

CAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 18, 2023

Board attendees: Chair Craig Engel, Selectman Mort Donahue, and Selectman Nik Coates

On Zoom: Selectman Boynton attended the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Absent from the Meeting: Vice-Chair Sharon Davis

Public attendees: Sherrill Howard, Janet Lucas, Highway Department Ron Farnsworth, Matt Abear, and Fire Chief Dan Defosses.

Call to order: Chair Engel opened the meeting at 4:37 p.m.

1. Selectman Work Session:

A. Selectmen Budget Priorities & Goal Setting: Corey presented to the Board the future purchases for the next three years that should be considered when constructing the budget. Some of these projects are building maintenance, road maintenance, and road rebuilding. CIP has increased the minimum project requirement to be included in the Capital Improvement Plan to \$25,000. The Board pointed out that most purchases shown were included in the CIP. Selectman Coates recommended bundling the heating system replacements so they are eligible for the CIP. The Board also mentioned looking to see if the Town can use some energy efficiency programs to help offset the costs of the heating system replacements.

Corey reviewed combining the Health and Compliance Officer positions and creating a new part-time job. The recommended starting pay for that position would be \$25.00-\$30.00. The discussion also included adding a training line for this officer. This position would only be part-time, and the Board recommended adding this line to the land use budget section. Corey explained that the fees for the Zoning Compliance Application are extremely low compared to other towns. If those fees were increased, it could offset the cost of this position. Chief Defosses explained to the Board that he has been responsible for being the Health Office for a while now, which has been taking away from his daily duties. This position will give this officer more (in-office time) for the residents who may have questions.

Corey also discussed the possibility of plowing the Conservation parking lot by a subcontractor and having the amount come out of their budget. The Board asked Ron how many other parking lots he or his guys plowed. Ron said they usually plow the Town Hall parking lot, the Historical Society parking lot, the Fire Department Substation parking lot, and recently added the Conservation parking lot. Selectman Coates suggested that the highway department not plow municipal parking lots, but instead focus on the roads. Selectman Coates suggested hiring an outside contractor for those parking lots. The Board discussed the need for clearing sidewalks and proposed that employees take care of their buildings. Corey said he would work on a landscaping RFP that includes winter plowing.

B. Charrette Recap: Corey and the Board reviewed the Charrette and discussed their thoughts and what Plan NH came up with. Selectman Coates recommended looking into starting a land acquisition fund and exploring a roundabout design plan in the future. The Board suggested starting an equitable trust fund to have some spending flexibility for several proposed projects. This fund could be used to develop a master plan, which needs to be done soon. Selectman Boynton suggested that the sidewalks and maintenance should come from the road fund and that the Town should consider taking ownership. Corey will have to review the purpose of the road fund first to see if it could be utilized that way. Chair Engel asked for more data from the Campton Village Precinct regarding the sidewalks.

2. Administrative Tasks:

a. Consent Agenda

- August 21, 2023 Non-Public Minutes #2
- September 5, 2023, Public Minutes
- Timber Intent off of Pine Cove Rd
- Certificate of Authority

Chair Engel mentioned that he had a few changes that he would like to see for the non-public minutes from September 5, 2023. Selectman Coates motioned to remove the September 5, 2023, Non-Public Minutes to review in the next Board meeting on October 2, 2023, and motioned to amend some wording and approve the revised version of August 21, 2023, Non-public #2, the public September 5, 2023 minutes, and the Timber Intent off of Pine Cove Rd. Selectman Donahue seconded that motion. All were in favor.

Selectman Boynton motioned to approve the Certificate of Authority, and Selectman Donahue seconded that motion. All were in favor.

b. Town Administrator Update

1. Campton Pond Update:

Corey explained to the Board that he had not heard back from Brooke Brown from the US Forest Service regarding dredging the pond. Corey proposed to the Board to send a friendly reminder letter yearly to the Forest Service on dredging the pond. Selectman Donahue suggested requesting any updates from the US Forrest Service and the Mad River Associate Association about safety requirements and any plans to monitor land erosion. Selectman Coates stressed that dredging the pond could be a yearly maintenance issue. The frequency of large storms would mean the pond may fill up the following year. The Board concluded that a reminder letter and requesting updates from both parties (US Forest Service and Mad River Power Associate Association) would be a good start.

2. Fire Department Engine Update:

Chief Defosses reviewed his equipment and its locations with the Board. Dan explained that two fire trucks were out of service. Engine 3 did not pass inspection due to rust on the frame. The department

will remove any usable equipment and get it ready for auction. Engine 2 is currently out of service and has about \$10,000 in repairs. The department will also be getting it ready for auction. Engine 1 is currently housed at the main station in Campton. Engine 4 is presently housed in the main station in Campton and is now the first due engine. The new engine that was ordered this year would replace Engine 3. The new fire engine is scheduled to be delivered in 2025. Dan mentioned his concern about being down two engines and having Engine 4 as the first due engine. He mentioned that towns use a smaller engine, which might work well for the Town. He said they are often for sale from the manufacturers and that he could purchase one quickly for around \$450,000 that could replace Engine 3. If the smaller one was purchased, it could run first until the new engine arrived and would then be placed in the Campton Substation to run out of there. The Board will table the vote on the replacement of Engine 3 until all towns look over their budgets.

Dan also went over the Fire Study Committee meeting that was held on Thursday, September 14, 2023. Chair Engel discussed the four recommendations from the Fire Study Committee. The Committee recommended that the Thornton Substation be closed, that Engine 4 be removed from the CIP, that Engine 3 should be replaced quickly with a smaller engine (up to \$450,000), and that the CIP committees review the changes to their plans to ensure the Towns have enough money to execute their moves. The Board generally accepted the proposals but wanted to ensure that these plans did not negatively impact the Capital Improvement Plan. Corey said he would crunch some numbers and get back to the Board.

3. Priority List Update:

Corey reviewed a list of tasks from the last two meetings with the Board to show which items have been completed. Chair Engel said that this list will be online through the 365 software if the Board chooses to view it.

4. Highway Plow Contract Discussion:

Corey presented two plowing contract options for hourly or a lump sum contract for the 2023-2025 winter season to the Board. Ron Farnsworth explained that the contractors requested the hourly contract option this winter. After much discussion, Selectman Boynton motioned to accept an hourly contract option for this upcoming 2023-2025 winter season. Selectman Donahue seconded that motion. The roll count was as follows: Selectman Donahue, aye; Chair Engel, aye; Selectman Boynton, aye; and Selectman Coates, nay.

5. Sealed Minutes Review Policy: Corey created a Sealed Minutes Review Policy for the Board to review. The Board reviewed this policy and discussed their recommendations. Selectman Donahue motioned to approve the new sealed minutes policy, and Selectman Coates seconded that motion. All were in favor.

6. Fuel Bid Discussion: Fuel bids went out a month ago and were due Thursday, September 14, 2023. Corey received three fuel bids and opened them, with Desiree Mahurin, Thornton Town Administrator, on Thursday. Those three bids were from Pemi River Fuels, Irving Oil, and Dead River Fuel. Corey recommended that the Board accept the fuel bid for Pemi River Fuels, which has the best price. Selectman Coates motioned to accept the fuel bid for Pemi River Fuels, and Selectman Donahue seconded that motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

3. Public Session:

a. Public Hearing

Selectman Donahue motioned to go into a public hearing of acceptance of unanticipated revenue at 6:36 p.m. Chair Engel seconded that motion. Roll count was as follows: Selectman Donahue, aye; Selectman Coates, aye, Selectman, Boynton, Aye; and Chair Engel, aye.

1. Acceptance of Unanticipated Revenue: Corey has received the grant paperwork for the NH Drug Task Force. The Town is eligible for up to \$45,000 to move forward with the employment of the part-time detective with the Town. This will allow them to join the NH Drug Task Force and be eligible for the grant reimbursement.

Selectman Donahue motioned to leave the public session at 6:38 p.m., and Chair Engel seconded that motion. The roll count was as follows: Selectman Boynton, aye; Selectman Coates, aye; Selectman Donahue, aye, and Chair Engel, aye.

Selectman Coates motioned to accept grant funds from the NH DOJ to reimburse the Town for wages paid to the part-time detective up to \$45,000. Selectman Donahue seconded that motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

b. Privilege of the Floor

No one had any comments.

c. Committee Updates, Board Concerns, and Directives

Selectman Coates: He would like to schedule a work session with the Board after reviewing the charrette report. This report should be given to the Town in the next few months. A charrette committee could be formed to work on the various projects proposed during the presentation.

Selectman Coates also wanted to bring to the Board's attention that he spoke with Kelly Wieser from the school board and mentioned that the school plans on re-organizing its programming. Selectman Coates suggested that the Board meet with the recreation department and the school board so that both parties are on the same page.

Selectman Donahue: He updated the Board on the last CIP meeting and Thornton's transfer station project requests. The Board will table those items until they receive further information from Thornton.

Selectman Boynton: He discussed the need to communicate with the other Towns when the CIP has any updates. The goal is to make sure the shared service's capital projects match what Ellsworth and Thornton have. This way, everyone is appropriately budgeting for future projects.

Chair Engel: He told the Board that his focus is to ensure better communication among all Boards. Chair Engel explained that the CCDC is almost complete with meetings with all the different departments. He said they will compile recommendations and present those to the Board.

Selectman Coates motioned to go into a Non-Public Session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II (a) & (c) at 7:20 p.m. Selectman Donahue seconded that motion. Roll count was as follows: Selectman Boynton, aye; Selectman Donahue, aye; Chair Engel, aye; and Selectman Coates, aye.

A motion was made to seal the non-public minutes at 8:29 p.m. by Selectman Coates and seconded by Selectman Donahue. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Natasha E. Egger,
Minutes Recorder