

Board members present: Chairman Brown, Selectman Bugbee and Selectman LaCourse

Others present: Chief Dronsfield, Steve Bullek, Ted Gatsas, Pat Barbour, Randy Stevens, Anne and John Tappan, Town Administrator Julie Glover and Town Secretary Denise Duval.

1. Chairman Brown calls the meeting to order at 6:29 pm.
2. Chairman Brown opens the meeting up to public comment.

Ted Gatsas, 105 Birchwood Road Manchester, NH, is visiting all the towns within his district to tell the folks that if he is fortunate enough to win the election for Executive Council he will be back to visit again. He is open for questions and there are none at this time.

3. Amy Schmidt, Solid Waste Advisory Committee Chair, updates the Board on what the committee has been discussing. She goes through a PowerPoint presentation. The swap shop has been a big topic for them as well. They have been discussing the bulky waste fees and collection methods. The hauling contracts and disposal and operational costs / budget have been deeply discussed. The committee has spoken briefly on how they are going to communicate with the Lee residents about the changes that they will be suggesting such as signage at the TS, swap shop protocol and disposal waste fees.

Randy Stevens goes over the PowerPoint presentation showing what Lee presently charges for various bulky items along with what other towns and cities in NH charge. The fairest way to charge is by the pound but that does require a lot of labor. He then reviews the slide which shows Lee's current bulky waste fees and proposed changes along with each items average disposal cost.

Selectman Bugbee states that there is an argument to be made that if you are a resident of the town who pays taxes then why should I pay extra for this service. He asks if the committee is looking at this to weigh the cost effectiveness of this procedure. He does not think that \$20k in revenue is very much compared to somebody's time to work taking this stuff in. Selectman Bugbee states that the coupons are expensive and he doesn't think this is a cost effective way of doing things. He says it comes back to philosophy. If he is paying his taxes then he wants his services done, but now he is getting charged extra. He wants them to have this discussion. Amy Schmidt is concerned that if it is free here then people will ask their friends and family to take their trash to our dump for them. If we are the only town around not charging then all of a sudden people would have a lot of new friends in Lee. The committee has decided that they want to do away with being able to bring the tickets back to redeem something at the swap shop. This is an extra layer of bureaucracy that the transfer station does not need to track. Selectman LaCourse asks if there are a lot of people at the swap shop on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Toby Van Aken states that they have had to shut it down during the days due to lack of volunteers. This is on the Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting's agenda for tonight to discuss.

TA Glover asks if the Board is ready to move forward on this. There needs to be a public hearing to change the fees if they are. The Board agrees to schedule a public hearing.

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Dean Rubine says the tax payers should not be irate paying for large amount of construction debris. They are not trying to make money. They are trying to cover the cost to dispose of municipal waste to keep from raising the tax rate. Toby Van Aken adds that this is a good way to educate the people on how much waste disposal costs.

4. a) Steve Bullek, Highway Supervisor, requests permission to take a pick-up truck home so he is better able to respond to after-hour emergencies and perform road assessment patrols during the winter.
- b) Mr. Bullek requests permission to purchase a spreader for the F-450 pick-up truck for snow and ice operations. There is \$10,000 in the CIP that is earmarked for a new lawn mower to mow the cemeteries with that. The guys have indicated that the two mowers they have are in good shape and the mower prices have come down a lot. He thinks \$10k is a lot. He presents 3 quotes for the spreader. He states that even if he needs to get a new lawn mower he thinks that with the last quote of \$5255 for the spreader, he should be able to get both for the same \$10k. He says that the F-450 plows snow and that's it. This way he can go into developments and use it as a plow truck/sander/salter to shorten up some of the plow routes that they have. He could use it to plow/sand/salt at the PSC and Town Hall as well. Selectman Bugbee thanks him for getting three quotes.
- c) Mr. Bullek requests to raise the pay rates for the part-time plow truck drivers. None of the people he has called will come over to plow at the current rate of \$19/hr. The range out there is anywhere between \$20 – \$25. He would like to raise to \$22 to entice some others to come here. Finding good plow drivers is not easy. He would also like to raise the rate for the 2 plow drivers who drive the pick-up truck by \$1/hr. It would make one \$16 and one \$17.50.

The Board addresses each one separately. Chairman Brown moves to authorize the Highway Supervisor to purchase a new 2.5 CY Fisher Poly Caster spreader for the F-450 plow truck from HP Fairfield and to utilize \$5,255 from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund for this purchase. Selectman Bugbee, seconds. All in favor. **Motion Carries.**

Chairman Brown moves to allow the Highway Supervisor to utilize a Town-owned vehicle to commute to and from work, subject to the same policy that covers the Police and Fire Chiefs to be effective immediately. Selectman Bugbee, seconds. All in favor. **Motion Carries.**

Selectman Bugbee does not want to continue to give a bonus to the plow drivers as they have done in the past should the pay rate be increased. Selectman LaCourse says that they will see how it works with the rates and if things don't work as well then they can revisit it again.

Chairman Brown moves to approve the pay increases as presented for part-time snow plow drivers, effective November 1, 2018. Selectman Bugbee, seconds. All in favor. **Motion Carries.**

5. The Cemetery Trustees are not present so the Board tables this for another time.
6. Chief Dronsfield indicates that Chief Nemet and he wanted to discuss this topic together since they have a lot of the same issues. Chief Nemet wants to wait until after his budget presentation so he would like to come back for this issue.

On a different topic Chief Dronsfield would like to be able to go over his overtime hours in order to help Durham Police with the World Series coverage. The Board does not have a problem with him going over.

7. Selectman Bugbee forwarded the document with the Legislative Policy updates to the Board. He does not have anything specific to say about any one of them.

8. a) Selectman Bugbee suggests doing the volunteer dinner again this year. If we want to have it at Flagg Hill he thinks we need to start talking about it now or if we want to have it at the Grange then the Board should discuss that. The Board thinks that they should have it again as way to say thank you and all three would like to see it at Flagg Hill. The Board asks the Town Secretary to organize it again. The Board agrees to invite all the volunteers with one significant other. Flagg Hill only has room for 80 seats. Town Secretary will find out if the Fire and Police will be attending and what Thursday in December works for most everyone.

b) Selectman Bugbee needs to find out if the Board is interested in going forward with more department head training. The Board is interested and would like the TA to get possible dates in January and February that the staff would be available and send them the list of programs to choose from.

9. TA states that the preliminary tax rate for 2018 is \$31.12. Every \$400,000 is \$0.89. The Board needs to consider what if any amount to use from the fund balance to reduce the tax rate and what does the Board want to contribute to the overlay. The overlay is an amount that the Town is actually raising taxes for to pay for refunds owed to taxpayers who are granted tax abatements. The Town has used \$20,000 for the past several years. Two things have happened this year. The 1st thing is the Fairpoint court case did not go well for the municipalities. The Town could be looking at more than \$200,000 in settlement costs. The terms of this payment has not been determined as of yet. When this is going to be settled has not been finalized either. It could be next FY. The 2nd thing is the Town of Lee is \$1.5 million apart in the assessed value of Market Basket which is \$45k in taxes. The unassigned fund balance has \$2,172,778.00 in it and she thinks that between \$200-250 was returned in FY18. This balance includes the warrant article commitments which totaled \$273,410. In 2017 the Board used \$400,000, in 2016 the Board used \$160,000 and in 2015 the Board used \$450,000 to reduce the tax rate. Selectman LaCourse wants to use \$300,000 towards the tax rate. Selectman Bugbee states that is too aggressive for him. He wants to leave at least \$1.7 - \$1.8 million in the unassigned fund balance. The Board agrees on \$250,000 and leaving the overlay at \$20,000. TA Glover states that would leave a tax rate of \$30.57. Chairman Brown moves to authorize the TA to forward to the Department of Revenue the Town of Lee 2018 Tax Rate reflecting an Overlay of \$20,000 and applying \$250,000 from the Unassigned Fund Balance in order to reduce the Tax Rate to approximately \$30.57 / thousand. Selectman Bugbee, seconds. All in favor. **Motion Carries.**

10. a) TA Glover updates the Board with regards to the Lee Circle Water Agreement. The last conversation the TA had with Durham's engineer April Talon, she indicated that the Town's staff is going to recommend to the Durham Town Council that a surcharge of 15% be levied against the Town of Lee water users once this new water line goes in. She asked for the rationale behind this and has yet to receive it. She is going to continue to press for this and ask when they are all sitting around the table at the next meeting. Ms. Talon is supposed to send TA

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Glover the PUC regulation that allows one municipality to do this. This is a pretty hefty surcharge. She wonders if they are going to charge those who have been on the water line since the 80's.

b) Town Secretary found out that the electronic sign that she has been looking at can house 250 messages. You also should be able to go at least 50 away from the sign and still be able to program it. There is a wireless option, but it does cost \$700 extra. The Board would like to know how much it is going to cost to have power run to the sign, how far away will the wireless be able to work and can program messages for different times of the day.

c) The Board decides on presenting the Boston Post Cane on November 1st or 14th in the PSC first floor at 7:30 pm. Refreshments will be served.

d) Election coverage for 11/6/2018 will be as follows: Chairman Brown 7:00am – 12:00pm
Selectman Bugbee 12:00pm – 5:00pm
Selectman LaCourse 5:00pm – close

e) There are no miscellaneous items to be discussed.

11. Chairman Brown moves to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Selectman Bugbee, seconds. All in favor. **Motion Carries.**

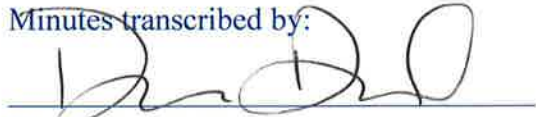
12. Selectman Bugbee states that the TCVC has finalized their program requirements but he does not have a copy for the Board at this time. They are meeting tomorrow and Caren has been invited to discuss parking requirements. The architect has shown them some conceptual drawings. The architect is going to move forward with them after they discuss the parking issues. They have talked about having the church and town parking connected so that the kids can walk from the school to the library. Chairman Brown asks when does the Board get to see a milestone or something that shows where they are at. Selectman Bugbee says at the next process when the architect comes back with a couple of different options. John Tappan indicates it will be Friday. Selectman Bugbee says that Mr. Tappan has been doing some research on what there are for regulations but the regulations do not seem to match what the TCVC is doing. John Tappan suggests bundling requirements and coming up with a number. The TCVC doesn't want to not follow the rules but they don't want to just say they are exempt and move forward without trying.

Chairman Brown there is now a movement to save the parish house. Selectman Bugbee confirms that there is a group that is going to be putting forward a warrant that asks for the Town to give them more time to figure out what to do. The parish house has been placed on the 7 to save list so their tack is going to be to ask the voters to give them more time to present something to the Town in terms of what to do with that facility. Selectman LaCourse states that this is disingenuous at this point after we have gone this far and everyone has been involved in this discussion even having someone in authority who understands the history of buildings come to talk to us. Both Selectman LaCourse and Chairman Brown think this is disappointing. This could throw off all the scheduling pertaining to the project and it has a cost impact. Selectman Bugbee states that the TCVC is aware that they do not take into consideration any of these things and this is not what the TCVC is looking at. John Tappan says that the parish house was a possible place for future parking for an addition to the municipal office building. Selectman Bugbee states that this addition is not in the plan, it is just a future thought.

Selectman LaCourse says that the Planning Board is meeting Thursday night at 7pm to discuss two things with regards to Bedrock Gardens. One will be the traffic report that was submitted and days and hours of operation. Selectman LaCourse indicates that they are cooperating.

- 13. Chairman Brown moves to adjourn at 8:02pm. Selectman Bugbee, seconds. All in favor. **Motion Carries.**

Minutes transcribed by:



Denise Duval, Town Secretary

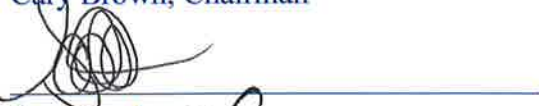
11/5/18

Date

Minutes accepted by The Lee Select Board:



Cary Brown, Chairman



Scott Bugbee



John LaCourse