

CAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

Board Attendees: Sharon Davis, Craig Engel, Dan Boynton, Mort Donahue, Nik Coates (on Zoom)

Town Employees: Paula Woodward, Michelle McCaleb, Jade Hartsgrove Lisa Vincent (on Zoom)

Public Attendees: Karl Kelly, Linda Molinaro, Dan Werman, Robert Bain, Cami Bain, Cheryl McHale, Ted Baumeister, Nalini Potts, Donna Hiltz, Jon Gablinske, Brooke Brown, James Detzel, Charles Wheeler, Jane Kellogg, Barbara Mullen, Cheri MacKay, Danny Desrosiers, Gene Marchese, Kelly Wieser, Timmee Whitmore, Janet Lucas (on Zoom), Bill Copeland (on Zoom), Ron Goggans (on Zoom), Lee Cooper (on Zoom), Caitlin Cummings (on Zoom)

Call to Order: Chair Davis opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Selectman Engel made a motion to go into a non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II (a) & (c) at 4:30 p.m. Selectman Boynton seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Selectman Davis, aye; Selectman Engel, aye; Selectman Boynton, aye; Selectman Coates, aye and Selectman Donahue, aye.

The Board came out of non-public at 5:00 p.m.

**James Detzel, U.S. Forest Service**

Brooke Brown, District Ranger for the U.S. Forest Service, has spoken with the Select Board over many years about a proposal to sell the Campton Dam. In a brief history, she stated that the Campton Dam is currently owned by the U.S. Forest Service and is used for hydroelectricity. She stated that the dam will be conveyed in the next couple of years and the U.S. Forest Service will be doing public outreach such as public meetings and flyers. James Detzel, a surveyor for the U.S. Forest Service, stated that they will be submitting a subdivision application to create a parcel to sell the Campton Dam. Selectman Boynton asked about the timeframe to rebuild or replace a dam and at what point dams normally get replaced. Mr. Detzel responded that it is dependent on the individual facility. Ms. Brown added most dams, in general, are either removed completely or repaired as needed. Linda Molinaro wondered about using the dam as a source of revenue for the Town by leasing it out to power companies. Selectman Boynton stated that it is an interesting thought and there would have to be extensive research done on the topic before deciding to or not. Selectman Davis also stated that taking on that liability would be another thing to research. Cheryl McHale asked about the deferred maintenance and Mr. Detzel responded it is the engineering team that manages the maintenance so they don't have specific figures or information at this time. Selectman Davis thanked the members of the U.S. Forest Service for coming and updating them on the Campton Dam Proposal.

## **Administrative Tasks**

### **1. Review Manifests, Sign Permits and Warrants**

The Selectmen signed accounts payable and payroll manifests.

### **2. Consent Agenda**

Selectman Boynton made a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the public and non-public meeting minutes for February 5, 2024, the public meeting minutes for February 8, 2024 and a Timber Intent to Cut by Brian and Rachel Jastrebsky. The motion was seconded by Selectman Engel and unanimously approved.

### **3. General Updates and Correspondence**

Selectman Davis reviewed correspondence that the Board received. The Board received a letter and brochure from North Country Council which explained all of their services. Selectman Davis noted that in April the Planning Board will have to nominate a member from the Town to sit on the Council board. The Board received correspondence from Jane Kellogg regarding Steve Shaunessy, Forester, assisting the Conservation Commission with some logging at the Pattee Conservation lot. Ms. Kellogg was wondering if the Board would need to sign the contract with the logging company as a whole or just one representative of the Board. Selectman Davis responded they would have a motion to authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board. Selectman Donohue motioned to authorize the Chairman to sign the timber contract on behalf of the Board. Selectman Engel seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. Selectman Davis reviewed a letter the Board had received from residents of Pattee Mountain Road requesting the Town to maintain the road. Selectman Davis said she would provide the residents with the appropriate documents to apply for a betterment in the absence of the Town Administrator. Selectman Davis notified the Town of a Wildfire and Unity Beyond Suppression Training on March 27, 2024 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. on Zoom. Fire Chief Dan Defosses is encouraging members of the public, the Board or Emergency Management to attend the training.

### **Public Hearing – Petitioned Warrant Article relative to adopting provisions of RSA 40:13 (SB2)**

Selectman Donahue made a motion to open the public hearing to discuss Petition Warrant Article SB2. Selectman Engel seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. Selectman Davis advised that the Board is required to host the public hearing given that it is a petitioned warrant article to afford members of the public time to speak in favor or in opposition to SB2 form of government. There was much discussion about SB2; many people expressed their opinions supporting the Warrant Article and others expressed their opinion opposing the Warrant Article. Ted Baumeister is in support of SB2 petition because he would like to see more attendance from the public at the Town Meeting and doesn't think the current process is working and hasn't worked in a long time. Linda Molinaro is also in support of SB2 because she thinks there is peer pressure from other residents in the audience and that can determine whether someone will vote for or against something. Nalini Potts stated she doesn't

think it's a good idea because she has lived in towns with an SB2 in place and there is less participation. In response, Ms. Molinaro mentioned a meeting from a couple of years ago where there was no discussion allowed and attendees were not allowed to vote. Selectman Engel responded by saying although he was not on the Select Board at that time, he was in attendance at the meeting and was disappointed in how the meeting was run. He promised that a meeting would not be run like that again. Selectman Davis, speaking from experience, said switching to SB2 does not necessarily get more members of the public to come to the deliberative session. She also mentioned that there are reports to show that SB2 does the exact opposite and discourages participation. There was much discussion between public attendees regarding their opinions and past experiences with SB2. Selectman Donahue made a motion to close the public hearing. Selectman Engel seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

### **Road Plan Discussion**

Selectman Boynton opened the discussion by giving an overview of the Road Plan for 2023. He specifically outlined what the budgeted money was spent on and the exact total. Selectman Engel clarified the leftover money from the 2023 Road Capital Reserve budget will be carried over into the 2024 budget. Selectman Boynton noted that the Road Plan 2023-2028 is on the website. Selectman Engel pointed out that Ron Farnsworth, the Road Agent, did a great job this past year with the work that he did on some of the roads in the Town. Selectman Boynton went over key points and future projects in the coming years of 2024 – 2028 and explained the difference in mileage of gravel and paved roads being worked on each year. At first, gravel roads may seem to get more attention and work than paved roads, but as the years go on, it starts to flip itself. Selectman Coates wondered what strategies and repair options Selectman Boynton mostly focused on in the creation of this document and Selectman Boynton pointed out that in every year of the budget plan, there is a line item for crack sealing that can be used to buy the road(s) a little more time, if necessary. Jade Hartsgrove asked a question about the maintenance required for resident-installed culverts and who is responsible for keeping them clear. Selectman Boynton responded the last recommendation they have is for the resident to maintain the culvert, however, the Select Board is going to gather data and revisit the subject shortly. Karl Kelly commented on a job well done on the spreadsheet created by Selectman Boynton. Selectman Coates agreed with Mr. Kelly and mentioned that he appreciates all of the hard work Selectman Boynton has put into the Road Plan.

### **Privilege of the Floor**

Dan Werman asked why the Pledge of Allegiance is not said at the beginning of meetings and Selectman Davis responded it has never been a part of the Board's process but she will speak with the Board about adding it to the meetings. Jane Kellogg spoke about a discrepancy between an Intent to Cut and the Tax Map in terms of the acreage listed. It appears the acreage listed on some Tax Maps is considerably different than what appears on the Intent to Cut. Selectman Boynton stated Jade Hartsgrove has been

chipping away at correcting this discrepancy and asked Ms. Kellogg to email Jade if she finds any more discrepancies so Jade can make the correction in the system. Ted Baumeister asked about making the Zoom recordings available to the public reasoning that it would be helpful to members of the public who weren't able to attend during the scheduled meeting time and Selectman Davis responded they would have to check with the Town Attorney on that. Selectman Boynton stated it could be something the Board looks into and asks Lakes Region Computer about. Selectman Boynton explained the previous Select Board meeting times and how those weren't working for the Board and the public compared to the current meeting time which is a good compromise from the previous times.

#### **Board Concerns, Committee Updates and Directives**

Selectman Coates mentioned that the Town should have a new Town Administrator in approximately the next month. Selectman Donahue stated energy management for lighting is in the works.

With there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle McCaleb, Recorder