

Sullivan Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
April 10th, 2023
5:00pm

Selectmen: Bethany Leavitt, Reginald “Bud” Means

Town Clerk: Yvette Grindle

Audience: Mike Pinkham II, Gary Edwards, Jean Edwards, Don Snoke, Candy Eaton, Norm Bamford, Conrad Ober, Jeff Harden, Troy Hanna, Keith Hammel, Greg Ring, Paula Ring, Erin Shanahan, Janet Jordon, Ander (RSU 24 Adult Ed), Christine Kelly, Mark Andrews, Mike Gurtler, Patricia Leavitt, Betsy Wakefield and Roger Wakefield and one attendee unknown.

Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order by Bethany Leavitt at 5 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Bethany Leavitt moved to accept the minutes for 3-13-2023 and 03-27-2023 as presented Reginald Bud Means 2nd the motion and it passed 2/0.

Adjustments to the agenda No adjustments

Treasurers Warrant moved to be reviewed by the board before the executive session.

Public Comment

Candy Eaton Presented a plaque from AARP in recognition of completing a cycle of improvement and for its age friendly leadership, achievements and continuing commitment towards being a livable community for people of all ages.

Roger Wakefield inquired about the flags in Sumner Memorial Park at the gazebo. Mike Pinkham 2nd stated that Lynn Dunbar was ordering flags as the old ones was tattered and worn.

Jeff Harden requested a time change to the start of the Selectboard meetings to 6-6:30 pm

New Business:

Chair Opening Remarks

Bethany Leavitt expressed the selectboards thanks for the citizens showing up for the meeting and showing an interest in what is happening in the town.

Auto Recycling Business Permit Renewal

Mike Gurtler CEO Presented an application for renewal of an Automobile Recycling Business Permit. It is his recommendation the town approve the renewal as there has not been any concerns or complaints submitted. He also stated that the town was not required to have a public hearing pursuant to MRS Title 30-A 3754. Also that the towns Junk Yard Ordinance does not cover Automobile Recycling.

Reginald “Bud” Means moved that the Select Board approve this application of Mark Andrews for renewal of an automobile recycling business permit for five years pursuant to State of Maine statute MRS Title 30-A 3753. The Board finds that no public hearing is required as State of Maine statute MRS Title 30-A 3754 does not require a hearing and the Town of Sullivan Junkyard Ordinance does not pertain to or include provision for the permitting of Automobile Recycling businesses. Bethany Leavitt 2nd the motion, and it passed 2/0.

RSU Rental / Lease Agreement

The Selectboard did a general overview of the lease noting the current rental rate is \$1940 and will be going up in July to \$2995. And is a 2-year lease agreement.

Marijuana Ordinance

Roger Wakefield asked about the possibility of allowing whole sale ordinance instead of commercial business or stores, currently even the state language doesn’t allow for just a whole sale ordinance. Also asked, should the current ordinance be reaffirmed or voted down. Reginald “Bud” Means noted it should clarify medical or recreational use businesses. A general discussion on what was needed to go forward and it was decided a committee was needed to create a new ordinance to be voted on at the Annual Town meeting in June.

These people volunteered to be on the committee Norm Bamford, Don Snokes, Keith Hammel, Bethany Leavitt, Reginald “Bud” Means, and Michael Pinkham 2nd and they have set to meet on April 20th 2023 (after the parks and rec meeting) 6:30-7 pm.

Sullivan Fire Department (Options to combine with Sorrento)

Bethany Leavitt asked Fire Chief Pinkham how it would differ than the current mutual aid agreement if they two towns merge the fire departments. There was a general discussion of what the pros and cons would be of merging the two departments. Mile

Pinkham noted that Sullivan has paid to train firefighters and they have left shortly after being trained as a result the Town would entertain creating a contract to be signed by anyone the department pays for their training to stay on at the department for a period of time after training has been completed. To help with the retention of personnel in the future.

Bethany Leavitt moved to asked Fire Chief Pinkham to talk with the town of Sorrento about merging fire departments / EMS and keeping the EMS a separate entity. Reginald “Bud” Means 2nd the motion and the motion passed 2/0.

Draft SB Policies

Bethany Leavitt wanted to note that the office staff needed to use their judgement on unsolicited emails asking for tax information or other information on properties. To look for spelling and other errors and absence of contact information in the email. As there is people who are looking to gather personal information for nefarious purposes.

Bethany Leavitt also discussed the need to have a purchasing policy as to how much would be the limit allowed to spend on emergency basis. Roger Wakefield stated a Purchase Order System would be helpful with finance checks and balances for Fiscal responsibility. Candy Eaton suggested talking to the auditor. Gary Edwards stated that a graduated system is useful to make sure it fits our needs. A Request for Purchasing System would be helpful.

KRT Contract Review

A General Discussion and Review between Board Members about the contract and if KRT was behind or on track to finish on time.

Budget Development Process

Gary Edwards reported that they have been meeting but stalled after Stacy resigned in February. There is a meeting Scheduled for Tuesday 4-11-2023 with Amy Dunn, Gary Edwards, Lynn Dunbar and Reginald “Bud” Means. Amy has the budget entered into Trio. Now the process of gathering individual department budgets and meeting with the selectboard to present the fiscal year 2023-2024 budget. There is no need for a public hearing on the proposed budget as it is in the Warrant that is posted at least 7 days before the Annual Town Meeting.

Town Administration, Fire and EMS budgets

Covered in previous agenda item.

Investigate Town Finances

Bethany Leavitt brought forth that she felt an audit of the last two fiscal years should be done and that it should be a forensic audit. Reason being to help the members of the town that accuse the town is not being fiscally responsible with the funds entrusted to them. After discussing reasons for and against such an action,

Bethany Leavitt moved that the selectboard look into the town finances due to the accusations the town is not being fiscal responsible. That the town look into hiring some one to do a forensic audit of the books of the past two fiscal years. Reginald “Bud” Means 2nd the motion and it passed 2/0.

Old Business:

Critical Transition Items (MSW report, Drinking Water Notice of Non-Compliance, etc.)

Reginald “Bud” Means reported about the quality of the well water and what steps was needed to be in compliance. That He is going to receive training from the state on collecting samples, He is going to contact Mike Gerrish to weld the pipe for the well and to bring it up 18 inches above the ground. Roger Wakefield asked if maybe it should be handled by a well drilling company and Reginald “Bud” Means stated they had contacted a well drilling company and they had referred them to Mike Gerrish. A water sample was sent out Monday 4-10-2023.

MSW- Has been completed and sent out.

Bud is going to reach out to the auditor again as the deadline has not been met.

Schedule to Annual Town Meeting

Discussed last selectboard meeting and nothing new to add at this point.

Select Board Candidate Papers and Forum

There is currently 4 people with candidate forms 2 for each seat. They are to be turned in to the Town Office April 27th at 5pm.

Roads/E911

Prequalification After some discussion

Bethany Leavitt moved to amend the application to allow for emergency spending up to \$5,000. Reginald “Bud” Means 2nd the motion and it passed 2/0.

Reginald “Bud” Means stated that Greg Ring has the tools to do the cold patches on the pot holes and would charge \$50 an hour to do them.

Reginald “Bud” Means moved that the town hire Greg Ring to do the cold patch to fill in the pot holes at \$50 an hour. Bethany Leavitt 2nd the motion and it passed 2/0.

Upper Tunk Lake culvert repair, Reginald “Bud” Means reported that a culver was some how missed when the current one was replaced causing issues with water run off not being properly channeled away from the road. It was discussed as to the best course of action to resolve the issue.

Also, Discussion was held about other roads needing attention. Such as repaving of Taunton Drive, River Road, repairs to the boat ramps at Flanders Pond and Town Boat ramp on Flanders Bay as it has washed out this winter.

Prequalifying applications will be sent of to the following companies, Greg Ring, Doug Gott and Sons, Dugas Construction, RF Jordan, Goodwin Constructions, Northeast Paving.

Hastings House

Fire chief Pinkham reported that the fire department will not be able to burn the Hastings House as expected due to the EPA not allowing them without the proper paper work. There was some discussion to having a group come in and tear it down for the reclaimed lumber. Discussion of doing the demo of the house soon as there has been some observance of teenagers around the house and also noted that there may be some items that should be saved during demolition such as newel post, some shrubs, saving the granite.

Town Manager Reports

Town Manager/Treasurer/Clerk (Provide a TRIO Financial Report: Revenue, Expenses and Reserves through end of February)

Bethany Leavitt noted a few of the accounts needed to be adjusted (items applied to proper accounts).

Code Enforcement Officer

Covered at the start of the Meeting.

Sullivan Fire & Rescue

At the time of the meeting, burning permits was still being issued but Chief Pinkham expects within a day or two they will not be issued due to the dry conditions at the moment.

Committees:

Age Friendly

Candy Eaton reported that she would attend one Selectboard meeting a month to give the report for Age Friendly Sullivan. Bethany Leavitt noted that would be fine.

Candy noted, that she would be meeting with Elizabeth Gattine Coordinator for the Governor's Cabinet on Aging Thursday at 2 pm and Carrie Limeburner from U. Maine Center on Aging RSVP coordinator making a site visit to our Bone Builders class this coming Thursday.

Candy also stated that only 7 people had signed up for the April 22nd earth day clean up and encouraged people to sign up as they need 12 more people at the least.

The work has started in the garden there is 17 volunteers and 2 commercial advisors, coordinators. Work Days are on the first Saturday of the month however some gardeners maybe in multiple times a week.

Age Friendly Sullivan has been invited to participate in a new dementia project partnering with the University of New England Workforce Enhancement Program that is partnering with the University of Maine Center on Aging. This involves signage and information kiosk for those in the community impacted by dementia. Sullivan would be working with other communities such as Surry, and Blue Hill. There is a micro grant for each community of around \$500.

Budget

Covered earlier in the meeting.

Cemetery

The Committee will Start meeting again after a winter hiatus they have looked at the current ordinance and will be submitting for vote at the Annual Town Meeting some rules and policy.

Communications

Bethany Leavitt did an overview of the needs for this committee and asked if anyone would like to help by being on the committee. No one offered to be on the committee.

Comprehensive Plan

The Plan is to have a committee in place by July to get the ball rolling on getting this comprehensive plan done.

Harbor Master

The harbor committee will be meeting this month and will be working on putting the map of the harbor on computerized records. Roger Wakefield will be working on dealing with the mooring permits and Ramp Permits as they are submitted.

NEW Infrastructure (Roads, Buildings and Grounds, etc.) (Item to move forward)

Bethany noted the need to have a committee to help with organizing road way up keep and building maintenance.

Ordinance Committee

No Report this month

Parks & Rec

Don Snokes reported that Lynn had reached out to the committee to start doing an article in the Town Crier monthly.

He discussed the parks and recs plans for the articles to feature areas of interest in the town. Also, that they were considering hiring someone with a drone to do videos of recreational areas and have them on the town's website. A general discussion of the areas in need of repair or maintenance.

Board Comment

Reginald "Bud Means expressed thanks to those who came out to the meeting.

Executive Session

Bethany Moved to adjourn to executive Session Executive Session Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)(A). Discussion between Select Board members to possibly appoint an Interim Town Manager for the purpose of delivering all aspects of the ATM on June 26, 2023. If any action is taken (motion and vote), it will be done outside of exec session. Reginald "Bud" Means 2nd the motions and it passed 2/0.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm

Bethany Leavitt

Reginald "Bud" Means