Town of Stoddard

**SELECTMENS MEETING**

Monday, February 12, 2024

Town Hall – 7:00 PM

**DRAFT MINUTES**

Chris called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ATENDEES include Chris Madden – Chair, Robert Fee – Selectmen, Terri LaRoche – Selectmen, Michelle Pong – Town Administrator, Vickie Williams – Secretary and Harry Power – Compliance Officer

GUESTS include Joe Traniello, Pixie & Ray Durand, Bob Maden, Inga Dellea and Steve Rockwell

APPOINTMENTS:

ZBA Reappointment – Jason Kovarik – Michelle reached out to him through email, at this time she has not gotten a response back.

Policy on recusal procedure – set policies into place. Do you leave the room? Etc ..

**Bob Motioned to research and set up a Policy on recusing oneself from vote. Chris Seconded. Motion Carried.**

Harry Power – Compliance Officer

Steps on island pond – have a dreg and fill permit from NHDES

Aho/Rice – Harry is not getting involved with this, the State of NH – NHDES will handle this issue they are taking them to court.

Inga Dellea – Recreation Survey – received 107 responses. Indications were nature stewartship activities were important along with a public beach, social recreation – game/movie nights. The lowest of importance were a play ground and local gym for fitness. In sports people would like to see soccer and basketball as the top picks along with tennis. More research does need to be done.

Funding for Coordinator position for Recreational Coordinator would be a budget of $10,000.00 for next year.

30 weeks @ 6 hours per week - $4,500.00

Speakers for events - $2,000.00

Marketing - $1,000.00

Additional Costs – supplies - $2,500.00

Will put on Warrant Article for next years budget. Selectboard Approves.

Bob Maden asked Inga to please share the results with the Planning Board.

Island Pond – is this a Boat Launch or Public Beach – it is actually a Town Owned Boat Launch. Could this also include space for a public beach? Michelle will look into the options with NHDES.

TO BE SIGNED/APPROVED:

1. A/R and/or P/R Manifest
2. Minutes of 1/29/2024
3. Minutes of 1/22/2024
4. CAI Contract

ALL ABOVE SIGNED AND APPROVED BY BOARD

**Chris Motioned to Approve the Minutes of 1/29/2024 as written. Bob Seconded. Motion Carried.**

**Bob Motioned to Approve the Minutes of 1/22/2024 as amended. Chris Seconded. Motion Carried.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Planning Board Ex Officio –

**Bob Motioned to Appoint Chris Madden as the Planning Board Ex Officio Alternate for the Planning Board. Terri Seconded. Motion Carried.**

Venue Voting – Michelle contacted the Stoddard School as of this time she is waiting to hear back from them.

NH Saves Update - $8,000.00 free energy audit for Town Buildings to save on electrical/heating costs. Scheduled to take place in March. Once the Audit is complete the town them can plan the next few years of work if needed on Town Buildings.

Bob Maden – Not hearing much from the Town on the surveys for the Master Plan. Is there something we can do to get more responses? They are anonymous surveys and we are asking for public opinion on the master plan on how the residents see the future of Stoddard.

Steve Rockwell – Old Fire Station Electrical Work – The work will start February 15th and continue for 2 days.

Quote for concrete floor which will include installation under floor and rebar - $5,200.00 – this will bring the line item for building maintenance over budget.

**Chris Motioned to overspend the line item for Old Fire Station Building Maintenance. Bob Seconded. Motion Carried.**

**Chris Motioned to use money from the General Fund to cover the overspend on the Old Fire Station Building Maintenance line item. Bob Seconded. Motion Carried.**

Animal Control Officer – Michelle did receive an application to fill this position.

**Chris Motioned for Michelle to contact the applicant for a preliminary interview. Terri Seconded. Motion Carried.**

BUDGET –

1. Fire Department – looking at a $15,500 increase in payroll. $10.oo for Chief and $ 4.00 for Deputy Chief. Budget needs more work will send back to Trevor.
2. Gazebo – this is just an itemized detailed list to questions asked by the board at the last meeting.
3. Town Clerk/Tax Collector – Postponed
4. Highway – cleaning of culverts/ditches went up both summer and winter. Summer went from $26,000.00 to $37,000.00 and Winter went from $20,000.00 to $80,000.00. Some statements made, that culverts don’t get cleaned out. The catch basin on North Shore Road was repaired by the Granite Lake Association. Resident directing water from property to ditch damaging it further.
5. Elections – Can Michelle send Dan an email and ask him to come to a Selectboard meeting to discuss.
6. Emergency Management – Level funded. Want to see time sheets filled out for worked hours.
7. Computer for EMD/Moderator

**Bob Motioned that Emergency Management Director/Moderator did not need a computer. Chris Seconded. Motion Carried.**

**Chris Motioned a Salary of $20.00 for both the Emergency Management Director and Deputy Director. Bob Seconded. Motion Carried.**

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Proposed increase to building permit fees – current and proposed fees. Make sheds, decks and patios all one fee.

**Chris Motioned to Accept fees for the new building permit as amended. Terri Seconded. Motion Carried. Bob nay vote. 2 -1 vote.**

1. Police Partnership Update – The Town of Nelson does not want to do a shared Police Officer now. Michelle has heard from the Sheriff and looks like he can have personnel on the road through June of 2024 for a short-term contract to get through the existing year. Night hours must be requested. Michelle will get more on the figures of what this would cost to the board, the Sheriff will send over a quote. Should the Police matter in Stoddard go on the Town Ballot for vote or is this Town Meeting? Will look into the matter vote on ballot or warrant articles.
2. ADU form for registering at Cheshire County Registry of Deeds – the Board reviewed the document and approved.

Warrant Articles Due for Town Meeting– April 6th or 9th . Michelle will find out for sure.

MISC CORRESPONDENCE:

LBF invoice from Planning Board – signed by board

Geoff Jones – wants Michelle to do work for the Conservation Commission. Will send back to Geoff.

Community Power – Do we want this on the Town Warrant Articles? You can personally opt in to Community Power even if the Town does not. Will table till after the Town Meeting and rediscuss in July.

**Chris Motioned to Adjourn the Public Meeting @ 10:05 PM. Bob Seconded. Motion Carried.**

Submitted

Vickie Williams

Secretary

Chris Madden \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Robert Fee \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Terri LaRoche \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­\_