

## **Selectmen's Work Session & Meeting Minutes Monday, January 27, 2025**

These minutes were transcribed by Angela Eldridge, Secretary. Selectman Susan Simpson was in attendance, Selectman Jonathan H. Smith was in attendance, Selectman Brian Keyes was in attendance, Matthew Sawyer Jr., Town Administrator was also in attendance. T.J. Eldridge, Public Works Director, was also in attendance. The Work-session was held in the upstairs conference room. The Selectmen's Meeting was held in the Bub Avery Gymnasium.

Selectman Jonathan Smith called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM.

**Roll Call: Brian Keyes is present, Susan Simpson is present, Jonathan Smith is present.**

### **Discussion:**

The Board received a Petition Warrant Article to see if the Town will vote to assist the elderly by reducing property taxes by 25% for anyone 72 years of age or older with their permanent residence located in the Town of Ossipee and determined to be their permanent residence by virtue of being a registered voter or by any means the town administration should decide. Smith advised that this is a non-actionable or illegal warrant article. You cannot dictate through Town Meeting for the Town to act in a certain way unless the State Legislature has granted that authority. We are a Dillions Rule state so the only authority we have is what is granted to us by the Legislature. This is going to go on the warrant but will need to be tabled and postponed or voted down. Smith advised that even if it passed, it is not actionable. Keyes asked if the State Legislature already allows elderly exemption. Smith said yes under RSA 72:39A. There are guidelines as to how it has to be administered. Smith said he will address this again in the meeting downstairs as well. Matt Sawyer Jr. advised that the Town Attorney will be at Town Meeting to advise the same thing regarding this. Discussion ensued.

### **Review of Red Folder:**

The Board received 3 Water & Sewer Warrants. They are as follows.

\$500.00 for septic haulers

\$136.73 for a home transfer at 146 Moultonville Rd.

\$101.82 for a home transfer at 145 Route 16B.

Smith made a motion to approve these. Keyes seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.

The Board received an Abatement request from the Town Clerk for a water meter that was removed and now the account has been deleted out of Avitar. The amount was \$24.50. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.

The Board received a blind exemption application for Map 108, Lot 026. The assessor advises that this meets the requirements. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.

The Board received a Veterans Exemption application for Map 020, Lot 016. The assessor advises that they qualify under RSA 72:28. Smith made a motion to approve. Keyes seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.

The Board received a Veterans Exemption application for 223 Circuit Rd., Map 261, Lot 008. The assessor advises that they qualify under RSA 72:28 and 73:35. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.

The Board received a Clerical Abatement for 43 Chickville Rd., Map 108, Lot 001. The Town has purchased this property and is now exempt. Tax bill amount is \$3,914.00. Smith made a motion to approve. Keyes seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.

The Board received an Intent to Cut Wood or Timber for Map 075, Lot 008 and Map 075, Lot 009. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.

The Board received a Notice of Decision from the Zoning Board for Case # 25-01-V for 60 Route 16B was granted a conditional Variance from Article 34.1(d) in the Village District to add a 5<sup>th</sup> residential unit to an existing 4-unit multi-family building provided the applicant applies for a Site Plan Review Amendment with the Planning Board and all State, local and Federal regulations are followed. It is in the file for review.

The Board received a Notice of Decision from the Planning Board for case#25-01-SUBD for Map 223, Lot 029, Sub lot 001, 81 Thurley Road, to grant a final subdivision approval for a 6-lot subdivision. It is in the file for review.

The Board received a Notice of Decision from the Planning Board for case#24-05-SPRA for Map 266, Lot 012, 455 Route 16 is granted a conditional approval for a Site Plan Review Amendment for phase 2 of the Generational Development Apartments. It is in the file for review.

Matt Sawyer Jr. discussed the security cameras at the Police Station. He advised that Chief Babbitt reached out to his contact and he said the brand we are getting don't have any known issues. It is a reputable brand. Smith advised that there surprisingly isn't a list from the State that we would have to use. Discussion ensued.

Frank Burke asked for clarification on what the elderly warrant article is. Smith advised that there is already an elderly exemption process with the assessor and you have to qualify with assets, income, etc. Also, age determines the assessed reduction you receive. The article that came in was an illegal warrant article. Smith said he understands the intention behind the warrant article, and he doesn't know what the solution is, but this is the reality of warrant articles. Discussion ensued.

### **Meeting Minutes:**

The Board received the corrected Work-Session and Selectmen's meeting minutes for January 13, 2025. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Smith recessed until 4:15 PM.

**Smith reconvened the meeting at 4:15 PM.**

Smith opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Input:**

None presented.

**Discussion:**

Smith advised that the red folder documents were reviewed upstairs.

Smith mentioned that the Board received a Petition Warrant Article from 60 people to see if the Town will vote to assist the elderly by reducing property taxes by 25% for anyone 72 years of age or older with their permanent residence located in the Town of Ossipee and determined to be their permanent residence by virtue of being a registered voter or by any means the town administration should decide. Smith reiterated that this is a non-actionable or illegal warrant article, and this was reaffirmed by the Town Attorney. New Hampshire is a Dillions Rule state so the authority we have comes from the State. We have to follow the law as prescribed by the legislature. This is a good intention warrant article but it is not legal. We do have an elderly exemption that people can apply for under RSA 72:39A that was adopted many years ago. It has a qualification process with assets, income, etc. This will go on the Warrant and go to Town Meeting. It will either be tabled, postponed, or voted down. If it did pass, it is not actionable. He wanted to make sure this was explained on camera so it does not get taken out of context that we are somehow suppressing the rights of the people when that couldn't be further from the truth. We are following the law as we always do. Discussion ensued.

Edwina Boose asked if they get many applicants that apply for the elderly exemption. Smith advised that they get quite a few of them, including blind exemptions. He advised that some people don't qualify, and some do. The assessing clerk could probably give you a hard number. Smith advised that every time an exemption is given out for whatever it is, someone else is paying for it. He said there are plenty of people that don't qualify that still can't pay their taxes. It is being subsidized through taxation.

T.J. Eldridge, Public Works Director, mentioned that people are having issues with frozen water lines between the curb stop and their house due to extreme cold weather. He asked people to try to not plow any snow we get off where their line goes because snow acts as an insulator. The homeowner is responsible to have it steamed out. He also mentioned the hours at the Transfer Station as he has gotten a lot of questions about that. The sign at the dump is the facility hours but not the hours of operation. The sign is required by the State. The staff is there on Thursdays and a half hour later every day to close up the dump, get stuff bailed, etc. Smith said that is a good clarification. Matt Sawyer Jr. said he could see why that would be confusing for a patron. Smith asked if we could have another sign with the hours of operation. T.J. said we could but the sign that is there has certain criteria and we get it at a discount or free sometimes. When we get the new gate, we will probably put something on the gate regarding hours of operation. Smith said the hours are also on the website. Discussion ensued.

**Accounts Payable & Payroll Manifest:**

The Payroll Check Voucher total was submitted for the week ending 1/27/2025. Payroll expenses is \$90,131.21. General Fund accounts payable is \$39,337.02. Water Fund accounts payable is \$398.09. Sewer Fund accounts payable is \$68.99. Simpson made a motion to approve. Keyes seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.

The next Selectmen's Meeting will be in 2 weeks.

There is a Budget Meeting February 5, 2025, at 6:30PM and a Budget Hearing 7PM at the Town Hall.

**Old Business:**

None presented.

**New Business:**

None presented.

**Second Public Input:**

Frank Burke asked when the next meeting will be. Smith said in 2 weeks and advised him to watch for an agenda.

**Adjournment:**

Selectman Smith made a motion to adjourn. Keyes seconded. Motion passed.

Adjourned at 4:28 PM

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Jonathan H. Smith, Chairman

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Susan J. Simpson

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Brian W. Keyes

To be approved at the next Selectmen's Meeting