

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD**  
**Monday, November 5, 2018 - 7PM**

**Present:** Thomas Maher, Chair, Bill Stewart, Selectman, Damon Frampton, Selectman, and Bette Jane Riordan, Secretary.

**Also present:** Christiane McAlister, Accountant, Ken McDonald, TAPC, Dave McGuckin, and Jim Burns.

**1. Approve Minutes: October 15, 2018.**

Selectman Frampton made a Motion to Approve the minutes of the October 15, 2018 Select Board (BOS) meeting as amended. Selectman Stewart seconded, and the Motion carried.

**2. Public Question and Answer:**

Chair Maher stated that for this portion of the agenda, as a general rule, members of the public should limit their comments to five minutes per speaker. There were no public comments for this meeting.

**3. New Business.**

**a. Trustee of Trust Funds request for appointment.**

Chair Maher stated that Nancy Jackson of Cranfield Street has been asked to serve as an alternate for the Trustees of the Trust Funds for a term ending in May 2019. After brief discussion, Selectman Stewart made a Motion to Appoint Ms. Jackson as an alternate to the Trustees of the Trust Funds for a term ending May 2019. Selectman Frampton seconded, and the Motion carried. The Board signed the appropriate paperwork and Ms. Jackson will be in to complete the paperwork with Pam Cullen.

**b. Website: TAPC Ken McDonald.**

Chair Maher stated that at the last meeting of the Board, discussion of the upcoming change to the Town's web site provider took place, and that pending review of the proposals in the interim period since the last meeting, he hoped the Board would make a final decision this evening. Ken McDonald explained that the provider, VTH, (Virtual Town Hall) has notified the Town that effective April 30, 2019, the platform will no longer be available. VTH currently provides web sites to most municipalities in New Hampshire. The Town has the option of either migrating to the new platform for \$3,000, payable over three years, with no change in the annual fee, or find another provider. Ken reviewed the benefits of the new user-friendly platform which will be put in place of the current one. After discussion, Selectman Stewart made a Motion to purchase the new platform allowing for migration from the current web site set up to the updated platform. Selectman Frampton seconded, and the Motion carried.

**c. Safepath. TAPC Ken McDonald.**

Ken reported several breakthroughs which occurred this week, all of which mark forward progress with the project. The easement from the Wild Rose Lane property owner as been signed and notarized and dropped off with Ken. The draft plans from CMA need to be finalized and be filed and recorded with the Registry of Deeds, along with the easement. Contracts need to be signed with Rye Beach Landscaping, and then NH DOT needs to give

its approval. The contracts with providers are under 85 thousand dollars. Chair Maher also reported on his discussions with a Program Specialist from the State Land and Water Conservation Commission regarding Safepath impacts upon the Common. They are on board with the project at this time.

**d. Water Sewer project.**

Selectman Stewart recapped the ongoing plans to meet with homeowners in the area of the various loops, regarding the surveying of their properties for possible location of water lines, and possible easement requests. Approximately 18 homeowners have been sent a letter. A public information meeting on this subject is planned for late December or early January. Bill reported that “shovels in the ground” for the main water transmission line should occur beginning in Late Spring Early Summer 2019. Dave McGuckin suggested that the Select Board consider broadcasting the public information meeting on YouTube. The Select Board took that suggestion under advisement. Bill did note that the recent “kick off” meeting for the project was focused on logistics with department heads (DPW) and Underwood. One of Underwood’s employees will be the contact for the Town and will be coordinating the public safety meeting date. Bill noted that things would be more active in about three weeks. The Board briefly discussed the betterments issue, wherein homeowners who wish to upgrade their systems can apply for a finite amount of funds available for that purpose under the contract.

Christiane McAllister, Town accountant, stated that the initial disbursement of borrowed funds would be November 15, which will pay for surveying costs.

**e. Gifts.**

Chair Maher reported on the recent gift of \$5,000 to the Town from the United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut from the Matthews family. \$2500 each was designated to the Police and Fire Department. Other amounts were given to the School (PTO) and the Library. Selectman Stewart made a Motion to Accept the gifts to the Town as presented, which was seconded by Selectman Frampton. Motion carried.

**f. Oceanside Trash Collection.**

Chair Maher reported that Oceanside owner Carl Eckstead recently notified the Town that he has sold the trash collection side of his business, noting that the pricing and schedule will remain the same. After brief discussion, Selectman Stewart requested that the file and contract be pulled for complete review.

**4. Committee Reports:**

**Fire Department:**

Chair Maher commented upon the recent retirement of Fire Chief Dave Blanding and the appointment of Mark Wooley as Interim Chief. Chair Maher has been meeting regularly with the Fire Department, along with interim Fire Chief Mark Wooley, Bill Cronin and Terri Golter and will continue to do so to assure a smooth transition and the maintenance of a high level of public safety. He noted that Mark is doing a great job and thanked the Department for their support during this time of transmission.

### **Additional Discussion Item: Hunting**

Selectman Stewart reported that he had met with the Police Chief today regarding the ongoing problem of individuals shooting deer on private or Town owned property and in some instances, leaving the animal to die. The problem of overpopulation of deer, coupled with individuals trying to “cull the herd”, and state and federal laws respecting hunting and firing of weapons has culminated into a public safety issue, along with other issues. How best to legally resolve this matter was the topic for discussion. The overpopulation issue had been raised a few BOS meetings earlier when owners complained that ornamental plants were being consumed, and asked if there was some way the State or some entity could provide assistance on the island to reduce the deer population. Various points were raised and discussed:

It is legal to hunt on private property with the owner’s permission but not on Town owned land without expressed permission.

Hunters can take up to 6 deer with tags.

Should the town take this up as an issue?

It’s an issue of public safety.

New Castle is a small area.

What is the Town’s ability and authority to arrange for “culling of the herd”?

While Selectmen have contacted NH Fish and Game for assistance in this matter, no definitive decision has been made.

There are apparently ways to “strategically” cull the herd, but no final answer or directive is at hand.

Dave McGuckin suggested the Town enact a temporary Emergency Ban on hunting for public safety purposes until such time as a legal opinion is obtained. After much discussion, the Select Board agreed to an interim ban on hunting in the interests of public safety as part of an emergency ordinance. The Motion to Adopt this temporary ban was made by Selectman Stewart and seconded by Selectman Frampton. Motion carried. The Select Board agreed to seek a legal opinion and also confer with counsel from the NHMA ( New Hampshire Municipal Association) as to the appropriate mechanism for addressing this issue.

There being no further business to come before the Select Board, Selectman Frampton made a Motion to Adjourn, which was seconded by Selectman Stewart.

Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bette Jane Riordan