

Town of Washington
Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2021, Selectmen Meeting 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

ASSEMBLY

MEMBERS: Tom Marshall, Don Revane. Allan Dube

1.0 Visitors: Bruce Putnam, Mark Florence, Lynn Hendrickson, Morris, Donna Welkes, Don Dolores Ouellette, David DeFosse.

2.0 Minutes: Revane moved to approve May 27, 2021 minutes, Marshall second all voted in favor.

IMPORTANT DATES:

June 8, 2021, Town Meeting will be held at Camp Morgan Lodge at 9:00 am.

June 10, 2021, Selectmen Meeting 9:00 am – 4:00 pm at the Town Hall; 7:00 pm evening meeting, Town Hall

June 22, 2021, Conservation Commission meeting 7:00 pm Town Hall.

June 30, 2021, Zoning Board of Adjustments, 7:00 pm Town Hall.

DID YOU KNOW!

The select board would like to thank everyone for their cooperation on the changeover of the transfer station stickers. We will be hosting another weekend: June 5, to continue to change out the old stickers. Moving forward we will only be giving out transfer station stickers at the Town Hall.

Let's celebrate and have a modified Old Home Day event. On July 31, 2021, the town will be hosting an Old Home Day celebration. Our hope is that multiple organizations/groups will be involved by hosting activities to fill the day.

Ideas:

- Farmers Market/ Craft sale on the common
- Fire/Rescue breakfast at the Station also some type of event at station
- Burgers/Hot Dog lunch for sale on the common
- Entertainment at the Bandstand (fill the day with variety)
- Family Fun Day at Camp Morgan
- Ice Cream Social at end of the day
- Please reach out to Jim Garvin and Jane Thayer (organizers) with the idea/plan that you or your group would like to do to participate in the activities of the day. j_garvin@gsinet.net jthayer@gsinet.net

Fire Permits

CALL BEFORE YOU BURN 495-3030

Household Hazardous Waste 2021 Collection Days

July 16, Lebanon High School

August 7, Sunapee Highway Garage

October 2, Lebanon High School

(Free to Washington Residents)

COVID -19 VACCINE

For information and scheduling a time and place to get vaccinated for COVID-19
Please visit the website below for New Hampshire Residents: <https://www.vaccines.nh.gov>

COVID 19 - IMPORTANT NOTICE and Information 05/13/21 Update

From the Board of Selectmen May 13, 2021

Re: COVID-19

NH Mask Mandate expired Friday, April 16, 2021, Sununu said private businesses, cities and towns can still require that masks be worn, but the state will no longer mandate it.

To all residents and visitors from the Selectmen: Masks are recommended in all Washington public buildings.

NH <https://www.nh.gov/covid19/resources-guidance/>

3.0 BUILDING PERMITS:

3.1 David Barkie Tm. # 15-13 requesting a building permit to construct a 24 X 24' garage with a 47 X 40' house including a 19 X 9'-11" deck and an 8 X 3'-11" deck. Tabled for proper staking of the structures.

4.0 APPOINTMENTS DURING THE DAY AND PREVIOUSLY:

4.1 Property owner TM. # 7-51 discussed one's timber tax billing. After review, the board agreed the billing is justified.

5.0 DEPARTMENT HEADS AND EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENTS:

5.1 Shawn Atkins, (fire chief)

5.1.1 Provided the call for service for the month of May.

5.1.2 The selectmen requested a fire apparatus to be on stand-by for the fireworks display on July 31, Old Home Day.

5.2 Ed Thayer

5.2.1 Discussed Part-Time help with the transfer station, the selectmen agreed to a part-time summer employee due to the increase of volume

5.2.2 Reviewed adjusting monetary amounts on a couple of articles.

5.2.3 Discussed culvert on class VI portion on Halfmoon Pond Rd.

6.0 Public

6.1 Burt Bodner, (Washington Historical Society) informed the board of the painting company that had provided a quote for the work on the Historical building and they were very, please. Burt explained they have been in business for 24 years and other residents are using their services.

6.2 Members of the public asked for clarity on Article # 20, Marshall read article 20 as read. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00) to pay for part-time nighttime coverage by EMT staff for the Fire/Rescue Department.

Marshall: Explained this article was conceived from the prior board around December/ January when there happen to be a few rescue members out on medical. The department had extra calls one week and there were only a few people to handle them.

Revane: The rescue budget had a surplus from 2020 due to not having complete coverage during the week and the board agreed to test out a few weeks of night shifts. (Which only covered 4 nights, one person on and relying on rescue members to roll.). After review of those 5 weeks, there was only a couple of evening calls and we had exhausted the budget so the night shift was discontinued.

Florence: Thanked the board for clarification, this helps with moving forward with his decision.

Florence asked if this need is going to continue every year or is it due from the temporary slack of personnel.

Marshall: The problem with this is the Town advertised with NHMA, Fire Academy, and a local paper for recruitment and received no response. The Fire Chief had some brochures made to try to recruit locally. The town does not have enough per-diems to even cover the day shifts that were voted a few years ago.

Dube: This is not an issue with the Town of Washington it is everywhere. Also, some rescue members want to be busy with calls and the town just does not have a high call volume.

DeFosse Dave: Where are the rescue members that the town currently has?

Marshall: Some of the members have full-time jobs and are not available after certain hours.

DeFosse Dave: I recall attending Firefighter one the first item that the instructor mention was that the calls are not going to be on our schedule, so why would you not schedule the current rescue members in the evening, they could split the weeknights up so the ones that have a full-time job can help but not burn themselves out. Also, I noticed all the other articles state the selectmen recommend the appropriation but not this one.

The board explained any schedule or concerns should be brought up to the fire chief.

Revane: I felt as a "taxpayer" I could not defend this article, I can't give a solid reason to agree with this article there is not enough documentation for me to agree with it.

Florence: What are the general consensus about this leading to full-time coverage?

Revane: It's an assumption only we have not received any documentation that requests that.

Marshall: Explained that having EMR/EMT the ambulance can only roll with two EMTs. If we have no coverage or if it is toned several times Hillsboro will cover when available.

Florence: EMRs cannot transport, they could do first aid until an EMT shows. Has Hillsboro ever decline?

Marshall: Not that the board is aware of.

DeFosse Dave: How can we vote as a paper ballot.

Marshall: A voter request a paper ballot vote and you would need seven people to raise their hand in agreement. The vote is only open for the amount of time it takes for the attendees to vote.

Ouellette: If this passes and the recruitment does not happen, what happens with the funds?

Select Board: It is placed back into the general fund. They cannot spend it on other items.

Conclusion: The board could not justify the article to the taxpayers without their input. Maybe we need to come up with another plan and more documentation that shows the need. The department does not have enough coverage during the day and with recruitment as an issue and for some, there is not enough call volume and to sit for a 10-hour shift would be tough. With that said it is up to the townspeople to decide whether or not they want the expense for a night shift as per Article # 20. The board would like to thank the public for bringing in their concerns and hope the board clarified their questions.

7.0 COMMUNICATION RECEIVED:

7.1 NH Department of Environmental Services, Re: Approval for Construction of Individual Sewage Disposal System (ISDS). Tm. # 10-8.

7.2 Property Transfer, Tm. # 19-01

7.3 Ferwerda Mapping (Soil & Wetland Mapping), Re: Revised plan with an updated culvert size Tm. # 10-39.

7.4 NH Department of Environmental Services, Re: Shoreland Permit Application Tm. # 25-90.

7.5 NH Business Review, Re: Business Resources NH 2021, placed in public reading file.

7.6 NH business review Vol. 43 NO. 10. Placed in public reading file.

7.7 Trustees of Trust Funds provided a revised Town of Washington Fund for the Washington Fire and EMS Department. Revane moved to sign Marshall second all voted in favor.

7.8 Capitol Alarm Systems provided an updated agreement. Re: annual fire alarm inspections.

7.9 Lake Ashuelot Estates provided property owners currently renting one's property on AIR BNB and VRBO.

7.10 NH Department of Environmental Services, Re: Approval for Operation of Individual Sewage Disposal System. TM. # 24-48

7.11 NH Department of Environmental Services, Re: Copy of complaint notice TM. # 25-90.

8.0 OLD BUSINESS:

8.1 The select board signed the revised, "Town of Washington Fund for the Washington EMS Department".

9.0 NEW BUSINESS:

9.1 Revane moved to approve and sign the Town of Washington Investment Policy, Dube second all voted in favor.

9.2 Dube moved to approve the Capitol Alarm System Agreement, (See 7.8) and for Revane to sign on behalf of the board. Marshall second all voted in favor.

10.0 EXPENDITURES:

10.1 The Selectmen authorized payroll checks for \$ 7,269.60 and vendor checks for \$ 454,682.37 for the week of June 4, 2021.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT:

11.1 Revane moved to adjourn at 8:37 pm and Marshall second. All voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah DeFosse