

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TOWN OF PEMBROKE, NH  
November 1, 2023 at 6:30 PM**

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Present: Selectman Karen Yeaton, Selectman Peter Gagy, Selectman Richard Bean

Staff: Town Administrator David Jodoin

Excused: Selectman Sandy Goulet, Selectman Rick Frederickson

**I. Call to Order:**

Chairman Yeaton called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

**II. Citizen Comment**

Sally Hyland acknowledged the great work of Bob Fanny for the Town and Department of Public Works.

Steve Fowler, Old Home Day and Recreation Commission, explained the money expected to be raised for the stage roof at Memorial Park is not keeping up with the rate of inflation. Each year they get, the costs have increased, and they are not putting away enough to keep up with it. Selectman Yeaton stated the Selectmen look to the various town committees to make recommendations for the Selectman to discuss. Gerry Fleury, Chair of CIP, stated the CIP Committee gave the project a low priority because there is a \$20,000 donation but it is only a 1/3 of what they will need, and they had to weigh that against other town expenses. Selectman Yeaton stated there needs to be more discussion and collaboration with the Recreation Committee to figure out how they want to approach the project, understand what the problems trying to be solved are, and figure out the amount of funding that can be dedicated to the project. Gerry Fleury suggested working to put together an understanding of the value of the stage, how much longer the stage will last if covered, and the cost of total rebuild. Similar to what was done by the Commission for the Tennis Courts. The citizens need to understand what investing in the asset will look like.

**III. Scheduled Meetings**

Public Hearing in accordance with RSA 31:95-b III (a) – Acceptance of \$70,000 from the Olivia F. Phipps Trust to purchase land for a town forest to be known as the Phipps Town Forest in memory of Donald and Olivia Phipps

Opened the Public Hearing at 6:49

No Comments

Selectman Yeaton Closed the Public Hearing at 6:49

Selectman Gagy made a motion to accept the \$70,000 donation from the Olivia F. Phipps Trust on behalf of the Conservation Commission in accordance with RSA 31:95-b III (a). Selectman Bean seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

#### Solid Waste Committee – Discussion on Recycling

Gerry Fleury and Sally Hyland, Solid Waste Committee, discussed the current state of recycling. Gerry explained the Solid Waste Committee met with representatives from Casella in order to make an informed recommendation to the Selectboard on the future of recycling in Pembroke. The Committee's recommendation is to bear the cost of recycling and continue the program for another year and then reassess. One of the reasons why recycling costs are higher is because China and Indonesia were accepting recycling materials with contamination up to 5% and now, they only accept .5% impurities. There are also economic drivers at play for these commodities in the market. Casella has made significant investments in single stream recycling across all commodities. The committee feels it is premature to consider shutting down the recycling program. The Committee is dedicated to educating residents on the correct way to recycle to get the impurities down. Sally explained the technological improvements Casella has made are still in the testing phase. They feel it will reduce their processing costs and those savings will be passed down to the communities. The committee has refocused their attention on education and the Town's overall savings are still over \$500,000 in recycling.

Gerry shared Wendy Weisinger has stepped down as Chair and Gerry will now be the Chair of the Committee.

Selectman Yeaton asked what the litmus test for changing course would be. Gerry explained the industry and Casella coming up with creative solutions and implementing them.

#### **IV. Old Business**

##### Finalize 2024 Town Budget

Since the last version of the budget, there have been changes to property liability, workman's comp. and unemployment. The Town has not received any information on insurance credits yet. The largest driving factor for the budget increase is still the ambulance service. The new bottom line is \$13,236,343.

Selectman Gagy made a motion to move the budget to the Budget Committee. Selectman Bean seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

#### **V. New Business**

### Manifest/Abatements

Selectman Gagyi made a motion to accept the manifests and abatements as presented. Selectman Bean seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

### Minutes 10/18/23

Selectman Bean made a motion to approve the minutes of October 18, 2023 as presented. Selectman Gagyi seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

## **VI. Town Administrator Report**

Bob Fanny submitted his resignation effective October 27, 2023.

Monica Hurley, Corcoran Consulting, sent the 2023 equalization report. The Town's ratio has fallen to 64.9%. The next full town reassessment is in 2024.

Tax Bills have gone out in the mail. The Town rate is up \$0.63 cents, County is down \$0.03 cents, and the School is up \$2.38. The tax rate increased from \$24.90 to \$27.88.

## **VII. Committee Reports**

Selectman Yeaton -- None

Selectman Bean -- None

Selectman Gagyi -- Attended the SAU budget meeting with Gerry Fleury. Gerry explained the primary increase in the budget is an added position. He had requested an organization chart of the positions within the SAU but that was not provided. There are also no updates on the audit reports.

## **VIII. Other/Citizen Comment**

VJ Ranfos explained the Town received State Bridge Aid Funds and those should be used on the Bachelder Road Bridge. There are several accidents at the North Pembroke Road/ Rt. 28 Intersection and Bachelder Road is an important traffic detour. The Town Engineer looked at it and recommended a complete re-design. David shared there is quote for the initial survey work from Richard Bartlett and Associates in the amount of \$6,000. VJ Ranfos explained that the project could cost upwards of \$350,000. David explained the Town received \$750,000 in ARPA funds that were set aside for Water. He is going to speak with the Water Department to possibly put some of it towards a project on Cross Country Road rather than use the capital reserve funds and instead use the capital reserve funds for Bachelder. The ARPA must be spent or committed by the end of 2024. The cost for engineering design, permitting, and bidding for the Cross Country Road culvert came back at \$9,800.

Selectman Bean made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the contract with Richard Bartlett for surveying work for Bachelder Road in the amount of \$6,000. Selectman Gagyi seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Selectman Gagyi made a motion to authorize the Public Works Director to sign the contract with KV Partners in the amount of \$9,800 for the Cross Country Road engineering work. Selectman Bean seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

VJ gave an update on the Main Street project; all roadway and utility work has been completed up to base pavement, sidewalks and driveways are finished and paved, and loam and seeding is nearly completed. The work remaining is the sidewalk section near the funeral home (waiting on one additional pole relocation), final pave is after that relocation, new traffic and street signs will be placed this year, and finish loaming and hydroseed. In 2024, they will need to finish the sidewalks at 201 and 203 Main St, reseed in the spring, adjust manhole covers and gas covers, and then do a final pave. So far, the project has stayed on budget.

#### **IX. Non-Public Meeting**

Selectman Gagyi made a motion to enter into non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the requests shall be granted. seconded by Selectman Bean at 8:04pm

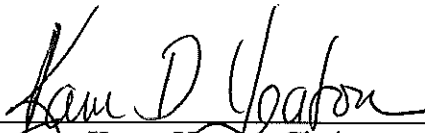
Roll Call Vote:

Selectman Gagyi	Yes
Selectman Bean	Yes
Selectman Yeaton	Yes

The Board came out of non-public session at 8:40 PM

#### **X. Adjourn**

Selectman Yeaton made a motion to adjourn at 8:41 PM. Selectman Gagyi seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.



Karen Yeaton, Chairman

For more detailed information, the meetings are now taped and can be seen on [www.townhallstreams.com](http://www.townhallstreams.com) click on Pembroke NH and look for the day of the meeting under the month.