Board of Selectmen
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
August 3, 2022
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: I. Haines; E. Dill; T. Govert
Also Present: D. Barrows; B. Dickenson; C. Dickenson; D. Dill; J. Dill; R. Dill; A. Shaltiel; L. Zemienieski; and other members of the public

1. First Selectman Haines called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Agenda

   Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to approve the agenda as written. Unanimous aye.

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of July 20, 2022

   Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 20, 2022, as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence

   There was no correspondence discussed at the meeting.

5. First Selectmen's Report

   A. Update on request to Create an Ordinance Regarding Term Lengths for Elected Officials

      Ms. Haines advised that the Town's attorneys are still in the process of reviewing a Special Act adopted by the Town in 1939 to determine its impact on whether the terms for elected officials can be modified by an ordinance or whether a Town Charter would be required.

   Ms. Haines also reported the following:

   - The Police Department is going out for additional bids on a replacement marine patrol boat.
   - Additional detour signs are being installed at the Strong Brook project on Route 82.
   - The state will be paving a section of Town Street near the Town Office Building on the day of the referendum; however, only minimal traffic disruption is expected.

6. Public Comment: The following public comments were made at the meeting:

   - In response to a question from Ms. Shaltiel, Ms. Haines provided additional clarification of the research being done regarding the Town's ability to change the term lengths for some elected officials.

7. Unfinished Business

A. Broadband Discussion: Ms. Haines reported that the Town has signed an agreement with EntryPoint to conduct a feasibility study for establishing a municipal fiber optic broadband service. She stated that the next step is to create a team to work with EntryPoint on the project. Ms. Govert advised that several of the original Broadband Committee members have expressed an interest in continuing to serve on the broadband project. Ms. Zemienieski noted that a new charge will have to be drawn up for the committee. There was a general discussion regarding the makeup and responsibilities of the new committee as well as where to post ads soliciting new members.

B. Disposition of Engine 2-15 Discussion: Ms. Haines reported that the Fire Department has established a working group to respond to the questions the Board raised at their July 20, 2022 meeting regarding the disposition of Engine 2-15.

C. Beer & Wine Request – Fire Department: The Selectmen discussed the Fire Department's request to serve beer and wine at the planned Wet Down of the Quint. Ms. Haines stated that she would be attending the event and she and Ms. Govert stated they had no objections to the request. Mr. Dill reiterated that he was comfortable with the request as long as a sufficient number of Fire Department staff agree to refrain from partaking of alcoholic beverages at the Wet Down so there would be a crew available that could respond to potential emergencies.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Mr. Dill, to approve the request for beer and wine service at the Fire Department for their "Wet Down" event on September 10, 2022. Unanimous aye.

8. New Business

A. Board/Commission/Committee Changes: There were no Board, Commission, or Committee changes discussed at the meeting.

B. Tax Refunds: There were no tax refunds considered at the meeting.

9. Public Comment

In response to public comments and questions from C. Dickenson; Randy Dill, Doug Barrows, Joan Dill, and Amalia Shaltiel, Ms. Haines and Ms. Govert provided additional information about broadband service in general as well as the agreement with EntryPoint to conduct a broadband feasibility study for the Town.

10. Selectmen's Discussion

A. Liaison Reports: Ms. Govert thanked Lauren Pszczolkowski for contacting Getaway, and posting a clarification on Facebook, concerning the Google story about Walmart sales at their campgrounds.

In response to a comment from Mr. Dill there was a general discussion about the public's adherence to the "No Jumping" signs on the Moodus Reservoir causeway.

B. Other: Ms. Zemienieski advised that she distributed materials regarding Open Space Committee requests and that the topic will be on the agenda for the Board's next regular meeting. In response to an issue raised by Mr. Dill, there was a brief discussion regarding the potential negative impact of not accepting an approved grant.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss Ms. Govert made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Dill, Secretary