Town of Stoddard

**SELECTMEN’S MEETING**

Monday, November 13, 2023

Town Hall – 7:00 PM

**MINUTES**

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance includes: Christopher Madden – Chair, Terri LaRoche – Selectmen, Michelle Pong – Town Administrator, Vickie Williams – Secretary and Harry Power – Compliance Officer

Guests include: Joe Traniello, David Vaillancourt, Eli Rivera – Cheshire County Sheriff, James Pollock, Noreen & Ray Durand and Bob Maden

APPOINTMENTS:

James Pollock – Wants the encroachment issue with the LBF resolved. The board sent several letters to Mr. Pollock that went unanswered. The time limit for buying the land passed as a result. The last letter sent to Mr. Pollock directed that he had to remove his belongings from the Town land. He stated his lawyer told him he can just take the land with adverse possession. The Board asked if they would need a court order for him to remove his belongings from Town land. He said “yes”. Mr. Pollock stated that is what is lawyer told him, that the Town would have to serve a court order. The Board stated if he wanted the land he would have to pay the $5,000.00 dollars, plus the court fees of $750.00 as Mr. Pollock had agreed upon. Mr. Pollock then threw $3,000.00 dollars on the table and said “make this go away”. The Board said the time for negotiations were over, Mr. Pollock had previously agreed to the $5,000.00 and legal fees and that is how it would remain. Mr. Pollock got angry muttered at the Board and walked out of the meeting.

Sheriff Eli Rivera – To discuss the option of the Sheriff’s Dept. patrolling Stoddard for Law Enforcement.

To Provide services to the Town of Stoddard the current rate would be $59.95, in 2024 it would increase to $62.02 comparable to the surrounding areas. For any special events or services the rate per hour would be $89.00 for a minimum of 3 hours. There is a 60 day transition period and a 120 day exit plan that either party can execute. They currently patrol Sullivan (7 years), Richmond (3 years) and Gilsum (20 years).

The hours worked would be agreed upon by the Town, this includes regular patrolling of the town, pistol permits, calls to the police, background checks and anything else in the daily work.

The Sheriff Dept would follow the Town Ordinances of Stoddard and enforce them where they apply in their duties. They could rotate Saturday’s for weekend patrols. They would handle all the aspects of law enforcement including the handling of any evidence on ongoing cases. The units patrolling would be marked vehicles. Due to staffing shortage and officers being trained to join the Sheriff’s Dept, they could not begin a patrol in Stoddard till July, they can do 20 to 30 hours by then. They will also work with the local police force with scheduling and hours if we used both local and the county. The union is also trying to open up negotiations for salary increases if this happens pricing per hour would go up to account for those union increases.

Answered questions by Board and Town Administrator –

The Sheriff’s Dept would never be on call for emergencies (911) that is the purview of the State Police.

The Town would have to commit to 20 hours minimum a week for signed contract for 2 years. Maximum would be 80 hours total for the month, at 20 hours. The Sheriff believes they can do 20 – 30 hours a week for Stoddard by July 1 once his officers have completed training.

The Sheriff’s Dept. has radar signs they could bring in for a few hours here and there. They will give an annual report for the previous year. A monthly report will also be provided – a list of all calls, hours actually worked, actions taking during those hours. There will be a report and log of all calls by officers. They will also take care of animal control calls if necessary.

The Sheriff’s Dept. at times will have to have private space to meet with people, they have their own computer for record management system, they will control all evidence. If there is a problem with any deputy that complaint would go the Sheriff.

Harry Power –

108-7 – Dionne – 1 story garage – storage only. Rice Brook Drive. PD $300.00

133 – 19 – Moline Trust – 12 x 16 shed replacement. On water back 70 – 80 ft, needs shoreland permit, they have filed for one. Treelyn Road.

408 – 21.2 - Elliott – solar panels house on 123f North. PD $50.00

110 – 38 – Robichaud – New home on Hidden Lake – PD $500.00.

Fire Dept. – PO for update on id system, it is in their budget.

**Board Signed & Approved.**

TO BE SIGNED/APPROVED:

1. A/R and/or P/R Manifest
2. Minutes of 10/30/2023
3. Emergency Response Debriefing
4. MS 1
5. Non – Public Minutes

**Chris Motioned to accept Minutes as written. Terri Seconded. Motion Carried.**

**All the above Signed & Approved.**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Asked about the Tax Rate Setting – Hopefully by the end of the Month all has been sent to the DRA.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Appoint alternate ex-officio to Planning Board – tabled at this time
2. Civic Plus Roll-Out – Michelle sent out an email for volunteers to have a committee formed to help get the information out to the residents/public on how to be part of civic plus. Has 2 volunteers 1 maybe. Terri LaRoche said she would be part of the committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Letter of Commitment – City of Keene – Household Hazardous Waste Collection

**Chris Motioned for Michelle Pong to sign the Commitment Letter for City of Keene. Terri Seconded. Motion Carried.**

1. Felled trees at the Gazebo – Board agreed to let anyone on Mount Stoddard Road to take the trees within 30 days as long as the chop up the logs and remove them. Will write up a policy on this.
2. Discuss possible culvert inventory project – Working with FEMA to fill out required paperwork to get reimbursed with storm costs. GPS coordinates of where work was done on culverts. Get volunteers, see if school group would like to help. Send in GPS coordinates and pictures of top and ends of the culverts. Can the Lake Associations help? Eagle Scout project?
3. Letter to Contractors – Given out information on Town ordinances and the needed paperwork of project completion. All forms should be filled out and filed. Where to get the information needed for these tasks.

MISC CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Collins would like to meet with the Select Board on complaints landowner blocking traffic with jeep and a chain across Log Cabin Road. Wants him to know they are Class 6 and can not be blocked.

Sent Letter out to bring property up to code with the treehouse in non-compliance with septic system being overloaded.

Michelle is meeting with several Town’s regarding their plan’s/use of Police.

**Chris Motioned to Adjourn the Public Meeting @ 8:33 pm. Terri Seconded. Motion Carried.**

Submitted

Vickie Williams – Secretary

Christopher Madden \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

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