

Robert Thompson 

John Allen _____

Richard Bennett 

**Selectmen's Meeting
March 27, 2018**

Present: Bob Thompson, Chairman; Richard Bennett, Selectmen

Visitors: Chief Perley, Emergency Manager Tom Greig, Building Inspector Kevin Bennett, Town Administrator Julie Atwell, videographer Hank Benesh, Sarah Clemons, Bill Paulmann, George Howard, Bea Davis, Bob Davis, Nancy Davis, Beth Funicella, Penny Miller, Jim Porath, Priscilla Protasowicki, Bill Terry.

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm

1. **Chairman Selection** – Tabled until all Selectmen are present.
2. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. Selectmen's Meeting – February 27th, 2018 **Selectman Bennett, seconded by Chairman Thompson, made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.**

3. **Update on Action Items**

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- Tuesday, April 10th, 3:30 pm
- Tuesday, April 24th, 3:30 pm
- Tuesday, May 8th, 3:30 pm
- Tuesday, May 22, 3:30 pm

4. **Public Comment**

Sarah presented budget figures from 2016 in comparison to 2017 for the Police Chief's salary line as an example. She commented that she was told specific information regarding individual's health insurance reimbursements could not be provided due to HIPAA violations yet she found that Tamworth printed that information in their town report. Tamworth's health insurance reimbursement amount is \$3,600. She went on to state reimbursement figures from other towns: Conway \$1,250; Bartlett \$1,800; Moultonborough \$4,300, Concord \$3,740 with individual reimbursements at \$1,300. She spoke to private industry who do not provide a buy out reimbursement. She is requesting information from the town regarding 1) whether there is a policy in the handbook on this issue and a date it was added if there is; 2) which selectmen brought this to the floor; 3) whether the taxpayers had any input; 4) the date these decisions were made and the minutes for the meeting; 5) whether any analytical analysis had been done on the amounts. Chairman Thompson encouraged the public to bring any issues of concern to them but give notice to properly respond and get it as an agenda item at an upcoming meeting. He mentioned they do seek council from NH Municipal and/ or town council on whether they are allowed to disclose individual information to avoid violations of HIPAA.

Priscilla felt the quoted \$30K for a health insurance policy was ridiculously high. Through her own research for her family needs she found United Healthcare had comparable coverage at an affordable rate and encouraged the town to do more research for the future. She also mentioned her concern over the electricity rates in the area. After attending a presentation by NH Electric Coop she learned

that there are municipalities in NH that overcharge the Co-op for their equipment and those costs get passed on / spread out to all co-op members. She hopes members will get involved to rally behind the legislature to lower those rates.

Bea inquired about the policy of Town Office closures in conjunction with School Snow day closures. Chairman Thompson mentioned the policy was set in place since the SAU and road agents felt roads were unsafe to travel on that the town would follow their policy. He mentioned the employees do get the day as paid time but do make up those hours the rest of the week.

Bob D commented that evening hours for the Selectman meetings may give a better turnout. He also inquired where the third Selectman was. Chairman Thompson replied that John had a last minute teaching obligation and would return to the meetings as of May 5th.

5. Building Inspector

a. Weekly Report - Kevin Bennett

The electrical work on Dundee property in question at last meeting has been completed up to code.

One bathroom job with licensed plumber and electrician involved was found to not have a building permit. There will be a follow up with the owner to insure compliance.

b. Building Permits

1. 2018-10/ R17 –L21/ Owner – Feeman/ 10 Turner Way/Replace siding and some windows, replace existing deck with railing seating add roof and storage under
2. 2018-11/ R09–L03/ Owner – Miller/ 12 Partridge Lane/Permit renewal for 4 br/4ba home..almost complete
3. 2018-12/ R04–L05/ Owner – Boston Corporation/ 1143 NH RT 16 – Dana Place Inn/Remodel rental unit 5bd/5 ba ... has approval for 6 bedroom in place with current septic
4. 2018-13/ V07–L72/ Owner – McKechnie/ 31 No. Hampshire Ridge/ Install 20kw standby generator on existing concrete pad
5. 2018-14/ R12–L71/ Owner – Robbins/ 32 Ridge Rd/ New Metal Roof
6. 2018-15/ R09–L04/ Owner – Spiers/ 36 Partridge Rd/New attached garage with master bedroom expansion..not changing bedroom count
7. 2018-16/ V02–L10/ Owner – Koeppel/ 1 Carter Notch Rd/ Install new windows in flooring in 3 dining rooms, complete elevator project - install mechanical ventilation and backup generator
8. 2018-17/ R11–L08/ Owner – Mason/ 276 Iron Mountain Rd/ 6'x8' addition for storage..went to ZBA for approval
9. 2018-18/ R14–L01/ Owner – Diehl/ 18 Main St./ Convert 1 bedroom apartment to commercial space and add addition to south side of building
10. 2018-19/ V02–L10-4B/ Owner – Ehrenfeld/ 31B Wentworth Ave./Renovate kitchen and bath
11. 2018-20/V05-L28/ Owner – Leavitt/ 28 Deer Run/ Demolition of roof and walls on house. To rebuild new.

6. New Business

a. Board Appointments

A number of positions have townspeople appointed / reappointed for the following roles:

Library Trustee Alternates – Jen Caughee, Fred Tompkins

Conservation Committee – Tom Seidel, Brian Byrne

Planning Board – Dick Bennett, Chris MacAleer

Zoning Board – Huntley Allan, Dave Matesky

Old Library Management – Alicia Hawkes

A quorum of Selectmen will be needed to approve Dick Bennett's seat on the Planning Board. **With that exception, a motion was made and seconded to approve all other positions.** Both Selectmen present expressed appreciation for these volunteers.

b. North Country Angler Request

Seeking permission to stock the town pond and have a Fishing Day on June 2. **A motion was made to approve this request.**

c. Annual Title Search Contract for Town Clerk/Tax Collector– Signatures Required

A cap amount of \$473.86 to Saunders Searches is requested. **A motion was made to approve this request.**

d. FYI – 2017 Equalization Ratio

We ended 2017 at 94.5%. Selectman Bennett commented that next year we will need to achieve 100% .

e. NH DOT 2018 Proposed Resurfacing Program – Signatures Required

This was regarding mid block crosswalks and will be tabled until the town receives clarification from the DOT.

f. Wentworth Hotel – Seeks permission to serve alcohol outside of their licensed area for wedding receptions held in their tent area, from May 1 – November 5. Selectman Bennett felt they have cooperated in the past with noise regulations and such. **A motion was made to approve this request.**

g. Sergeant Boothby- A letter to formally recognize Nathan will be added to his record to commend him on his immediate response and brave actions while recently assisting a family that was involved in an automobile accident.

7. Old Business

a. Transfer Station updates

The warrant article has passed and Phase 3 will begin after coordinating with the town of Bartlett.

b. Roger Labbe – scrap metal contract

In our agreement Roger contributes \$1250 for the rights to the metal pile while his contract, which runs April 1 – March 31, is in place. A roll out container will be placed up there at some point but until it does he has access to the pile. The Bartlett Board of Selectmen have already signed this contract. **A motion was made to approve this contract.**

c. Health Insurance-

Selectman Bennett stated that a new policy process will begin in October. Sarah would like to know if a citizen group can be involved to provide input. Chairman Thompson stated that we gather information from Primex, the municipality insurance provider, and the town is open and transparent, sharing this information in public meetings. Nancy mentioned that the public is concerned about these costs that seem extraordinarily high in comparison to others. She wondered if a higher deductible plan might be looked into. Penny would like to better understand the process of how bids are solicited; does it have to be a municipal

group provider; how do we compare our policy with other towns etc. She agreed that it would be worthwhile to utilize local talents and resources to try and research costs. Beth also expressed concern and mentioned she has paid into the town insurance plan with great results but at a much lesser cost than that quoted. Town Administrator Atwell mentioned that there are 2 costs in the Town Report and that costs do vary depending on which plan is chosen; ie, individual vs. family, etc. Chairman Thompson stated his health insurance through the school district he is employed with costs \$27K+ and that each year the town does search out policies, comparing options, etc. He invited folks to drop off any information that they feel warrants the town looking into further for review. Bill P would like clarification as to how the \$17K amount was reached. Bill T inquired if the town's benefit plan was available for review by the public; what the policy is for negotiation, and who approves such. Chairman Thompson stated the policy is in the handbook that, with proof, any employee can opt out of the town's insurance and negotiate a rate as such. Each department has a Selectman liaison and the Selectmen have final approval. Bea inquired why we do not have a set amount per employee as in other towns. She was told that the way we do things can be changed. Jim had concerns about how the plan was disseminated and wanted to be sure it was not discriminatory, suggesting we put a policy in place that was the same for all employees. He also wanted to know if this reimbursement was paid out as a wage and had concerns about how it may affect pensions down the road. He also suggested we seek legal council to assure our policy is valid. Nancy felt that the terminology is incorrect that we are not 'reimbursing' but rather giving a fringe benefit and would like to see a flat fee amount agreed upon whether for individual or family. Sarah stated that in Conway their terminology is "Health Insurance Waiver" set at \$1250. Chairman Thompson mentioned that is a stipend and part of their benefit package in addition to Life Insurance, accrued sick time, etc that we do not offer. Penny wanted to know if there was a document that explained the difference between Health Insurance reimbursement vs waiver. Chairman Thompson said they polled a number of towns to see how they handled similar situations.

8. Public Comment

George suggests posting a monthly budget with expenditures and sending the information out via enews to keep folks informed. He also wanted to know if any progress was made at the Transfer station regarding the suggestions to better inform folks on plastic segregation, as well what was being done in regards to the difficulty some folks have reaching the recycling bins. Chairman Thompson replied that progress is continuing to be made with the last phase of the project. Town Admin. Atwell said Don is aware of the issues and is working on addressing them.

Sarah wanted to commend the road agents on the signs that have been posted on Green Hill Rd.

Bill T wanted to express concern on the derelict appearance of the Town Storage Garage with it's broken window in the front inviting 'problems' and presenting the town in a negative way.

Penny inquired about R. Goodreaus' status with the town and why there was a line item for him in the budget when he no longer works for the town. Chairman Thompson replied that his expertise was mostly utilized on the elevator project. Building Inspector Bennett mentioned that Goody may need to be called upon occasionally and the money is for those times and generally that money will be reimbursed to the town through those projects.

There being no further business the public session of the meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.

9. Non-Public Sessions:

RSA 91-A:3 II(j) - Consideration of confidential, commercial, or financial information.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Gloria Hutchings