

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF PEMBROKE, NH
JANUARY 21, 2020 at 6:30 PM**

Present: Chairman Tina Courtemanche, Selectman Michael Crockwell, Selectmen Richard Bean, Selectman Ann Bond

Staff: Town Administrator David Jodoin, Recording Secretary Jillian McNeil

Excused: Selectman Sandy Goulet

I. Call to Order:

Chairman Tina Courtemanche called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

II. Citizen Comment:

None

III. Scheduled Meetings:

Richard Wegenroth – Citizen Petition to Take Action on Climate Change

Richard Wegenroth ,475 North Pembroke Road, discussed a citizen petitioned warrant article to take action on climate change. In 2007, 164 New Hampshire towns voted in favor of a warrant article that asked the federal government to pass legislation that reduces carbon emissions. Pembroke was one of those towns. The new warrant article asks state and federal government to enact carbon-pricing legislation. This legislation would support a carbon free dividend approach that charges fossil fuel producers for their carbon pollution and rebates the money collected to all residents on an equal basis. This approach is supported by 3500+ economists, 4 former chairs of the federal reserve, 27 Nobel laureate economists, and 15 former chairs of the Council of Economic Advisors. There are 75 other towns with a similar warrant article on the ballot this year. This is backed by a statewide collation trying to get as many towns as possible to pass this warrant article.

Selectman Bond asked for clarification on what was passed in 2007. Richard stated that unlike this warrant article, the warrant article passed in 2007 by the Town of Pembroke was not specific on the type of legislation needed but it was specific on reducing carbon emissions.

Selectman Bean asked how many signatures have been collected so far. Richard stated that he has 29 signatures so far.

Selectman Bond asked why there would be an import fee and not an export fee. Richard stated that there is a fee added to the cost of exported goods for everything that uses carbon. That fee is baked into the price. If that fee is removed, then the goods are more competitive in other markets. The new border adjustment fee would compensate for the fee that is removed from exported goods. It would encourage other markets to include this fee. There are 46 other countries that are currently doing this.

Selectman Crockwell asked if this would be a state by state effort. Richard answered that these warrant articles are used to generate the political will needed for our legislatures to stand up for climate change. Current New Hampshire delegates all support climate change legislation but tell the coalition that they do not see widespread support in their constituents. The passage of this warrant article would show they have support.

Selectman Crockwell asked if the federal government would sign on to this legislation and give money back to people. Richard stated that the revenue neutral approach collects all money minus administrative costs and distributes the money back equally.

David asked if the Town will be responsible for collecting money. Richard stated that the intent is to have the state and federal governments do it. This legislation is to show leaders at the national level that New Hampshire cares about climate change and demand action.

Richard asked for clarification on the number of signatures needed to get the warrant article on the ballot at March Town Meeting. David stated that he would need 25 verifiable registered voters.

Selectman Bond asked for clarification on how anyone would know what her individual carbon foot print is compared to anyone else. Richard stated that she would be paying into the system via increased cost of goods being used. The dividend is paid out equally. Total amount of fees collected that month divided by the amount of people being paid out minus the administrative costs. The idea is that if you use less and have a smaller carbon footprint, then you realize more savings.

IV. Old Business:

Enforcement – Water Discharge/Snow Plowing

David stated that Public Works has been sending out letters to homeowners in violation of town code and state law for water being discharged onto the street and snow being pushed into the road. The letters essentially go nowhere because there is an issue with enforcement. David suggested that the letters be amended to include a statement that if the resident's does not comply, the matter will now be turned over to the Police Department.

V. New Business:

Approve 2020 Assessment Contract

Selectman Crockwell made a motion to approve the contract with Corcoran Consulting Associates, Inc. and authorize David to sign the contract. Selectman Bond seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

The next revaluation year will be 2023. There is a likely chance that before the next revaluation, home values will start dropping and the Town may be required to do another statistical update. It's all contingent on the market.

Manifest/Abatements

Selectman Bond made a motion to approve the manifest and abatements as presented. Selectman Crockwell seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Minutes 1/16/20; Non-Public 12/2/19, 12/16/19

Selectman Bond made a motion to approve the minutes of January 6, 2020 as presented. Selectman Crockwell seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0. Selectman Bond abstained.

Selectman Bond made a motion to approve the non-public minutes of December 2, 2019 as presented. Selectman Bean seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0. Selectman Crockwell abstained.

Selectman Bond made a motion to approve the non-public minutes of December 16, 2019 as presented. Selectman Bean seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0. Selectman Crockwell abstained.

VI. Town Administrator Report:

Planning Board received a letter from Brian Mrazik regarding the San-Ken Homes development. They will be before the Planning Board on January 28, 2020.

There is a Zoning Board hearing on January 27, 2020 for the project off of Wilkens Ave. The project has been held up due to Sewer capacity. Paulette Malo at the Sewer Department said they are hoping that they will see something on the inter-municipal agreement with Allenstown in February.

There was a meeting with the NH House Ways and Means Committee on a bill to change the state constitution by adding an article for the purpose of reducing property taxes.

An email was sent regarding noise complaints from fire works and barking dogs. Selectman Bond stated there is an ordinance that says dogs can only bark for 15 minutes before a resident can call the Police Department to make a complaint.

Budget Committee approved the budget and all of the Town warrant articles. There was confusion with the article regarding the storm water management process. David is going to talk to someone at the State to help draft a handout to be handed out at town meeting that may explain it better.

VII. Committee Reports:

Selectman Bean – Economic Development Committee met with Mike Bergeron from the NH Resources and Economic Development who gave a presentation about the ideas he has to improve economic development within the town. The next scheduled meeting is February 12th at 6:00.

Budget Committee met with the school and are discussing the cuts they would like to make. The public hearing is February 6th at 7:00.

Selectman Bond – Planning Board is putting up a warrant article to add raising livestock for immediate use in all zones. There is also warrant article for signs to be set back 10 feet from the road and a 15-foot corner clearance of nothing higher than 3 feet with no grandfathering. There was discussion about moving the trash carts to one side of the road to make trash pick up during snow removal quicker. David suggested holding off on any new regulations like this because there will be a new Director of DPW next winter. Selectman Bond asked if there is any money in the budget to hire someone earlier than November. David stated that he put in an extra \$10,000 into the budget for someone to shadow the current Director who may want to retire earlier than November

Selectman Crockwell – None.

VIII. Other/Citizen Comment:

None

IX. Non-Public Session

None

X. Adjourn:

Selectmen Bond made a motion to adjourn at 7:45 PM, Selectmen Bean seconded the motion. Motion Passes 4-0.

The meeting was re-opened at 7:45

Selectman Bond made a motion to add Ian Blakeney as an alternate to the Planning Board. Selectman Bean seconded the motion. Motion passed

Selectmen Bond made a motion to adjourn at 7:46 PM, Selectmen Crockwell seconded the motion. Motion Passes 4-0.

Justine M. Courtemanche, Chairman

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