

Selectmen Absent: None

Public: Mark Labonte, Thomas Seymour, Sean Chamberlain, Martin Furnbach, Matthew George, Michael Wallace, Bruce Blazon, Fred Hopengarten Esq., Charles Estes, Bill Wilson, Wendy Rosa and James Magee

Shaun Bresnahan brought the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

FIRE DEPT:

No Report at this time

HEALTH OFFICER:

No Report at this time

HIGHWAY DEPT:

Dean Stevenson reported the repairs to Murray Hill Road on going and road is open. They plan to replace at least two culverts this week. Stephen Thomson asked what the cause of the failure was. Shaun Bresnahan stated that a town culvert became plugged in the heavy rain, water jumped the culvert and debris plugged a driveway culvert which cause the next town culvert to clogged in the end six culverts failed. Brandon Reynolds has a culvert at the top of his driveway as well as the one at the bottom of the driveway. His upper culvert failed sent water down his driveway; Lisa Seymour pulled the driveway permits for the new houses on Murray Hill Road to verify the size of culvert each driveway should have. These were issued by the Planning Board years ago and Stephen Thomson feels that there was no follow through after the culverts were installed. Shaun Bresnahan mentioned that final driveway permits were issued and obviously there was and since two of the driveways had culverts that were smaller than the ones specified by road agent. In addition, the cross-drainage culverts are perpendicular to the road and not a 22-degree diagonal. The board of selectmen are fully aware that the roads need repairs. Shaun Bresnahan stated the driveway permits are now issued from the Selectmen's office. Stephen Thomson said the Planning Board needs to update their materials to indicate this change because planning board rules and procedures state this is still a planning board function.

Stephen Thomson stated we have a road department so why are we subcontracting the mowing and several other projects. Stephen Thomson asked why did we subcontract the Murray Hill Road washout without all 3 selectmen making this decision "we are a board of 3". Shaun Bresnahan called in help because the highway department could not bring in enough materials to stabilize the road. Shaun Bresnahan called Danny at SKR because they can haul more material in one truck load and it would take 3-1/2 truckloads and the road would been closed a lot longer and more heavy rain was forecasted on Tuesday and Wednesday. Stephen Thomson stated his concern was not the fact that the repair needed to be handled, but was the fact that not all 3 board members made the decision to subcontract.

Shaun Bresnahan asked Dean what is the plan going forward was to make full repairs to Murray Hill Road? Dean stated that they have some gravel and reclaim in the pit that can be used. Dean Stevenson added that there is not much gravel left under Murray Hill Road.

Lisa Seymour sent a text to the entire board at 7:38 am after seeing a post on FaceBook to alert them of the Murray Hill Road issue. Shaun and Frank immediately went to the site to survey the damage and to initiate recovery.

Frank Razzaboni asked if we could use ARPA funds to repair the road. Shaun Bresnahan said the money can only be used for air filtration, water infrastructure and emergency responders' bonuses. Stephen Thomson asked how much money was left in that account and Shaun said \$70,822 and this has to be allocated to projects before the end of the 2024 and expended by 2026.

Lisa Seymour asked if they could keep track of the Highway Department hours, cost of materials used, and contractor hours because then we would be ready if FEMA offers funding. Shaun Bresnahan thought if we could manage the budget and use the Road Reconstruction funds, we would be okay. Lisa Seymour asked Dean if he could use the road reconstruction account on their timecards for this repair. Mark LaBonte, Deputy Fire Chief, will help the Highway Department with the flushing of the culvert under Murray Hill Road. They will use the pumper as a training opportunity.

Shaun Bresnahan signed the contract for Bellemore do the Catch Basin Cleaning and Pipe Jetting which will be paid for by ARPA funding. The catch basins should be cleaned every year.

Stephen Thomson asked Dean what the issue was with the catch basin located at 42 New Chester Road. Dean stated that the pipe that connected the basins collapsed due to crumbling concrete.

Equipment Status: The backhoe is still having an issue with the air conditioning blowing fuses and needs to be repaired. Shaun Bresnahan had the understanding the AC circuit breaker might be bad. Shaun asked Dean to call Charlie Henry to come and fix it. The grader will have the new tires put on tomorrow and then it will be ready to start grading the roads. Dean stated that all other equipment is running good.

Mr. Perry of 594 Murray Hill Road is having trees removed next week and a crane will be brought in to do this work. Mr. Perry asked if this will be a problem with the current road situation of? Shaun Bresnahan suggested he have the crane be brought in from the other side of town.

POLICE DEPT:

No report at this time.

TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR:

No report at this time.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Mark LaBonte brought in the warden paperwork to be signed. Forest Ranger Nathan Blanchard will check the Transfer Station burn pit in order to issue a fire permit for this year. Deputy Fire Chief Mark LaBonte has a possible lead on receiving a free ATV with tracks from Vermont. Mark also dropped off a quote to review for the repairs to the fire station roof.

Sean Chamberlain, from the Lakes Region Planning Commission's Transportation Advisory Committee, came to talk about the Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC) and what it offers for the Town. Sean mentioned that the Town of Hill currently doesn't have a member on the board and

they would like to have someone. They currently meet on Wednesday's and the next meeting is June 7th at the Moultonborough library from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Shaun Bresnahan will be the point contact. Shaun Bresnahan asked if they do anything with road quality development and prioritizing of paved roads. Shaun asked about funding sources. Sean Chamberlain stated that they do assist with road studies and the infrastructure funding has opened with many grants. However, it comes with 20% match funds from the town.

Sean Chamberlain shared the information about road surface management Systems (RSMS). LRPC budgets for these activities. RSMS can be used to detect early signs of roadway failure, and for the creation and maintenance of comprehensive inventories of all municipal roads by gathering information such as pavement type and condition of roadways. RSMS is an effective method for prioritizing and improving the coordination of road surface maintenance efforts.

Martin Furnbach's building permit for an 8' x 16' storage room with a composting bathroom, deck, mudroom and sunroom was approved. Shaun Bresnahan looked into off grid camps with composting toilets in the State of NH and found this was allowable. Martin Furnbach stated that he would be using a 12-volt composting unit and it will be carried in and out. Martin asked if he could have a point well and solar panels on the property. The Board didn't have an issue with this.

Matthew George, of Tioga Road & Patten Road lot R13 Lot 41, came to see if this lot would be buildable. Stephen Thomson suggested he be referred to the Planning Board to see if it meets the Zoning Ordinances for road frontage as is proper procedure. Mr. George says his deed clearly states the sub division road is adequate for building and research Hills Zoning he feels this is true. Shaun Bresnahan pulled the property file and there was a copy of the approved plat which clearly shows a road for access to the sub division lots. Even though the road has not been constructed it meets the zoning requirements and RSA 674:41. The selectmen agree that Mr. George's lot meets the legal standard that it is buildable.

Michael Wallace, of 25 Snow Road, has a complaint regarding a neighbor burning plastic and making loud noises when working on his property. Michael stated that Lori Wallace asked the neighbor to stop digging near their property because it was also resulting in water being diverted on their property. Shaun Bresnahan told Michael he doesn't own the property; It belongs to the Town. Bruce Blazon stated the material being burnt in the outside furnace and it does not contain plastic it was simply cardboard. Mike Wallace claims the chimney for the furnace is not high enough resulting in smoke effecting him. Mike also stated that Marshall Bennett agreed. Bruce Blazon stated his chimney is at the legal height. At this point Shaun Bresnahan states this is a neighbor dispute that we have no legal authority to enforce the issues being brought before the board if there is an issue with the burning of material the Fire Chief is the one to address this issue.

Fred Hopengarten is a federal communication law attorney representing amateur radio K1VR. Fred came to discuss the erection of an amateur radio station antenna on property owned by Paul & Stephanie Merrill property located in Hill. Shaun Bresnahan said that after researching our zoning ordinances, the 2-1/2 stories requirement doesn't pertain to radio towers. Stephen Thomson made a motion to accept the placement of the ham radio antenna. Shaun Bresnahan seconded the motion. All in favor.

Charles Estes came in for his request from the April meeting to be appointed Water Commissioner. Shaun Bresnahan asked when he formally requested to be appointed as water commissioner? Charlie responded he made the request to the selectmen on April 11. Shaun Bresnahan said one was never received. The minutes from the 4/18 selectmen minutes show Stephen Thomson discussing Charlie as water commissioner and Shaun and Frank stating they cannot work with him. In October 2022, Charlie Estes sent an email to the selectmen regarding a proposal to manage the

water department which was placed on file pending the receipt of additional quotes. Shaun Bresnahan stated that they cannot work with Charles Estes due to the ongoing contentious relationship and Francis Razzaboni agreed. Scott Drapeau and Charles Estes are interested in becoming Water Commissioners. However, per Stephen Thomson, Scott Drapeau would not be available until late summer. Stephen Thomson made a motion for the appointment of Charles Estes as a Water Commissioner. Shaun Bresnahan seconded the motion. Shaun Bresnahan abstained, Francis Razzaboni abstained, and Stephen Thomson voted yes. Charles Estes researched the vote and found with two abstained votes and 1 yes the motion would pass. Stephen Thomson approved the appointment and filled out the appointment form. Shaun Bresnahan resigned his position as a Water Commissioner effective immediately. The next Water Commissioner's meeting will be May 9, 2023 at 6:30 pm in the Selectmen's Office.

Bruce Blazon asked about 25 Snow Road in regard to a proposed mortgage deal with the previous owner. The bankruptcy plan outlines payments to the town but there are no protections for the town. Selectmen have worked with legal counsel on a repurchase agreement that protects the towns interests in detail and the town becomes a mortgage holder and the mortgage would be paid in five years with a 14% interest rate. This will be discussed at the upcoming court date of May 12, 2023, provided the hearing is not rescheduled again.

Selectmen Business:

Building Permit:

Paul & Stephanie Merrill, of 54 Snow Road Map R10 lot 31-2, are looking to an addition, 40' x 26' with kitchen/dining room to main house, detached 40' x 40' barn with solar planes and erect amateur radio antennas – Approved

Thomas & Donna Waldron, of 190 Murray Hill Road Map R6 Lot 43-02, want to install a Roof Mounted Solar Array, 28 Modules Grid-Tied – Approved

Driveway Permits:

None

Intent to Cut:

Stephen & Eden Lefebvre, of 816 Murray Hill Road Map R3 Lot 53, Logger Michael Corliss – Approved

Gravel Intent:

None

Other:

Selectmen Meeting Mins. – April 18, 2023 – Signed

Wage increases are pending the reviews from the Road Agent for the Highway Department. This will be discussed at the May 16th meeting.

Shaun Bresnahan and Stephen looked into CDL requirements for medical cards and found that government agency or municipalities are not required to have a medical card and they are considered exempt. This includes the following: firefighters, EMTs, rescue vehicles, federal, state, or local government employees.

Extra sets of maps, 11"x17", for the Fire Dept, Highway Dept. and two to have on hand are \$150.00 each. New Maps are on the Website. Shaun Bresnahan is going to see if Staples can do them cheaper.

Application for Use of the Town Hall (School) for June 7th. School has no functions that day. Historical Society has been approved to use the gymnasium for an evening program.

Lien Execution Report was reviewed by the Board of Selectmen.

The Mowing Contract with R&B Property Maintenance has been approved and signed.

Study committee police chief update. Bruce Blazon requested that Thomas Seymour recuse himself from the committee because of an amendment to the article 3 that reads as follows: "Proposed (\$0) increase to the article to insert language: "that the Select Board will include in the recruitment, interviewing, and hiring of a police chief and advisory committee of at least 3 citizens meeting the residency requirements of the Town of Hill to exclude current or former town employees with the exception a former Police Chief."" Shaun Bresnahan said that Tom Seymour was an elected official, not a hired employee, so therefore doesn't fall into the amended article by Bruce Blazon. Shaun Bresnahan will have a couple of dates and times for meetings and will email the committee. The first committee meeting will be May 23rd at 6:30 pm location to be determined.

First tax billing – July 10th would be the due date. The Board of Selectmen will confirm at the next meeting the date to issue the 1st tax bills.

Albert and Janet Moriarty would like to build a home on Kenniston Road and it appears to be on a Class VI Road. He wanted to submit a building permit to the Board of Selectmen and was told that it would be a planning board discussion and they will meet on May 18th at 7:00 in the library.

Discussion on the repairs to the 2013 International 7400 at Reeds Truck Service. We are waiting for the invoice to come in for the repairs. Currently, we can use the equipment expense line in the Highway Department budget. Lisa Seymour will prepare the paperwork to transfer funds if needed from the Emergency Repair Fund.

Currier Road needs a culvert replaced just above 282 Currier Road. The culvert failed above the grade of the road.

The Selectmen talked about a few areas in town that could be considered junk yards or health issues. One being on Currier Road and another on Borough Road.

Stephen Thomson stated 318 Cass Mill Road will need to be reviewed again. There are two tiny houses on the larger lot and one has been moved closer to the river with most of the trees having been removed on the river bank. There is still a question regarding septic.

Bootjack Road, LLC update on the review of the RSA 155-5a Incremental Reclamation which covers depletion of commercial earth materials. Stephen Thomson reviewed and will discuss with the planning board. He asked if any agreement was ever made to maintain a portion of Dearborn Rd. The other question he asked was whether it is allowable for the Boot Jack pit to use or upgrade a Class VI Road to haul materials without a class VI road agreement. Shaun Bresnahan responded he was unsure; if all uses of a Class VI Road required an agreement then one would be required for logging operations. He wasn't sure that uses other than residential building required an agreement.

The Welfare Policy was reviewed and there was no discussion.

The 1999 Dump Truck will put out to bid as a yard truck. There will be more discussion and finalizing at the next meeting where the board will further discuss the selling of the truck

Shaun Bresnahan made a motion to enter into Nonpublic Session at 9:28 pm and was seconded by Stephen Thomson. Motion passed (RSA 91-A:3, II (c))

Shaun Bresnahan made a motion to leave nonpublic Session and return to public session at 8:38 pm. Motion was seconded by Stephen Thomson. Motion passed. Motion made to seal the minutes passed.

With no further business to conduct, Francis Razzaboni made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Shaun Bresnahan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously motion at 9:42 pm.

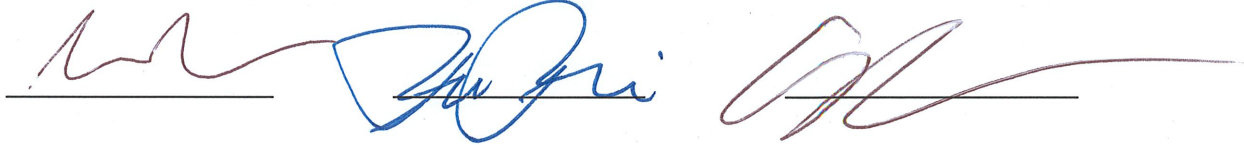
Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Seymour

Shaun Bresnahan, Chair

Frank Razzaboni

Stephen Thomson

Three handwritten signatures are present, each written over a horizontal line. The first signature on the left is in black ink. The middle signature is in blue ink. The third signature on the right is in black ink.