

Campton Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 15, 2023

Board Attendees: Chair Sharon Davis, Selectman Craig Engel, Selectman Dan Boynton, Selectman Mort Donahue, Chief of Police, Kevin Foss, Corey Davenport, Town Administrator, and Natasha Egger, Minutes Recorder. Selectman Nik Coates arrived at 4:45 pm during the non-public session.

On Zoom: Jade Hartsgrove, Planning/Zoning Coordinator, and Lisa Vincent, Finance/HR Coordinator.

Public Attendees: Bill and Rita Sebastian, Sherrill Howard, Janet Lucas, Hannah Joyce, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Gale Johnk, Karl Kelly Jr, and John Timson, Sexton of the Cemetery.

Call to Order: Chair Davis opened the meeting at 4:30 pm.

Selectman Boynton made a motion to go into a Non-Public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II (A) at 4:30 pm. Selectman Engel seconded that motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Selectman Boynton, aye, Selectman Engel, aye, Selectman Donahue, aye and Chair Davis, Aye.

The Board came out of the Non-Public meeting at 4:50 pm.

Climate Advisory Committee Update

Rita and Bill Sebastian from the Climate Advisory Committee presented their slide show of different updates they have been working on to the Board. A few topics that Bill and Rita went over were the BRIC funding, community power, solar power for the town campus, a registry of vulnerable citizens for support during an emergency, and the Safe Streets for All (SS4) grant. First was the BRIC Funding that is part of the FEMA program. There are two grants under this funding: a planning grant, which offers \$50,000, and a construction grant, which offers up to \$400,000.00. The planning grant focus on engineering analysis and developing plans for future projects. The construction grant focuses on road reconstruction and culverts. Selectman Coates asked Corey to get Rita and Bill Sebastian a list of all the town's culverts that are undersized and/or failing, any drainage issues around town, and red-listed town bridges. The Board recommended going through the HEB report to find some of the information Rita and Bill were looking for.

Community Power was something that the Board has been interested in exploring. Bill and Rita suggested that the Board allow them to sign up for the (JPA) which stands for Joint Power Agreement. The JPA allows Bill and Rita to attend meetings to get more information and a better educational understanding of these projects so that they can present them back to the Board. The Board said they would review the JPA and get back to Rita and Bill by the next meeting.

Solar Power is an item that the Board is very eager to do. Rita and Bill explained that to save money on any energy distribution cost, the solar panels would need to be installed on Town property. Rita and Bill have been told that we would need a quarter of an acre to put enough panels up to supply the Town buildings. The Board recommended the Climate Committee discuss the spatial needs with the Campton Campus Design Committee (CCDC). Selectman Engel will invite the Climate Advisory Committee to a future CCDC meeting to discuss options for space.

Bill and Rita described what a registry for vulnerable citizens would look like. This program takes into account citizens that may have health issues. Karl Kelly is the Town's Emergency Management Director and Rita and Bill approached him on this project. Karl agreed that this program would be very beneficial to the town. The Climate Advisory Committee said they could draft up a form based on other towns' templates, and then a committee would have to be formed to manage the registry. This registry would contain all of the information in a secure database. This database could have a GPS mapping system showing each vulnerable citizen's location. By doing this, the emergency response will know who is vulnerable, their location, and their needs in any emergency.

Rita and Bill briefly reviewed the Safe Streets for All (SS4) grant. This grant requires data on fatal or non-fatal accidents within the town. This data can include pedestrian, bicycle, or auto-traffic accidents. The accident information can apply to State Roads throughout town. The program funds up to 80% of project costs, and 20% must be from non-federal sources. The Board asked Bill and Rita to reach out to Chief Foss about historical statistics.

Administrative Tasks

The Board reviewed manifests, signed permits & warrants. Corey explained that there is currently about \$1.2 million on hand.

Consent Agenda: The Board approved the public and non-public minutes from May 1, 2023. The Board also approved the sealed non-public minutes from May 1, 2023. There was also a timber intent for Webster Land Corporation and a timber intent for Elaine Braids. Selectman Boynton motioned to accept all sets of minutes and both timber intents for Webster Land Corporation and Elaine Braids. Selectman Engel seconded that motion. All were in favor.

Cemetery Update: John Timson, sexton of the Town's Cemeteries, came in to discuss the maintenance of the cemeteries. This was regarding a citizen complaint hand-delivered to the Town Administrator claiming that the cemeteries are poorly kept. The complaint detailed long grass and not opening the gates before May 1st. John explained that he opens and closes the cemetery based on the weather. He indicated that several areas of the cemetery were still pretty wet. The other complaint in the letter was the landscaping. John explained that the Blair Cemetery has many grass roads and that he keeps up with the mowing. John went on to explain to the Board his mowing schedule and how he maintains it. John also explained that the repair he recently did with the fountain at the Blair Cemetery required new piping and cement. John asked the Board about the cost to cover that repair and what fund this cost should be paid from. Chair Davis mentioned the Durgin Fund might be an option. John mentioned that there might be funds from logging at the cemetery. The Board thanked John for his service and dedication to the Town.

Planning Board Request: Jade sent the Select Board a letter detailing a possible zoning violation that had been raised during a Planning Board meeting. Jade was looking for some guidance/support on how to pursue this matter. The Planning Board felt this property owner violated the town ordinance under the section relating to in-home businesses. This small business has grown beyond its original size. The business has been in operation for many years. The Board reviewed the matter and felt that there was no violation and that the complaint brought to the planning board was a civil matter.

Town Administration Updates

ARPA Discussion: Corey wanted to talk to the Board about opening the ARPA money backup for departmental projects. The sally port project may not meet the timeline requirement and be too expensive. Corey asked if the department heads could use some money for building repairs, equipment, or other purchases. Selectman Coates mentioned that they could utilize ARPA funds towards a new cruiser for the Police Department. Chair Davis mentioned that the Fire Department needs several repairs, such as a new floor in their conference room, a decontamination room, and a bigger sleeping area. The Board asked Hannah Joyce, Town Clerk/Tax Collector if she has ARPA requests. Hannah mentioned that she had previously submitted her requests, which are on file with the Selectmen's Office. Selectman Donahue mentioned that the Highway Department needs items that should also be reviewed, so he suggested looking into this.

Privilege of the Floor

Hannah Joyce, Town Clerk/Tax Collector. Hannah mentioned that an employee from the Selectmen's office wrote a letter to a resident about residency. Corey explained that he was not aware of any such letter. Hannah had the letter with her and discussed her role as Town Clerk and it was her job to determine residency. Hannah also asked the Selectmen about the Board performing a building inspection thorough walk-through of the Durgin Building. Lastly, Hannah asked about the status of two employee mileage reimbursement requests that were submitted back in April. The Board responded that the required paperwork was not submitted and when the required paperwork is received, reimbursement will be made.

Selectman Coates motioned to go into a non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II (C). Selectman Donahue seconded that motion. Roll count was as follows: Selectman Coates, Aye, Selectman Boynton, aye, Selectman Engel, Aye, Selectman Donahue, aye and Chair Davis, aye.

The selectmen came out of non-public at 6:51 p.m.

Committee Updates, Board Concerns, and Directives

Chair Davis: Chair Davis asked Corey and Selectman Engel to invite the Climate Advisory Committee to the next BOS meeting and make it a work session so that they can look into signing them up for the JPA.

Selectman Engel: Craig asked Corey about an updated road budget so that the Board can see how much is left for road spending. Corey explained to the Board that there haven't been too many significant purchases from the various budgets. Corey said he would send out an updated budget and go into more detail at the next meeting.

Selectman Boynton: Selectman Boynton asked Corey to see if he could find out more information from Chief Defosses regarding the new arson that occurred on Monday, May 15, 2023.

Selectman Donahue: Selectman Donahue reviewed the changes the CIP recommended during the meeting on May 10, 2023. The Board agreed with the CIP to change the minimum project cost to \$25,000. The CIP also recommended decreasing the useful life of eligible projects to seven years and increasing the minimum annual capital reserve contribution to \$250,000. The Select Board agreed to these changes as well. Selectman Boynton explained that Ellsworth, Thornton, and our department heads should know about these changes.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Natasha Egger

Minutes Recorder