

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF PEMBROKE, NH
August 16, 2023 at 6:30 PM**

Present: Selectman Karen Yeaton, Selectman Richard Bean, Selectman Peter Gagyi, Selectman Rick Frederickson, Selectman Sandy Goulet

Staff: Town Administrator David Jodoin

I. Call to Order:

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

II. Citizen Comment

None

III. Scheduled Meetings

Bob Fanny SW Foreman – Discussion on grant for new trash truck

Bob Fanny, Solid Waste Foreman, and VJ Ranfos, Public Works Director, discussed the possibility of a grant for a new electric trash truck. VJ explained there is an opportunity to replace the 1998 Peterbilt garbage truck that is used as the transfer station yard truck with a new electric truck through a 95% loan forgiveness grant from NHDES. Bob attended an electric vehicle show and discovered this grant opportunity. They spoke with a representative from NHDES who came down to the yard and looked at the fleet and facility and thought this would be a great opportunity for the town. The vehicle is approximately \$730,000 which includes the truck and all related infrastructure.

Selectman Goulet shared the charging infrastructure will work for everything so if the police department decided to purchase an electric vehicle, they could charge it there. VJ stated the charging station will have two ports so they could do two vehicles at once. Bob explained the grant covers the charging station and the upgrade of the electrical into the shop which will make it a three-phase power source. There have been issues in the past with needing the three-phase power for items such as a new compressor and not having it so having it. It being included in the grant is a large benefit to the town. This would also put them in line for a grant for solar panels at 95% forgiveness.

There are two brands, Mack and Battle Motors. The Mack truck did not have enough capacity to meet the town's needs. The Battle Motors truck is designed specifically for this application. The battery is fully encased, and climate controlled which eliminates the concern for fires.

Selectman Yeaton asked if there is any information on insurance costs. Bob explained he contacted Primex and they do not need to get extra or different insurance. Selectman Yeaton asked Primex indicated if the town will need special equipment to mitigate a fire. Bob answered there are no extra conditions.

Selectman Bean asked if it would still be a split body truck. Bob answered it would still be a 50/50 split body but a rear loader, not automatic. This will also eliminate the need for the rental dumpster for recycling.

Selectman Yeaton asked which warranty they plan to carry on the truck. Bob explained the grant does not cover any of the warranties. That would cost an extra \$9,067.

Selectman Yeaton asked what the cost of a replacement battery is. Bob answered it would be \$36,018 but the battery is made up of cells and the computer inside will indicate if a cell is bad. A new cell is approximately \$800 and they would be able to change it at DPW. Overall, the batteries should have a life of 10 years.

Selectman Yeaton asked if the mechanic will need any special training. Bob answered there are a lot of computer programs that come with the truck for diagnostics, but the truck is essentially the same as a regular trash truck.

Selectman Frederickson if there are any concerns for the body of the truck being the first ever made. Bob explained it is not really the first. The body is essentially the same except it has to be designed a little differently because of the frame. The new body has been tested out across all climates. Selectman Frederickson asked if the plan is for it to stay in the yard, does that hurt the function of the truck over long periods. Bob answered they have been told that this type of truck is better for this application over the diesel and shouldn't rust. It will be driven twice a week to the Allentown facility, so it won't be completely stationary.

Bob shared the grant paperwork must be in by October 13th and on November 17th the Town will be notified if the grant is approved. The vendor ordering the truck will hold off until it is a definite yes. It will take close to a year to receive the truck. Selectman Frederickson clarified this is a reimbursement grant and it needs to be funded up front. David explained he still needs to work on the cash flow to make this possible.

Gerry Fleury shared the Solid Waste Committee is 100% this project.

Selectman Goulet made a motion to authorize the Public Works Director to apply for and sign all necessary documents related to the grant application. Selectman Gagy seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Solid Waste Discussion – Trash vs. Recycling

Gerry Fleury and Sally Hyland, Solid Waste Committee, discussed trash vs. recycling. For the first time in a long time, recycling tonnage is currently costing more than trash removal. There is reason to believe that the markets will correct themselves and the town will no longer be paying the additional amount. Sally Hyland explained recyclables are commodities. The new contract went into effect last September, which put us in line with all the other communities. If we got rid of the recycling program, the town would still have to pay for the tonnage. Since last September we have had to pay an extra \$25,000 for recycling. Last September, the cost was \$130/ton. Since then, it has come down 20%. Casella has made a lot of upgrades in their facilities which should start bringing down their costs. Our costs are tied to their costs. The Solid Waste Committee recommends continuing with the recycling program.

Selectmen Gagy explained he is comfortable continuing the program but feels the board should come up with a threshold that they would then reconsider. Selectman Yeaton suggested creating a total limit value rather than a monthly total. Gerry Fleury explained a Casella has told them the community cannot toggle between being a recycling community and not. The contract pricing included recycling and there would be a high likelihood that the cost per ton for trash would increase because the landfills are filling up and now that extra material will need to be shipped elsewhere. Selectman Goulet shared the residents want to recycle but would likely support a threshold.

VJ Ranfos stated the household hazardous waste day is coming up and they could poll the residents that come to see if they are in favor of continuing the program. Gerry Fleury suggested an advisory warrant article to gauge the sentiment of the Town. David also suggested adding a survey to the newsletter.

Chief Gaskell – K9 Contract

Chief Gaskell shared legal counsel has approved the K9 contract and Officer St. Jacques has reviewed and signed the contract. Training will cost \$6,500 which covers the \$2,000 for initial training \$1,500 for narcotics training, and \$500 each year after that. This figure is the reimbursement amount listed in the contract should Officer St. Jacques willingly leave the Department before the 5-year term is up.

David asked should Officer St. Jacques take a vacation; will they be boarding the K9 at the same place. Chief Gaskell explained the previous K9 Bucca was boarded at the Barking Dog. The new K9 will go back to place he was purchased from. They have boarding facilities. This will provide continuity as well as the ability for them to continue working on his training.

Selectman Goulet made a motion to authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign the K9 contract with Officer St. Jacques. Selectman Frederickson seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

IV. Old Business

Updated Class VI Building Permits Document

The document has been reviewed by the Town Attorney.

Selectman Frederickson made a motion to move to a public hearing on September 6, 2023. Selectman Goulet seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

V. New Business

Manifest/Abatements

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

Minutes 8/2/23

Selectman Goulet made a motion to approve the minutes of August 2, 2023 as presented. Selectman Gagyí seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0. Selectman Goulet abstained.

VI. Town Administrator Report

Selectman Goulet made a motion to approve the large gathering ordinance for the Pembroke Allenstown Old Home Day in perpetuity as long as a current certificate of insurance is provided. Selectman Frederickson seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Fire Department found a 2007 John Deere Gator through the federal excess property program. There is no cost for the vehicle. The Gator would allow them to transfer equipment in and out of the Range Roads and could be used during the annual Regatta.

Selectman Goulet made a motion to authorize Chief Gagnon to pick up the 2007 gator for the Pembroke Fire Department. Selectman Bean seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

There is a new law coming out regarding non-public minutes that says they have to be reviewed once every 10 years.

Selectman Goulet made a motion to release the non-public minutes of 6/1/22, 5/18/22, 5/12/22, 4/6/22, 3/16/22, 3/2/22, 2/16/22, 2/2/22, 1/26/22, 1/19/22, 4/1/19, 3/25/13, 1/7/13, 6/16/12, 1/17/12, 9/12/07, 08/29/07, and 12/6/06. Selectman Gagyí seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

VII. Committee Reports

Selectman Yeaton – Conservation approved the use of bio solids on the Hillman property. There is a tree down on the Stoney brook property that a neighbor thought was on the town property but it appears as though they do not own the tree. The Commission is scheduling the fall monitoring of conservation land. They discussed the 2024 budget. They may not proceed with the deed modifications due to the costs.

Selectman Fredrickson – CIP met with the school district. They feel they will have the audits done in time to get the bond for the Hill School renovation. They will be looking for the remaining \$200,000 to rebuild the track for a total cost of \$400,000.

Planning had a workshop meeting. They discussed ADU's and changing Kline's way to a mixed use.

Selectman Bean – None

Selectman Gagyí – None

VIII. Other/Citizen Comment

VJ Ranfos explained there is a sewer issue between the Library and Town Hall. There was a recent repair done and when they dug it up, they discovered the pipe size used was not what was in the plan. G&O (town plumber) looked at the problem and suggested putting a small pump station outside of Town Hall. Bob brought the proposal to Paulette and she had questions. The cost is approximately \$25-30,000.

Selectman Yeaton asked how long this has been going on. VJ answered it has been going on and off for at least the last 10 years.

Selectman Frederickson asked how much it would cost to take the pipe directly to the road. VJ answered they are looking into that but the issue with doing that is the main sewer line is across Route 3 so the State would need to get involved. There is nothing to move forward on at this time. They will gather more information and come back.

After some discussion on the construction of the dug outs at Memorial Park, the board decided to adopt a new policy.

Selectman Goulet made a motion any work done on Town owned land, regardless of the Board or Committee in charge, first gets approved by the Selectman and if buildings or structures are to be erected, the Board should see plans and seek input

from the Building Committee before any funds are given. Selectman Gagyí seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

IX. Non-Public

Selectman Goulet 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 Frederickson at 8:19pm

Roll Call Vote:

Selectman Gagyí	Yes
Selectman Frederickson	Yes
Selectman Goulet	Yes
Selectman Bean	Yes
Selectman Yeaton	Yes

The Board came out of non-public session at 10:03 PM

X. Adjourn

Selectman Frederickson made a motion to adjourn at 10:04 PM. Selectman Bean 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 click on Pembroke NH and look for the day of the meeting under the month.