

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

Present: Selectman Richard Bean, Selectman Ann Bond, Selectman Sandy Goulet, Selectman Peter Gagyi

Excused: Selectman Karen Yeaton

Staff: Town Administrator David Jodoin

I. Call to Order:

Chairman Ann Bond called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

II. Citizens Comment:

None

III. Scheduled Meetings

Energy Committee – CPCNH Agreement/Appointments

Selectman Bond asked for clarification on residents being automatically enrolled if they currently have Eversource as a provider. Matt Miller, Brickett Hill Road, explained if residents currently have Eversource they will be automatically enrolled but can opt out at any point and if they do not have Eversource, they will need to opt in. They will receive a 30 days' notice of the start of the program so they have the ability to opt out and they will give notice of people not on the program for them to opt in. At this time the mechanism of how they will get the list of who are current subscribers and who are not is unknown.

Selectman Gagyi expressed a disfavor for the auto enrollment of current subscribers. Everyone should have the chance to opt in but no one should be automatically enrolled. Matt Miller stated they could change that feature if the Selectmen do not want it.

Selectman Goulet stated she would vote no on this item due to not giving residents the option to opt in. Pentti Aalto, Bachelder Road, the auto enrolled feature would be to the default service. This provides a different structure where the town opts in to the default service.

Selectman Gagyi stated that residents who are in a contract would not be able to opt in and residents do not want to be put on a contract. Furthermore, the rate is unlikely to beat any current rates that are out there right now. Matt Miller explained this

program has no contracts. The reason the rate would be cheaper is that Eversource is following a very prescriptive regulated 6-month buying program with a small window to procure energy. This CPCNH will be able to enter the market and source electricity at any time. They will have the ability to look at trends and selectively buy when the market is right. It will not be a huge savings but close to 5-10%.

Selectman Bean asked if they can buy power from anywhere. Richard Wengenroth, North Pembroke Road, stated where they buy power from will be determined by the plan the community input prescribes whether it is lowest cost or another metric. The Town as a whole will have say in where power comes from. Tonight though, they are not looking for the Selectboard to approve community power. That has to be done at Town Meeting by the voters. If the Town does not like the opt in or what it prioritizes, they have that ability to vote up or down. They are asking to enter into an agreement with CPCNH to continue to learn about this program. There is no cost and no commitment or liability. The membership can be rescinded at any time.

Selectman Bean asked if the current member communities are already opted in. Matt Miller stated those communities have joined and a few have created their power plans and are ready for town meeting. Richard Wengenroth stated this is all new and based on legislation that was passed in the last year so it is just getting started. Selectman Bean supports waiting another year until the coalition is more established.

Waste Zero – Clothing Collection

Steve, Waste Zero, share they are a waste reduction company focusing on reducing what goes into the trash stream. Even with all the recycling programs around, a large portion of what is put into the trash and ultimately paid for by taxpayers, is reusable or compostable. They are focusing on textiles for these purposes. Assuming 2,600 households in the Town and diverting five pounds per household, it would take roughly 6.5 tons of textiles out of the trash stream. That would save about \$65/ton and the Town would be paid a fixed \$40/ton for the materials. Residents can schedule the curbside collection themselves on the website. There is also the option of using a drop box.

Selectman Bond asked when they go on to the website and schedule a pick up, how frequent would be the pick-up. Steve stated that it is typically within the week.

Selectman Bean asked if they are shredding all the materials and shipping them off. Steve stated they will look through all bags and they are looking to reuse as much as possible. They are trying to put the materials in the best places possible so they do not end up in the trash stream.

Selectman Goulet how the Town will know they picked up the bag. Steve stated they will have a quarterly receipt for day weights received.

Steve will get an agreement together for the next meeting.

2022 Fire Budget/Emergency Management Review

David stated that health insurance went up 3.7% and dental went down 1.5%.

Paul Gagnon Pembroke Fire Chief, shared in the personnel budget there is a 1.6% cost of living increase and a \$5,000 increase over that for life safety inspections. They are looking to hire a full-time person who would be in charge of life safety inspections. In the operating budget, the safety equipment purchases have a 67% increase. Assistant Chief Erik Paulsen explained some of the increase in the gear line is the turnout gear which is now priced at \$2,300 per set. Over the past 9 years they have seen a 5% increase every year. This gear has an average lifespan of 5 years and next year it looks like it will be closer to \$2,400 per set. Selectman Goulet asked if the vendor is a local vendor. Chief Gagnon explained the shirts are public safety specialty shirts and there is a company in Epsom they source them from but they are having trouble keeping clothing in stock. They are now using a company in Manchester which is the same company that Tri-Town uses. NFPA is looking at requiring a second set of turn out gear for all firefighters. The concern and reasoning for a second set is the carcinogens that remain in the material after a fire. The budget shows an overall increase of 3.7%.

Chief Gagnon explained the Department no longer has to fund the river gauge but they are going shift that money to outfit and equip more emergency management operations. The equipment they would like to purchase are items like traffic cones, traffic control equipment, flagging items, tables, and wireless in the operations center.

Selectman Goulet made a motion to approve the Fire Department and Emergency Management Budget as presented. Selectman Bond seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

2022 Hydrant Rentals/Debt Service/Recreation/Patriotic Purposes/Community Action/Health/Conservation/EDC/Welfare and Direct assistance Review.

David Jodoin explained the hydrant budget, patriotic purposes, health administration, economic development, direct assistance, and community action budgets all remained the same as last year has no change. Interest in the debt service has a reduction because the Upper Beacon Hill Road bond is done and there is a \$300,000 reduction also for the same bond issuance. The interest for the TAN did not change. Recreation has a reduction of \$100. However, there will be more costs attributed to field maintenance because the previous vendor was a resident. Rose also wants to buy a zero-turn mower if she has money in this year's budget. She is bringing that request to the commission. Conservation has an increase of \$1,500 under the professional services line. They are looking to put deed restrictions on their

properties so a future board cannot sell anything off. Welfare had an increase of \$1,100 due to a cost-of-living increase.

Selectman Goulet made a motion to approve the budgets as presented. Selectman Bean seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

IV. Old Business:

None

V. New Business

Approve 2022 Utility Assessing Contract

David stated the Department of Revenue Administration has reviewed the contract and found no issues.

Selectman Goulet Motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the utility assessment contract with George E Sansoucy. Selectman Bean seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0

Approve Eversource Lighting Conversion

VJ Ranfos, Pembroke Public Works Director, and Bob Fanny, Pembroke Public Works, discussed the estimate for lighting in the public works garage bays. There is a public safety issue not having property lighting in the garage. Rise Engineering and Eversource will pay for half of labor and installation. \$2,336 is the quote for fixing the fixtures and there is a quote for \$3,192 to fix and replace with LED lights. The LED lights would be 30% brighter than what they have now. These lights would make the garage bays a much safer place for the mechanic.

Selectman Goulet made a motion to approve the agreement with Eversource and Rise Engineering in the amount of \$3,192.48. Selectman Bond seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Manifests/Abatements

Selectman Goulet made a motion to accept the manifests and abatements as presented. Selectman Bond seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Minutes 9/22/21

Selectman Goulet made a motion to accept the minutes of September 22, 2021 as presented. Selectman Bond seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

VI. Non-Public Session:

Selectman Goulet made a motion to enter into non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Matters of which, if discussed in public, would likely affect the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to include any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant. seconded by Selectman Bond at 7:38pm

Roll Call Vote:

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Selectman Gagyi | Yes |
| Selectman Bean | Yes |
| Selectman Bond | Yes |
| Selectman Goulet | Yes |

The Board came out of non-public session at 7:57

Selectman Goulet made a motion to seal the non-public minutes of October 6, 2021 because the it is determined that divulgence of this information with likely effect adversely the reputation other than the member of the board. Seconded by Selectman Bond.

Roll Call Vote:

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Selectman Gagyi | Yes |
| Selectman Bean | Yes |
| Selectman Bond | Yes |
| Selectman Goulet | Yes |

Selectman Goulet made a motion to authorize sending contractual documentation to former employee Jordan Boisvert. Selectman Bond seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Selectman Gagyi | Yes |
| Selectman Bean | Yes |
| Selectman Bond | Yes |
| Selectman Goulet | Yes |

VII. Town Administrator Report:

The dental insurance rates for 2022 went down 1.5% and health insurance went up 3.7%.

Reviewed letters and emails sent to the board.

The Board will meet Thursday October 14th at 5:30 to review ambulance, public works, and police department budgets.

VIII. Committee Reports:

Selectman Bean – None

Selectman Bond – None

Selectman Goulet – None

Selectman Gagyi – Roads is talking about trying an asphalt rubber chip seal on Cross Country between 6th and 7th range road and including 6th and 7th range roads. They also discussed the San-Ken development.

IX. Other Citizen Comment:

None

X. Adjourn:

Selectman Goulet made a motion to adjourn at 8:23 PM. Selectman Bond 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.