

MINUTES

SELECTMEN'S MEETING - PUBLIC HEARING

December 2, 2019

The Campton Board of Selectmen met at 5:30 pm at the Campton Municipal Building. Chairman Craig Keeney, Vice Chair Karl Kelly, Selectman Bill Cheney, Selectman Sharon Davis, and Selectman Dan Boynton were present. Town Administrator Carina Park was also present. During the work session, the Board signed the manifests and reviewed the bills.

Call to Order: Chairman Keeney called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Approval of Minutes: Selectman Boynton made a motion to approve both the public from November 18 and November 22, 2019 as revised. Vice Chair Kelly seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to approve both sets of minutes.

Public Hearing: Road Betterment Layout Petitions: Round Top Rd., Driftwood Rd., and Bootjack Rd

Round Top Road –

The two quotes the residents of Round Top Road received came in between \$500,000-600,000. This quote was for the itemized restoration required to bring the grade back down to 12%, create the cul-de-sac at the top of the road and perform the engineering /design work, etc. Eleven parcels total would be taxed, which means, at least \$50,000 per year over ten years resulting in \$5,000 +/- in additional betterment taxes for each resident over ten years' time. The board has to consider the impact of that increase and whether it would be a burden on the taxpayers.

Selectman Davis said the amount of work needing to be done is extraordinary due to the grade reduction and cul-de-sac. Chairman Keeney said that property owners may also lose parts of their property with the way the road needs to be dug down. The Board also discussed how the large loan would affect the town, as the town would be carrying that burden. Selectman Davis stated this may potentially affect the Town's ability to borrow in the future.

Jane Kellogg asked if this request came from the homeowners. The town replied that yes, it did, and it will have to go to town meeting if we approve the petition to go forward.

Kenneth Wall asked, if this doesn't go through, if there is anything such as abatement that the homeowners can pursue, as they do not live on a town road. Chairman Keeney said in your assessments, it does account for whether a homeowner lives on a private or town road and that is calculated into property value.

Another resident said he was considering selling his property on Round Top in the next year, and asked if there would be a lien. Chairman Keeney replied that yes, there would be a lien established for ten years, or they would have the option to pay it off in one lump sum.

Selectman Cheney made a motion to not move forward with the petition at this time, based on the fact that there does not seem to be an occasion to lay out the road due to the burden placed on the homeowners and a possible burden placed on the town. Selectman Davis seconded the motion. The Board voted all in favor and the motion carried.

In response to a question about whether homeowners had any way to proceed, Carina said they could still petition to put this on the warrant in March. The deadline would be in early February and the town could vote on it as a whole at Town Meeting.

Driftwood and Bootjack Rd-

Selectmen Keeney expressed that during this afternoon's site visit the Selectmen found the grade would also need to be changed in places to adjust elevation. Selectman Boynton is concerned as to whether both these quotes reflect the elevation changes as the quotes have a considerable gap.

Rich Sidor said that during his initial visit with the Road Agent there was no mention of a reduction in grade. The Board asked if the Town Road Specifications were given to the contractors at the time of the quote. Rich responded yes. The Board asked the residents to go back to the contractors to confirm the quote includes the reduction in the grade.

Selectman Davis made a motion to table this discussion for one month, until more information can be obtained from the contractors. Selectman Cheney seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Chairman Keeney closed the public hearing and opened the regular meeting at 5:56pm.

New Business

- **Climate Emergency Resolution – Rev. Susan Skinner:**

Susan is a member of climate emergency coalition and is before the Board because she feels that we are in an emergency. CO2 is threatening. After the release of an open letter from some thousand scientists urging resolution, their coalition decided they should meet with their select boards and ask them to adopt a resolution. Plymouth and Portsmouth have done this recently, so she is here to ask they adopt this proposed resolution.

She read a copy of this resolution.

“Whereas there is scientific consensus that the climate is changing, that the rate of change is accelerating, and that the consequences of this will be a cascade of increasingly severe effects throughout the ecosystems of our region and the rest of the world; Whereas the evidence is also clear that this change is clearly tied to the dramatic and sustained rise in anthropogenic CO2 emissions which threaten to destabilize the planet's climate systems and requires immediate action locally as well as regionally, nationally and internationally; and Whereas the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 already requires that towns create regularly updated 5-year plans to identify hazards and prepare for them:

The Campton Select Board resolves to:

- 1) Explicitly acknowledge that we are facing a climate crisis which poses growing environmental, social, and economic threats to our community.

- 2) Support all efforts to promote local, state and federal actions to transition to renewable energy sources that will keep fossil fuels in the ground.
- 3) Empower an existing committee or create one to develop a climate change and mitigation and adaptation plan for our town in cooperation with local, regional, state and national organizations”.

Her colleague, Samuel Miller, a Professor of Meteorology at Plymouth State, spoke to some of these issues. He said there are two phases communities can take action against climate change: mitigation (reduce harm) and adaptation (preparing for emergency). A few effects he can think of here in our community are chronic flooding from the river, loss of snow pack, political/social – like climate refugees. The first thing we must do is determine vulnerabilities in our community.

The Board said they will read the materials provided and will review the matter a later date.

Correspondence

Carina presented a 2020 Selectmen’s meeting schedule.

Carina said she met with the Town’s health insurance broker. The broker had anticipated an overall 10% increase for health insurance costs, and that actually came in at 16%. The options are; they can either change plans – in doing so, we would save some money and go down to about an 8% increase. Her apprehension is that they just brought the on the fire department, who took a drastic change in their health insurance and the cheaper plan would require employees to travel for certain services such as lab work. The other option would be to stay with the current plan. She would recommend staying with the same plan for one year. The Board agreed to remain with the Tufts plan for one more year.

Carina advised that she has been in contact with the former owners of the tax deed property located on Eastern Corners Rd. They sent a letter today stating they are able to pay all the back taxes and penalties. They do have the right to repurchase as the former owner and now have 30 days to submit payment to the town.

She received a bid to purchase the plow truck for \$3,500 with plow and sander.

Selectman Boynton made a motion to accept the bid. Selectman Cheney seconded the motion. The Board voted all in favor, and the motion carried.

Board Concerns and Directives

Selectman Kelly would like to bring back the discussion regarding snowmobiles on Class VI roads. Carina will see if any other towns have similar ordinances.

Selectman Davis updated the Board on the Trustees of the Trust Funds. Since they appointed Brenda Boisvert, we have the three trustees we needed. They had a meeting on November 22 and appointed Brenda as the chairman. Virginia Erickson is now the bookkeeper. The other trustee, Donna Cass, is in charge of the Walter I. Lee scholarship fund and works with the school board on that. The Trustees are required to have an annual meeting, and that will be held in mid to late December. They will perform the annual review of the Investment Policy, and the Investment Advisor from Mill River will also be there to go over the investments and respond to any questions the Trustees may have.

Selectman Boynton mentioned the potential hiring of a part-time maintenance person and whether that should be part of the budget. This will be a later discussion.

Selectman Cheney asked for more bids from contractors who can deliver sand by the ton. The Town will also be putting out a bid for 1.5 inch crushed bank gravel (CBR), 5,500 yards, delivered.

Selectman Boynton asked if we are also going to collect bids for the town road evaluation. The Board said yes – Carina will start with UNH.

2020 Budget Workshop

The Board went through each line item of the budget and made minor changes. Some noteworthy discussion items are below:

- The Board decided to increase their COLA to 2%, as it would boost morale and help them not fall behind in the Town's Wages schedule.
- The Board discussed eliminating the "Fees to the State" as this is not a town expenditure rather money the town collects for the State. Carina will have the auditors do a formal write up on this.
- Selectman Davis said that when we look at building improvements next year, the gazebo at the Blair Cemetery is in disrepair, and that the fountain sprayer also needs to be replaced. This project could possibly be a Durgin Fund item.
- As only Lakes Region Behavioral Health, Tri-County Community Action, and Senior Citizen Council have filled out the outside agency request form, the town will cease to fund agencies that did not fill out the required form.
- In the Police Department budget, the Board decided to ask for an itemized account for the Cruiser Maintenance line item and the Uniforms line item. Carina will also look at a five-year plan of what they have spent for their cell phone bills.

- Selectman Davis would like the Board to review the proposed town committee stipends for discussion at the next budget workshop.
- Selectman Cheney talked about the new F350. The figures come from the state bid process. This is a basic truck for the highway road agent to use rather than running an F550 around. Items included in the cost are what is necessary and what people would like to have. (Power windows, running board steps, etc.) \$36,556 including an installed 9-foot fisher plow. To add a V plow you would add \$753. He asked about a sander but does not remember getting anything back on that. As Karl pointed out, we do have a sander available for that truck, but because of repairs required, it might make more sense to just get a new sander.

Chairman Keeney would like a commitment to reduce the highway fleet by one vehicle in 2020. The 1.5 ton is the only one with central hydraulics but it could be the one to go. The six-wheeler could also be a possibility to go.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Chairman Keeney adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellyn Franklin, Recorder