



BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Town of Greenland • Greenland, NH 03840
11 Town Square • PO Box 100
Phone: 603.431.7111 • Fax: 603.430.3761
Website: greenland-nh.com

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Monday, February 14, 2022 – 6:30 p.m. – Town Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Randy Bunnell, Jamie Connelly, Rick Hussey, Steve Smith, Richard Winsor

Staff Present: Matthew Scruton, Town Administrator

Chair Smith opened the Board of Selectmen meeting at 6:30 p.m. A roll call was taken and it was announced a quorum was present and the meeting was being live-streamed and recorded.

I. APPOINTMENT

1. Police Officer Candidate: Chief Laurent

Chief Laurent updated the Board about the position that was posted when Wayne Young was appointed as Chief of Police in Newfields. They were looking for someone who is already certified and has experience; it is a big cost-savings not to have to train for a couple of years. Chief Laurent has identified someone who is anxious to come to Greenland and currently works for another police department. That individual is certified full-time and has 13 years of experience. Chief Laurent commented that Greenland benefits from mature officers because it is such a tight-knit community. They want someone who is going to be involved in the community and connect with the residents, Boards, and businesses.

Chief Laurent added that being one officer down, there is overtime. Hiring an additional officer will bring down the overtime. That individual will be paid significantly less than W. Young. The hiring process is approximately 50% complete. They are at the point where a conditional offer needs to be made before they can speak to the potential hire's current employer. Chief Laurent is happy with the hiring process for this individual and has no concerns; she feels he would be a really good fit.

MOTION: R. Winsor moved to grant permission for Chief Laurent to move forward with a conditional offer subject to a satisfactory background check and completion of the interview process. Second – J. Connelly; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

If the individual is hired, Chief Laurent will bring him to a Board meeting to be introduced.

2. Zoning Ordinance Amendments Review

TA Scruton was contacted by R. Bunnell for more information on the Zoning Ordinance amendments on the ballot. R. Bunnell stated that residents had asked him questions about the Zoning Ordinance amendments and he did not feel he was educated enough to understand them. He would like to have an opportunity for the Selectmen to discuss them prior to the election or before a Deliberative Session. He understood there was a Planning Board public hearing in early January.

S. Smith noted that he was the Board's representative to the Planning Board and he was present at the public hearing. He explained this is done through the RSA and the Planning Board. The Board of Selectmen does not have continuous oversight of Planning Board procedures and explained the process for amending the ordinances. The Impact Fee ordinance is new but has been discussed for many years. The Board of Selectmen will set the fees. Any ordinances moving forward are the purview of the Planning Board. Public hearings are held and publicly noticed. Zoning Ordinance amendments must be approved by Town vote.

R. Bunnell's concern was to make sure there were no issues from the Selectmen, especially from a zoning perspective. He wanted to make sure the Selectmen had input into the zoning articles. R. Winsor commented that it largely fell outside of the Selectmen's purview. He further explained that the balloting process is restrictive and there is a calendar that has to be met. Each month there is a work session as well as a public hearing for applications. The work sessions are an opportunity to tweak the Zoning Ordinance to the characteristics of the Town and the Master Plan. R. Winsor also stated that the Planning Board had been discussing impact fees for many years.

3. NHDOT Hampton-Portsmouth Rail Trail Improvement Project: Mark Debowski, GPI Engineering

Mike Dukas, NHDOT Highway Safety and managing the Seacoast Greenway Project, addressed the Board. Also present was Tim Whitney, GPI Engineering and working with DOT on the project design. This project will upgrade 9.6 miles of the former Hampton branch (from the Hampton center up to Barberry Lane in Portsmouth). The area to the south, between Hampton and the State line, is in the 10-year plan to complete that section. The entire New Hampshire Greenway project should be completed over the next 10 years. The intent of the project is to formalize the former Hampton branch for non-motorized use.

Tim Whitney, Project Engineer with Greenman-Pedersen and working with DOT, addressed the Board. He explained that the improvements included taking the old railroad and turning it into a stone dust rail trail, approximately 12 ft. wide, to be used by bicyclists and pedestrians. The existing rail line had an existing northbound and southbound track. The southbound track has been completely removed; the tracks on the northbound side have been removed but ties are still in place. Rail ties will be removed and disposed of properly. Clearing of invasive species will need to be done and drainage updated (there will be a closed drainage system in Hampton). T. Whitney explained additional improvements that would be made.

Environmental concerns with this project are soil contamination from general railroad use and contaminants carried by the trains. There are also historic resources along the rail trail (granite block culverts). Wetland impacts can be found along the rail trail.

Greenland's portion of the rail trail is approximately one mile and runs past Coakley Landfill and parallel to the Breakfast Hill Golf Course. T. Whitney showed a sample photo of what the rail trail will look like. It will be a 12-foot-wide stone dust rail trail with 2-foot grass shoulders on each side. Approximately 2.5 miles of the rail trail is wet and will need to be raised and ditches re-established. They will try to eliminate ponding on the rail trail.

The 9.6 miles were split into two projects because the half mile closed drainage system in Hampton is extensive. More engineering and research was needed than expected. To move the project along faster, the project was split into two to get the northern 7.9-mile segment moving. Construction on the 7.9-mile segment should take two years to complete; the other segment will take approximately one

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year. A preliminary estimated cost for both segments: 7.9-mile segment will be approximately \$5.1 million (\$650,000 per mile); the 1.7-mile segment will be approximately \$2 million due to extensive drainage and bridges. The project is included in the DOT 10-year plan and is fully funded. The project timeline was reviewed.

The project is funded through CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality). The full amount of funding in the 10-year plan is in draft form and will be approved later this year. Abutters will be notified by NHDOT of any public hearings. The rail trail is for non-motorized use. Each town will be responsible for monitoring and routine maintenance of their section. J. Connelly asked the cost of maintenance for budgetary purposes. DOT will be responsible for construction with heavy equipment; keeping it open for day-to-day use is up to the community. J. Connelly clarified that the Town would be responsible for any washouts of the trail. DOT will focus attention on having a well-built, well-drained trail. S. Smith asked about public access points. M. Dukas stated that DOT is committed to building the trail proper; communities can establish their own trail access points. There will be traffic crossings that can be used for trail access, trail head improvements will not be built as part of this project. TA Scruton commented that liability may be a concern for the Board. M. Dukas referred TA Scruton to the municipal agreement that was executed.

J. Connelly requested a list of towns to contact that have completed trails in case the Board had any questions.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Monday, January 31, 2022

MOTION: R. Winsor moved to approve the minutes of Monday, January 31, 2022. Second – R. Bunnell; four in favor, one abstained (J. Connelly). MOTION CARRIED

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. Coakley Update

An update was unavailable.

2. Other Old Business

There was no 'Other Old Business'.

V. NEW BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE

1. Current Use Assessment Application: The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy has submitted a Current Use Assessment Application for property located off Breakfast Hill Road (Map R8, 2; see attached map). According to our records, The Nature Conservancy

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owns the property (12.3 acres) but would like to add it to the Current Use Wetland Category. The Nature Conservancy owns the adjacent property consisting of 51.75 acres; that is in Current Use. R. Winsor questioned if they were doing a lot line adjustment. S. Smith stated that it is a contiguous lot but not connected. The 12.3 acres does fall within the current use requirements and will give The Nature Conservancy a discounted tax rate. TA Scruton noted it is different than an easement; land can be put into current use and removed with a penalty.

MOTION: R. Winsor moved to approve the Current Use Assessment for The Nature Conservancy property located at Map R8, 2, consisting of 12.3 acres. Second – R. Hussey; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

2. MS-4 Contract Renewal

TA Scruton explained that each year Greenland deals with an unfunded MS-4 mandate which obligates the Town to comply with the requirements which are very technical. The Town has worked with Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) in the past to ensure compliance with MS-4 requirements. The penalties of not complying exceed the cost of using RPC. RPC and Julie LaBranche, formerly of the Rockingham Planning Commission, have submitted bids for their services to complete the Town's portion of the MS-4. J. LaBranche assisted the Town previously with the MS-4 in her prior role with RPC.

RPC's quote is \$3,500; Julie LaBranche's quote is \$6,000. TA Scruton recommends continuing with RPC and approving their quote. RPC has a number of resources available to them and would serve the Town well.

MOTION: R. Hussey moved to approve the MS-4 contract renewal with Rockingham Planning Commission in the amount of \$3,500. Second – R. Winsor; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

1. Other New Business

There was no 'Other New Business' to discuss.

VI. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022

1. Payroll Manifest 22-04

MOTION: J. Connelly moved to approve the Payroll Manifest, pay date February 17, 2022. Gross amount, excluding payroll liabilities: \$70,755.69. Second – R. Hussey; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

2. General Fund Manifest 22-04

MOTION: R. Winsor moved to approve the General Fund Manifest of Unpaid Bills Detail as of February 17, 2022, in the amount of \$342,078.32. This manifest includes a payment to the Greenland School District in the amount of \$200,000. Second – R. Bunnell; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

3. Police Special Revenue Manifest 22-02

MOTION: R. Hussey moved to approve the Police Special Revenue Manifest of Unpaid Bills Detail as of February 17, 2022, in the amount of \$540. Second – R. Bunnell; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

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VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: R. Winsor moved to adjourn at 7:13 p.m. Second – J. Connelly; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

Monday, February 28, 2022 – 6:30 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room

Submitted By – Charlotte Hussey, Administrative Assistant