Sullivan
Select Board Meeting
November 19, 2024

Selectmen: Norman Bamford, Erin Shanahan Gregory Ring
Town Manager: Ray Weintraub Town Clerk: Yvette Grindle
Audience: Candy Eaton, Senator Marianne Morre, Eliza Woodcock, Ruth Dietze, Peter Dietze, Duane Crawford, Allen Colebank, on Zoom" Kevin Cordaro, Tracey Long, Bonnie Sparks, Michette, and 2 iPhone users

Call Meeting to Order/Pledge

Norman Bamford called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

There was an adjustment to the minutes to clarify that the tax bills would be 2 equal payments. There will be 2 coupons on the bills coming out with dates with ½ due on one date and the second ½ would be due on the second coupon.

Norman Bamford moved to approve the minutes with the adjustments. Erin Shanahan seconded the motion, and it passed 3/0.

Erin Shanahan read a memo from Amy Dunn noting the tax bills will be out approximately December 6th, 2024. With 2 due dates first half of the bill will be due in early March and second half June 2025. Bills will only be mailed once but the bottom of the tax bill will have two tear off sections with corresponding dates and amounts. You may pay your full amount due at any time before the first due date without any interest applied. The Tax Club will still be available to those wishing to utilize this option.

Treasurers Warrant

Norman Bamford moved to accept the Treasurers Warrant as presented. Erin Shanahan seconded the motion, and it passed 3/0.

Adjustments to the agenda:

Erin Shanahan asked to ad Executive Session pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6) (A).

Norman Bamford moved to accept the adjustment. Erin Shanahan seconded the motion, and it passed 3/0.

New Business:

Background Checks for Town Employees

Erin Shanahan stated that she asked to have this put on the agenda as she became aware that this was not happening. The Town Manager this could be for regular and part-time employees, but was not clear about elected officials. The selectboard thought it was wise to do some more research into the cost and who could have background checks. They also asked about ordinance in place for removal of Town Officials.

The Selectboard requested the Town Manager to look further into background checks for employees of the Town.

Letter From Senator Moore

Senator Marianne Moore addressed the Selectboard about concerns about the outfitter companies that bring hunters to the ledges that is owned by the State of Maine to hunt the eider ducks. She has received a letter expressing concerns about the constant gun fire and closeness of hunters shooting from the water near their homes. Senator Moore stated that the Town could set an ordinance prohibit the discharge

firearms within the Towns boarders weather its state-owned property or not. The Selectboard asked a few questions for clarification of the area. The was a concern expressed that there maybe some herding of the ducks closer to the hunters. Tracey Long spoke on behalf of the concerned residents; she stated that duck shot had hit some of the homes. Kevin Cordaro stated they had spoke with the game warden Eric Rudolph and with the district attorney's office before coming to the selectboard. Game warden Eric Rudolph recommended they come to the selectboard to start a process of having a warrant created and voted on.

Gregory Ring stated he would go speak with some of the hunters/outfitters about hunting so close to the homes.

Old Business:

Paving of Taunton Drive

Gregory Ring stated he had contact 3 companies paving companies and that Rings wasn't interested, Eaton Paving quoted $26,000 for a 1" shin cap" from Harvey Thomas to Sumner House. They quoted $150.00 a ton for the resurfacing work. Norman Bamford noted that it should be put out to bid at it was not an emergency. Erin Shanahan stated that this would give the selectboard a starting point. Gregory Ring suggested going down 20' down the Gordons wharf and Track Road at the same time. Norman Bamford asked which one was reported to be in the worse shape. The Town Manager stated that it was the Morancy Road.

Committees, terms of service

The Town Clerk reported that she had gone through the oath book and saw that Planning Board, Appeals Board, and Cemetery committee needed to have their Oaths updated. She had started the process with contacting the boards/committees. She met with the planning board and had oaths ready to be signed and She Swore in Duane Crawford to the Planning Board. She will work on meeting with the other boards and committees to get the oaths updated.

Town Manager Reports:

Tax Question/Concern

The Town Manager stated that there was a concern about 21 acres of land for sale that was billed only $25 in taxes. The Town Manager did some research and found that it was in a tree growth plan. He found that there was 4,931 acres in Town that is currently unoccupied property.

Transfer Station

The fees from DM&J have increased by 2.4%. The Town Manager is accessing whether the Town needs to increase the cost per bag that is being charged. Gregory Ring stated that we should not be making money (such as a cost to the Town of $5,000 would be okay.)

Trees on Grange Hall Road

The Town Manager received a call about popular trees overhanging into the road. He had taken a look and stated that the trees indeed were hanging over into the road. The trees are getting low enough to hit a UPS truck.

Norman Bamford moved the road commissioner goes out and looks at the situation on Grange Hall Road, and comes back and reports on his findings. If it can be dealt with quickly at no cost to the Town to go ahead and remove the problem trees. Erin Shanahan seconded the motion, and it passed 3/0.

Budget Committee Policy

The Town Manager stated that there had been some statements about not electing the Budget committee at the Town Meeting. There was a draft policy put in but never approved for the Budget Committee. Gary Edwards has submitted he resignation from the Budget Committee. The Town Manager noted it would be a good time to look at the policy and get it put in place.

He also discussed proposed changes to how to run the Town Meeting and voting on articles.

Planning Board no report.

Committees:

Age Friendly

Candy Eaton passed out a written report see attached sheet. She also noted that the Governors office will be announcing that Age Friendly Sullivan will be receiving the mini-grant for the sound system for the gazebo / mixer , cables, microphones, and stands ($4,700) on November 20th, 2024.

She added that the drivers that are working with Misty Gleason and Christina McGown, the Volunteer Transportation drivers will be having background checks through the University of Maine at no charge.

The Christmas Tree Lighting will be on December 1st from 4-5pm.

Budget Committee

Will be starting up in January.

Cemetery Committee

The sexton has been found. The Town Manager is in hopes to have him attend the next Selectboard meeting.

Communications Committee

Yvette Grindle gave a report on the committee. She and Erin have been meeting twice a month as the date of the printing of the Town Crier falls before the date of the committee meeting date. She also noted that the Crier is going to a printer and will be going out to every mailbox in town. She noted that there are some changes to the look of the Town Crier. The Committee was approached about adding some advertising and due to the issues of keeping track and of who has paid or not. It has been decided to not have any advertising in the Crier.

She stated that they were concerned about getting more people involved with the comprehensive plan and that there should be more use of the TextMyGov program.

Comprehensive Plan

The Town Manager discussed the in-person engagement on transportation and recreational portion of the Comprehensive plan. The next one is tentatively scheduled for March of 2025 on Future Land use.

Parks & Rec

Bonnie Sparks discussed that the committee is changed to a project management approach to the variety of projects needing to be accomplished to upgrade the access and improve the Towns recreational areas. Setting priorities on what is feasible. She requested that when the Town sends out the bids for Town properties for mowing and bush hogging to please include the area around the playground. She also asked about seeding in where the ground work to the left of the skate park and playground was done earlier in this year.

The Town Manager discussed his class on Playground and recreational safety inspection.

Norman Bamford asked about an email about the safety of the skatepark. It was discussed the plans to improve the skate park and the need to have an engineer approve or create a plan. Once the plan is approved there is the monies needed to be raised and volunteers.

Public Comment

Candy Eaton noted that Bonnie Sparks has asked her to write a couple plans for the skate park. These are due in Mid-February she needs to have the breakdown of the expenses.

Allen Colebank approached the board about and appeal on his on-going issues that is in court between him and the Town. Mr. Colebank presented a notice of violation for their consideration.

Norman Bamford moved to put a hold on notice of violation until they can talk with Michael Gurtler COE for the Town. Erin Shanahan seconded the motion, and it passed 3/0.

Board Comment

No comments made.

Executive Session

Norman Bamford moved to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6) (F) to discuss Personal Matters. Erin Shanahan seconded the motion, and it passed 3/0.

Executive session started at 6:45pm.

Out of Executive session 6:50pm

Norman Bamford stated that they voted to approve the conceal carry permit 3/0

Motion to Adjourn

Norman Bamford moved to adjourn the meeting. Erin Shanahan seconded the motion, and it passed 3/0.

Meeting adjourned at 7pm.

Norman Bamford

Erin Shanahan

Gregory Ring