

Campton Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 19, 2023

Board Attendees: Chair Sharon Davis, Selectman Craig Engel, Selectman Mort Donahue, Selectman Nik Coates, Corey Davenport, Town Administrator, and Natasha Egger, Minutes Recorder. Selectman Dan Boynton was absent from the meeting.

On Zoom: No one on Zoom

Public Attendees: John Whitney Chair of Campton Village Precinct and Sky Bartlett Commissioner of the Village Precinct.

Call to Order: Chair Davis opened the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Campton Work Session

Campton Village Precinct Discussion: John Whitney came in to talk to the Board about the Village Precinct. Corey started by informing John about the upcoming Charrette and the area of focus for that project.

- **Release Residents from Precinct:** The Board went through the number of residents who requested to be taken out of the Precinct. John Whitney explained that they had already released three of the residents. The others are still needed to be addressed. Chair Davis asked Corey what the process is to remove the residents who have sent in a request. Corey explained that the Town would need to notify every resident of the Precinct and hold a public meeting. The Board will need to vote to remove the residents if that is their decision. If the Select Board votes to remove the properties and alter the Precinct boundaries, it would need to be voted on by the Precinct at their annual meeting. Chair Davis asked Corey to start the process. Corey hoped to have the public hearing in the late summer, or early fall.
- **Sidewalks:** John explained that the sidewalks in the upper village were redone a few years ago. The sidewalks in the lower village are in need of some repairs. John explained that he had used Jake Tuck to patch up the sidewalks. Chair Davis asked why the Precinct did not maintain the sidewalks in the winter anymore. John explained that they had tried to employ several different entities to help with the maintenance. None of the companies or individuals worked out as they had hoped. John mentioned that a significant amount of snow is dumped from the DOT plowing the main roads. John suggested that a dump truck and loader were needed to remove that snow. John explained that Plymouth has a full crew working with a dump truck, loader, and a special sidewalk plow. This allows them to plow their sidewalks nicely. The Board mentioned they would look into this matter as the Charrette would benefit from well-maintained sidewalks.

- **Lighting:** John gave the Board some history about the lighting district. John mentioned that Campton Village Precinct was one of the few still managing the lights. He said it was common for the towns to take over the lighting system, as it was seen as a safety feature that all citizens use. Selectman Coates explained that lighting was an important topic for the Charrette. Selectman Coates agreed that the lighting is a safety issue and would like to see improved lighting for pedestrians. John explained that it is expensive to run the electricity. He estimated that operating costs were about \$18,000 to \$20,000 annually. The Board indicated they would be willing to look into the lighting issue as it would be impactful with the Charrette. Selectman Coates mentioned moving to LED lighting going forward to save costs. Selectman Donahue said there were programs to help reduce the cost.

Administrative Tasks

Consent Agenda: The Board reviewed the revised version of the public minutes from May 15, 2023. They also reviewed the public minutes for June 5, 2023, the non-public minutes for June 5, 2023, and the second non-public (sealed) minutes for June 5, 2023. Selectmen Engel suggested an addition to the public minutes for June 5, 2023, under "Road Work Update." Selectman Coates motioned to approve the public minutes for May 15, 2023, the non-public minutes for June 5, 2023, and the (sealed) non-public minutes for June 5, 2023. Selectman Donahue seconded that motion. All were in favor. Selectman Engel motioned to approve the amended public minutes for June 5, 2023, and Selectman Donahue seconded that amended motion. All were in favor.

Comfort Dog Program: Detective Tracy and Chief Foss introduced Miller, the comfort dog, to the Board. They wanted to present the Comfort Dog Program and the benefits of having a comfort dog in the community. Detective Tracy explained her experience in the program and how it bridges the gap between the community and law enforcement. This program is becoming increasingly popular and is starting to pop up around New Hampshire and the US. During victim interviews, the dog would be used to help the individuals talk about the trauma they suffered. Miller also is certified to assist first responders in coping after or during traumatic events. Detective Tracy explained that the dog is fully certified and all training has been paid for. Detective Tracy mentioned that most expenses are usually donated, so there would be a minimal annual cost. Chief Foss mentioned there were several ways to manage the donations for the program and that Detective Tracy would determine what works best for Campton. Chief Foss also mentioned that he would likely submit a small line item in his budget for incidentals. Chief Foss explained that the dog would go with Detective Tracy when he was needed. Most of the time, he will be at the office. He also mentioned that the cruiser could be fitted with a cooling system to keep the dog cool on hot days. This was a project that would be considered at a later date. The Board was impressed and very supportive of the program. The Board agreed to start the comfort dog program and accept Miller as a Campton PD comfort dog.

Town Administrator Update

Accounts Payable Policy Review: Chair Davis, Corey, and HR Coordinator Lisa Vincent reviewed the Accounts Payable Policy and changed a few items within the policy. The changes were a few minor

clarifications regarding who the policy affected. The second little change was adding the wording “original copies/invoices” to several areas where it was unclear. Selectman Donahue motioned to approve the Accounts Payable Policy with the proposed updates, and Selectman Engel seconded that motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

Road Work Update: Corey explained that paving on Puckerbrush Rd was done. R&D Paving would return soon to finish graveling the shoulders and feathering in the driveways. Ron was allowed to use the Dylan Trott for two more days to help haul materials and build a pad for their shed. Chair Davis wanted to mention that several roads needed grading. Selectman Coates also said Hogback Rd needs crowning and questioned the pitch on the roads they had graded. Selectman Coates wanted to know how much training the highway department has. He wanted to ensure they had adequate training to do the work needed on the roads. Selectman Coates also would like to encourage additional certifications and to keep those in the personnel files. Corey explained that the highway department did go to one training already and has an opportunity for grader training. The Board was very interested in proceeding with this training. Corey said he would work with the Highway Department to schedule this training soon.

Privilege of the Floor

None

Committee Updates, Board Concerns, and Directives

Selectman Engel: Selectman Engel went over the CCDC progress and explained that he had hoped they would be further along but said the progress is good but slow.

Chair Davis: Chair Davis announced that she is considering not running for the Select Board in March 2024. She announced that she has taken over the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative Board chairman position. She mentioned that she would need to reduce some of her hours to accommodate this change. One of those changes would be stepping down as the Board of Selectmen Chair. The Board congratulated Chair Davis on the exciting news about the NHEC chair position. They felt it was well deserved. Chair Davis recommended Selectman Engel take over the chair position due to his enthusiasm for working on the Board. Chair Davis motioned to appoint Selectman Engel as the chair. Selectman Donahue seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor. The Vice-Chair was mentioned as Selectman Engel held that position. The Board agreed to wait until a full Board is present to discuss that appointment.

Selectman Engel made a motion to go into a Non-Public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II (C) at 6:14 p.m. Selectman Donahue seconded that motion. A roll call vote was as follows: Selectman Engel, aye, Chair Davis, aye, Selectman Donahue, Aye and Selectman Coates, Aye.

The Board came out of non-public at 6:19 p.m.

Selectman Coates motioned to go into a Non-Public Session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II (A) at 6:20 p.m. Selectman Donahue seconded that motion. A roll call vote was as follows: Selectman Engel, aye, Chair Davis, aye, Selectman Donahue, Aye and Selectman Coates, Aye.

The Board came out of non-public at 6:28 p.m.

A motion was made to seal the non-public meeting minutes regarding RSA 91-A:3, II (A) from Selectman Engel, seconded by Selectman Donahue. A roll call vote was as follows: Selectman Engel, aye, Chair Davis, aye, Selectman Donahue, Aye and Selectman Coates, Aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Natasha Egger

Minutes Recorder