Sullivan Board of Selectmen

Regular Meeting

January 9th, 2023

5:00pm

Selectmen: Mike Pinkham, Bethany Leavitt, Bud Means

Town Manager: Stacy Tozier, Town Clerk: Yvette Grindle

Audience: Mike Pinkham II, Larry Tozier, Don Snoke, Candy Eaton, Greg Ring, William Andrews, Josh Conary, and Malachy Flynn from the Ellsworth American and one attendee unknown

Call to Order

Mike Pinkham called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.

Approval of the December 12th minutes

Bethany Leavitt made a motion to approve the minutes with slight written adjustments, Michael Pinkham 2nd. Motion passed 3/0.

Agenda Adjustments

Added discussion of multi-town ACO proposal. Discussion on the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget be added to New Business.

Treasurer's Warrant

Michael Pinkham made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Warrant as presented. Bethany Leavitt 2nd, and the motion passed 3/0.

New Business

5 Person Selectboard

This was tabled until the next Selectboard meeting.

Audit Update

The Town Manager noted that the auditor has not given the Town a hard-set date for completion but that it looks like the audit being finished by the end of February 2023.

Fire Truck

Michael Pinkham II (Fire Chief) discussed concerns of the cost of the price increasing significantly in the past 10-12 months. Discussion was held regarding obtaining a grant to cover the cost of the new fire truck or purchasing a used truck from a larger municipality (in or out of state). It was noted that someone would need to be hired to be a grant writer.

Michael Pinkham I. made a motion to go forward to get paper work verified to get Special Town meeting in place (checking with the town's attorney and others needed in order to get the meeting in place). Bethany Leavitt 2nd the motion. The motion passed 3/0.

Budget

Bethany Leavitt asked some questions as to the process of the budget planning and how it was done. The Town Manager explained that she and Lynn start the process and then meet with the Budget Committee. Bethany then asked when does the Select board get to see a draft of the new budget and if it would have a better break down of expenses. The Town Manager stated that it would have a line-item breakdown and that the line-item breakdown format should be included in the Annual Town Report. It was noted by Town Manager that the audit results would be ready for the draft by fiscal year 2024 budget.

Bethany Leavitt offered to do some research to see what we could do to find some grants. The Selectboard agreed. The Comprehensive Plan has not been completed, which helps with applying for grants.

ACO

Discussion was held regarding the draft ACO Agreement with multi-towns for a regional animal control officer. The pros and cons of a regional ACO were discussed. Michael Pinkham expressed concerns of the distance of how far an ACO might have to travel to respond to a call here in town (i.e.: Deer Isle to Sullivan for a dog attack), it would be nice to have someone closer to respond for such events. Also discussed were the hourly fee for them travel the distance and the concern that it could be quite costly.

Discussion was held regarding local group of towns hiring an ACO with Gouldsboro, Sorrento and Sullivan. It was noted that in prior Zoom discussion regarding a regional ACO with other towns, Sullivan had the most calls out of the 7 surrounding towns. Michael Pinkham stated that he would reach out to Gouldsboro and Sorrento and see if they would be interested in hiring a more local ACO with Sullivan.

Old Business

Roads-911

Pre-approval contractors for road Maintenance

Michael Pinkham suggested that the wording in the contractor pre-approval policy be changed from "shall be" to "may be". Discussion was held regarding giving consideration of work needed to local and non-local businesses, and it was agreed that would be taken into consideration.

Michael Pinkham made a motion to accept the Pre-Approval Contractor Form (with that one change noted). Bethany Leavitt 2nd, and the motion passed 3/0.

Reports

Town Manager

A renewal conceal weapon permit was presented and signed by Bethany Leavitt.

The Town Manager distributed that job description portion of the State of Maine's "Town Manager Plan" statue of roles and responsibilities in a "Town Manager Plan". The Town Manager made a recommendation for a joint position of a road maintenance and E-911 person for 26 weeks, to get to the new budget. Michael Pinkham stated that we need to move the town forward and it would be beneficial to have a Road Commissioner. No action was taken on this.

Discussion was held regarding a temporary road repair on Taunton and how the weather is affecting the road way and entrance. Discussion was had about the need of clarification of the roles and responsibility of selectboard and their job descriptions as Road Commissioners.

Michael Pinkham discussed the desire of the Town's Treasurer, Lynn Dunbar, to go to a 2-day work week and the offer from Amy Dunn (who is working with the Town already) to become a part-time employee. It was a consensus that the town allow the Town Manager to hire Amy Dunn as a part time employee.

Age Friendly

Candy stated she had included a flier for the AARP tax help that is being offered to the low income and elderly on Feb 23rd and March 9th 2023 at the Frenchman's Bay Library by appointment.

She presented a summary of the past 5 years for Age Friendly. She reinforced an observation made earlier in the meeting about the need for a strong EMS service as the 55+ population in town had increased by 44.5%. Bethany Leavitt suggested the select board accept the report. Board agreed and report was accepted.

Discussion regarding the need of a swale by the community gardens as it gets pond-like in Spring and heavy rains and the placement of the hoop house, was discussed. It was decided to move it sooner than later but specific location was not stated.

Michael Pinkham asked Candy Eaton about the cost of the Volunteer Insurance plan she presented at the last selectboard meeting. She stated that there was no cost as it was through AARP and it had limitations, such as people could only shovel off decks and steps not whole driveways and it didn't cover anyone in people's homes. It was agreed she should go ahead and get the insurance for her volunteers.

Broadband Committee

Don Snokes reported that due to the changes and upgrades made along route one that service was not disrupted to the area around the Sorrento Sullivan Rec Center during the power outage this past month. Starlink has its own generator and was ok during the power outage. The one

that was most effected was Spectrum and they were able to get their service back online fairly quickly except for the TV. He also stated that Fidium is rumored to be going to Ellsworth and if that were true, it could be put in along US Highway 1 in Sullivan shortly after.

Harbor Committee

There will be a Public Hearing to the changes to the Harbor Ordinances.

Sullivan Fire & Rescue

Michael Pinkham II stated he had given permission to the State Police to do tactical training at the Hasting House (which happened earlier in the day today).

He submitted a report with the breakdown of calls made in the past 12 month. There was a total of 324 calls they responded to. Discussion was held regarding having enough coverage for calls. Bethany Leavitt asked who responded when we didn't have anyone available and Michael Pinkham II stated Northern Light or Schoodic EMS.

Cemetery Committee

Will be meeting later this month.

Parks and Rec

Didn't meet in December.

Public Comment

None was made.

Select Board Comment

Bethany Leavitt asked if there was knowledge of minimal requirements statue for Comprehensive Plan and Candy Eaton stated she believed that could be found. Town Manager to get a copy of the minimum requirements from the state statue, and Candy Eaton noted that Lamoine has a good example.

Bethany also asked about the Public Comment section of agenda being moved forward instead of end of agenda, so attendees didn't have to sit through the whole meeting to express a concern. Michael Pinkham and Bud Means stated that it was generally closer to then end of a meeting not at the start.

Michael Pinkham asked that the Fire Department Ordinance be added to the special town meeting being planned.

Bethany asked that a Traffic Ordinance be created.

Bethany Also requested that the Select Board Term be defined and that the town's Attorney weigh in on the term expiration.

Adjournment

Bethany made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Bud Means 2nd the motion. The motion passed 3/0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:18pm

Michael Pinkham

Bethany Leavitt

Reginald "Bud" Means