

Sullivan Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
March 27th 2023
5:00pm

Selectboard: Bethany Leavitt, Reginald “Bud” Means

Town Clerk: Yvette Grindle

Audience: Mike Pinkham II, Larry Tozier, Don Snoke, Gerry Erbes, Toby and Kelly Sheehan, Roger and Betsy Whitaker, Patricia Leavitt, Becky Sutherland, Paula Ring, Greg Ring, Phil Dunbar, Jeff Harden, and Malachy Flynn from the Ellsworth American

Call to Order

Bethany Leavitt called the meeting to order at 5pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Adjustments

Mr. Gerry Erbes addressed the selectboard about how the marijuana moratorium was handled and felt it was mishandled and illegal actions was taken. Bethany Leavitt stated as Mr. Erbes has a lawsuit against the town that the selectboard was not able to discuss anything concerning the lawsuit.

Approval of the minutes

Bethany Leavitt moved to accept the minutes from 03/13/2023 with the adjustment to the signature requirements Reginald “Bud” Means 2nd the motion, and it passed 2/0

Bethany Leavitt moved to accept the minutes from the emergency selectboard meeting on 02/23/2023 as presented Reginald “Bud” Means 2nd the motion, and it passed 2/0

Reginald “Bud” Means moved that the minutes from 02/13/2023 be accepted as presented Bethany Leavitt 2nd the motion and it passed 2/0

Treasurer’s Warrant

Bethany Leavitt had some questions concerning the payroll warrant and it was tabled till Bethany could have concerns addressed.

Reginald “Bud” Means moved to accept the regular treasurers warrant excluding the payroll Bethany Leavitt 2nd the motion the motion passed 2/0.

New Business

Chair Opening Remarks

Bethany Leavitt expressed her thanks to the Office Staff for stepping in to fill the gaps as needed and thanked the members of the town for turning out for the selectboard meetings.

Mr. Larry Tozier acknowledge the Selectboard for the work they have been doing on behalf of the town.

Bethany Leavitt also noted that staff should be careful about answering unsolicited email request for tax information on properties, as there has been a fishing email going around.

Budget Development Process

Bethany Leavitt expressed the need to have a high level of service at a low cost to the tax payers, she also discussed the time line and the general time line and concerns to have the budget to the selectboard for review.

Trio Financial Report

Looked at the general report to see where the current spending was for the town.

Committee Needs

Bethany Leavitt stated that she felt there was a need to form some committees. Specifically, Communications, Roads (infrastructure including building and roads), Comprehensive Plan, and Ordinance.

New Policies

Bethany Leavitt discussed the need to develop some policy for the selectboard, website and electronic sign.

Reginald “Bud” Means stated that there was a need to get a new electronic sign that was more user friendly (that would connect to the WIFI and be able to make changes from within the building). That there was \$5,000 set aside in the current budget for a new sign.

Bethany Leavitt moved that Reginald “Bud” Means investigate a new sign that could be more beneficial to the town. Reginald “Bud” Means 2nd the motion and the motion passed 2/0.

Bethany Leavitt moved that they look into a better system for notification of meetings and a better website system. Reginald “Bud” Means 2nd the motion and the motion passed 2/0.

Reginald “Bud” Means moved for the selectboard start actively search for members to serve on committees (communication, Infrastructure, comprehensive plan) Bethany Leavitt 2nd the motion and the motion passed 2/0.

Schedule to Annual Town Meeting

After a general Discussion as to what the time line for the Annual Town Meeting.

Bethany Leavitt moved that she contact Gary Edwards about having the 2024 Town budget by May 5th 2023 Reginald “Bud” Means 2nd the motion and the motion passed 2/0.

Bethany Leavitt moved Reginald “Bud” Means contact auditor to have the audit done no later than May 8th 2023 Reginald “Bud” Means 2nd the motion and the motion passed 2/0

Select Board Candidate Papers and Forum

Bethany let it be known that there’s nomination papers available and the due dates and the number of signatures required. That there are two openings a 1 year and a 3-year positions and that the town might consider electing an alternate board member in case of one unable to fulfil their term. Bethany also asked if the audience thought the candidate form was helpful. Reginald “Bud” Means will reach out to the appropriate person to see about getting it organized.

Drinking Water at Town office Building

Reginald “Bud” Means stated that there has been an ongoing issue with the current well and the water be able to be used for drinking. The possible cause and resolutions were discussed Reginald ”Bud” Means will look into what needs to be done to resolve this issue.

Abatement

A third abatement request was presented for the Knowlton property.

Reginald “Bud” Means moved to sign A 3rd abatement was issued for the Knowlton property. Bethany Leavitt 2nd the motion and the motion passed 2/0.

Old Business

Critical Transition Items

The open position at the transfer station was discussed. That Jack Drost that already works on the Saturdays has offered to pick up on the Sunday opening.

Bethany Leavitt moved that Reginald “Bud” Means contact Jack Drost to see if they would be willing to cover Sunday’s. Reginald “Bud” Means 2nd the motion and it passed 2/0.

Roads and E-911

Bethany Leavitt presented a permit draft for the board to look at and make changes. Reginald “Bud” Means make the suggestion that more space should be added where they were to list vehicles as they may have more than one vehicle.

Reginald “Bud” Means moved to accept as amended to add more space to list vehicles Bethany Leavitt 2nd the motion and it passed 2/0.

Taunton bay has two areas that has rather large pot holes needing to be repaired/filled. The Tucker Mountain Road repair work can start on Tuesday 3/28/2023 but the paving will have to wait till warmer weather. Discussion about what would need to be done to repair the drainage

issues on Tunk Lake Road. Discussion on which roads should be resurfaced this year (Taunton Bay and the River Road) Bethany Leavitt will reach out to Dugas, Northeast Paving and Rings to get the prequalified to do the paving.

Fire Truck Financing

Bethany had a few questions that need to be addressed about the Town being allowed to put monies into a CD account.

Bethany Leavitt moved that the town check with MMA Legal if we could invest the monies or not Reginald “Bud” Means 2nd the motion and it passed 2/0.

Re-valuation status from KRT

The assessors were back in the town on Monday 27, 2023. Bethany expressed that it needs to be done by April 1st, 2023 Reginald “Bud” Means is going to look at the contract to see if there was a schedule for completion.

Marijuana Moratorium

Bethany noted Mr. Erbes touched on this earlier in the meeting.

Concealed Weapon Permits Renewals

Two Permits was presented to be signed

Bethany Leavitt moved Reginald “Bud” Means sign the permits Reginald “Bud” Means 2nd the motion and it passed 2/0.

Mr. Means signed the permits

Town Manager Reports

Town Manager/Treasurer/Clerk

Bethany Leavitt reported that the person she contacted to be an interim Town Manager was not interested. She was so searching to find someone to act as an interim Town Manager and or a Town Manager.

Code Enforcement Officer

The Planning Board Reported they approved two projects. One being the expansion of the Versant Power’s substation off Tunk Lake Road. The Other being the cabins the McGowan’s are putting in on Flanders Pond. The school hoped to have the cistern project done in time to have Graduation Ceremonies on site this year.

Sullivan Fire & Rescue

Chief Pinkham reported on the preparations for demolition of the hasting house that the fire marshal. The paper work is all in order it this will serve as training for at least 7 communities that have mutual aid along with other towns across the county that wish to participate in the training. Bethany Leavitt expressed concern about the number of vehicles parking along the road.

Chief Pinkham also was asked about the Town of Sorrento's fire department merging with Sullivans. Chief Pinkham noted that they was in discussions but the towns would be splitting the cost evenly.

Committees

Age Friendly

Candy Eaton was not present for the meeting but had left a written report for people to read.

Cemetery

There was no meeting this month.

Harbor Master

Is there a requirement by the state statue to have a Harbor Master? What does the Harbor Committee need as a Harbor Master? Roger Wakefield stated the Harbor Committee is to meet and will bring forth these questions and will get back to the Selectboard.

Bethany Leavitt moved that the Harbor Committee meet to get things in order about hiring a Harbor Master. Reginald Bud Leavitt 2nd the motion and the motion passed 2/0

Parks and Rec

There was no meeting this month.

Public comment

Don Snokes commented that he felt Mr. Erbes had been treated rather shabbily in the past.

Select Board Comment

Bud thanked everyone for attending and that he appreciated the participation. Bethany expressed thanks to Don Snokes, Gary Edwards and Michael Pinkham 2nd for the work they did on submitting the grant for the funding for the new Municipal Building. That she felt the Selectboard positions is a public service and to be conducted with fairness.

Executive sessions

Bethany Leavitt Moved the Selectboard adjourned to an executive session per Title 1 M.R.S. section 405 6e, and M.R.S. section 405 6a to deal with two items (The law suits and the FOAA request), respectively. Reginald “Bud” Means 2nd the motion and it passed 2/0.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm

Bethany Leavitt

Reginald “Bud” Means