

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF PEMBROKE, NH
September 22, 2021 at 6:30 PM**

Present: Selectman Richard Bean, Selectman Karen Yeaton, Selectman Ann Bond, Selectman Sandy Goulet, Selectman Peter Gagy

Staff: Town Administrator David Jodoin

I. Call to Order:

Chairman Ann Bond called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

II. Citizens Comment:

None

III. Scheduled Meetings

Public Hearing – Proposed Main Street Project

Selectman Bond opened the public hearing at 6:32pm.

Mike Vignale, Town Engineer, presented the Main Street Project. Approximately 1,700 feet of Main Street will be rebuilt. They have been coordinating with the utility companies to relocate the utility poles across the street. Parts of the road by Church and Kimball Street will be widened. The Pembroke Water Department is looking to replace a water main in the area but that will be a separate project from this one. The next step is to take the plans and put them into an RFP to go out for bid in January 2022.

Gerry Fleury, 21 Kimball Street, asked what the plans for parking will be on Kimball once the project is complete. Mike answered there are no plans to change the parking configurations from what they are now. Gerry asked if the curbing will be asphalt as it is now. Mike answered they will be changed to granite.

Selectman Bond closed the public hearing at 6:39pm.

Gerry Fleury – CIP Presentation

Gerry Fleury, Chair of the Capital Improvement Committee, presented the 2022 CIP report. Gerry reviewed the votes for high, medium, or low priority on each project. Gerry shared frustrations with the lack of understanding of the CIP process from the School Board. The responsibility for the CIP is placed on the Facilities Director Josh Coughlin's shoulders rather than the SAU staff. Gerry is meeting with School Board

to review the CIP and will discuss the proper way to create a capital improvement schedule with them.

Energy Committee – CPCNH Agreement

Matt Miller, Richard Wengenroth, and Henry Herndon discussed joining the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH). Community power allows NH communities to be more involved with electrical energy sourcing as well as pursuing other initiatives that may be of interest to the Town. Through the coalition, they will be able to select and identify sources of power that meet the needs and priorities of Pembroke. That power is procured by CPCNH on Pembroke's behalf. Eversource will continue to deliver power through their grid as well as continuing to handle the monthly billing. New Hampshire currently does not have a competitive energy market. Any customer can participate in the power coalition whether they are residential, small business, municipal, etc. Any customer that is currently on a default Eversource plan would be automatically enrolled into a program. They do have the option to opt out. A consumer who already has a different delivery company would not be automatically enrolled but could opt in. If any customer is unsatisfied, they can leave the program with no penalty. All community power programs have to comply with current New Hampshire State Statutes.

Selectman Bond asked if there is a minimum number of consumers that need to be enrolled. Matt stated that there is not a minimum per say but it would not be worth it if only one resident wanted to take advantage of the program.

Henry Herndon is currently a consultant under contract with the City of Lebanon who is been leading the creation of CPCNH. There are currently 13 communities who have joined and they are on track to incorporate on October 1, 2021. CPCNH is a public non-profit meaning the Board of Directors is made up of one representative from each city or town in the coalition. Pembroke will be able to appoint a member to the board and an alternate. If Pembroke would like to join the coalition, they will need to develop a plan for community power, bring it to the Select Board for approval, and then for a vote at Town Meeting. The residents have to say yes at Town Meeting to be a part of community power. There are templates available for that warrant. Once it is approved at Town Meeting, the Town will have access to shared resources. Each town can personalize their plan specific to that individual town's needs. Phase 1 of membership is no cost and is a seat at the table with the organization and access to the network. Phase 2 is access to services to move forward with a plan.

David Jodoin asked who would have to be the person appointed to the Board of Directors. Henry answered it can be anyone the Town would like to have appointed by the Select Board.

Selectman Yeaton asked what the cost would be to the Town if they decided to move to Phase 2. Matt Miller explained when the plan is implemented and people start getting enrolled in the program, the cost is integrated into the electric bill and recuperated through the energy supply rate. State Statutes prohibit tax payer dollars from funding the program's operations. The electric bills will say Pembroke Community Power and it will be transparent.

Selectman Bean asked how solar would be affected by this. Matt explained any one on solar is currently on net metering which is where the power company credits them for the power they supply to the grid. CPCNH has the ability to set the rate coming from the panels. In the beginning, it will likely match whatever rate they are getting now.

Selectman Gagy asked what the community would be looking at in terms of savings. Matt stated the cost savings isn't always the big selling point of the program, however, they have been discussing 10-15% savings. The coalition will put out an RFP for portfolio managers that currently participate in the wholesale market. Rather than locking into one contract and then coming back at the end of the contract to see where the market is, the coalition will be active participants in the market. Selectman Gagy shared concerns that immediate cost savings may not be substantial. Matt stated they do not have the answer for that right now but they are looking to build a power plan with the Town that is specific to the Town and until that process begins, they will not know the cost savings. Right now, there are three communities who have built a plan. In those plans, it stipulates that they will not launch a program until the price at launch is lower than the current utility rate.

Selectman Bond asked what happens if they vote to approve membership but they never make it to Phase 2. Henry stated they would be at an impasse and they would have to work to get to a plan that could be approved. There would also be the ability to terminate the partnership agreement.

Selectman Yeaton asked if CPCNH considers itself a lobbyist with the state legislature. Henry answered that they are an organization empowered to conduct public advocacy as it relates specifically to energy policy that could impact the organization. Selectman Yeaton asked what percentage of resources would be allocated to that. Henry answered it would be minimal.

The Board tabled a vote to join the coalition until the next meeting.

Sand Bids/Bridge Signage

VJ Ranfos, Public Works Director, shared he only received one response to the winter sand bid RFP.

Selectman Gagy asked how many tons of sand they would use in a normal season. VJ stated they used 11,000 tons of salt and sand to make the 50/50 mix.

Selectman Goulet made a motion to award the winter sand bid to FL Merrill Construction. Selectman Yeaton seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 Selectman Bean abstained.

VJ stated the Town of Pembroke has no responsibility to maintain the historical sign or banners for the dam removal in Suncook. The signage can go on the property by the cannon but They are waiting on final permission by the State since that is their property. The State is waiting on the Board of Selectmen to approve the installation of the sign before they will formally approve the location. Allenstown has already hung their banners on their half of the bridge.

Selectman Goulet made a motion to approve the installation of the sign near the cannon in the Village. Selectman Bond seconded the motion 5-0.

Taser Purchase

David Jodoin explained last year during the CIP process, the Police Department was approved to purchase tasers. When COVID hit, the purchase was shut down when budget froze. The money is already set aside in the Police Department Small Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

Selectman Goulet made a motion to authorize to the Police Chief to proceed with the taser purchase and to remove the funds out of the Police Department Small Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. Selectman Yeaton seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

IV. Old Business:

None

V. New Business

Waste Zero Request

VJ Ranfos, Director of Public Works, shared Waste Zero is teaming up with HELPSY to offer free curbside recycling to residents at no cost for reusable, recyclable clothing. DPW currently has a Salvation Army bin at the transfer station. This could help get some textiles out of the trash stream. VJ will contact the company to come in and speak with the Selectman about the program.

Energy Request

David Jodoin explained a few years ago, the Town entered into an agreement with Direct Energy to supply energy to all town buildings. They are looking to open up

the agreement before it expires to look at the rates. The last contract was a 5-year term.

Veteran Credit Info

David Jodoin explained that RSA 72:28 authorizes the Board to request another section for veteran's tax credits at Town Meeting for other qualifying wars. The original section lists WW1, WW2, Korean War, Persian Gulf, and any other war or armed conflict that has occurred since May 8, 1975 which the resident earned an armed forces expeditionary medal or theater of operations service medal. A resident cannot get credits unless they are honorably discharged with a DD-214 form. David will get more information from the Town Assessor on this.

Resignation/Retirements

Larry Madden will retire from the Public Works Department effective October 31, 2021 and Officer Jordan Boisvert will be resigning from the Police Department effective September 7, 2021.

Selectman Goulet made a motion to accept both the retirement and resignation. Selectman Yeaton seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Manifests/Abatements

Selectman Goulet made a motion to accept the manifests and abatements as presented. Selectman Yeaton seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Minutes 8/18/21

Selectman Goulet made a motion to accept the minutes of August 18, 2021 as presented. Selectman Bond seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

VI. Town Administrator Report:

The auctioneer information has been sent to all town departments for the annual auction of surplus equipment.

NHMA sent guidance about mask wearing at polling places and town gatherings.

Monica, the Town Assessor, sent a letter explaining the current ratio is 77%. They are looking to do a partial statistical update in 2022 and are proposing a desk review with no hearings to save money but the residents should be given the opportunity to meet with the assessors. David will schedule a meeting for Monica to come in and discuss the proposal with the Board

Meet Me in Suncook sent a letter asking if there would be an unveiling ceremony for the Lafayette Trail Sign. Julian from the Lafayette Group will be in Town Friday,

October 1st. He will ask around to get a color guard and gun salute. David will schedule it with them.

Madear's Southern Eatery and Bakery lost their Meals and Rentals Tax Operator's License effective once it is served on September 21, 2021.

NHDOT asked the Town to give input on the 10-year transportation plan. VJ will be in charge of that.

Selectman Goulet made a motion to approve the 2021 MS-1 Form. Selectman Bond seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

VII. Committee Reports:

Selectman Yeaton – Energy Committee met to discuss the CPCNH. Conservation Commission is trying to figure out what is going on with the signage for OHRV use on the Range Roads. The Commission decided not to purchase land from the Irving Family Trust but there are 51 acres on Buck Street they will be looking at.

Selectman Bean – Recreation Commission met to discuss the stage roof. They also discussed the potential for a dog park but will not be recommending it. There is an issue of someone using the park for soccer without insurance David contacted the individual and an insurance certificate is on its way. David needs to clarify what the fees are for and then email them the details before they will pay it.

Selectman Bond – Planning Board had a workshop and are looking for items for the March Town Meeting. There is no meeting next week as there are no applicants.

Selectman Goulet – None

Selectman Gagy – Roads Committee met and discussed more crack sealing and also paving a section of Robinson Road. The North Pembroke Road bridge will be finished in Late November. VJ shared that due to the weather, the concrete took longer to cure than anticipated. They were a week ahead of schedule and now they are estimating being 2-weeks behind.

VIII. Other Citizens Comment:

VJ stated they received the price of salt. They receive the state bid price which was \$49.50/ton and is now \$73.60/ton. The salt/sand budget is now increased by \$25,000.

IX. Non-Public Session:

Selectman Goulet made a motion to enter into non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Hiring Public Personnel, seconded by Selectman Bond at 9:01pm

Roll Call Vote:

Selectman Yeaton	Yes
Selectman Bean	Yes
Selectman Bond	Yes
Selectman Goulet	Yes
Selectman Gagy	Yes

The Board came out of non-public session at 9:20 PM

X. Adjourn:

Selectman Goulet made a motion to adjourn at 9:21 PM. Selectman Bean seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Ann Bond, 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.