



Town of Amherst, NH
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
Barbara Landry Meeting Room
2 Main Street
Tuesday, January 19, 2021 6:30PM

1. Call to Order

Chairman Peter Lyon called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Attendees by Zoom conference call: Chairman Peter Lyon, Selectman Dwight Brew, Selectman Reed Panasiti, Selectman John D'Angelo, and Selectman Tom Grella. Also present: Town Administrator Dean Shankle and Kristan Patenaude, minute taker

Other attendees and the public accessed the meeting via Zoom.

Chairman Lyon explained that, pursuant to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID19 pandemic and in accordance with his Emergency Order #12, this meeting is authorized to take place electronically. There is no physical location to observe and listen to this meeting. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, we are:

Utilizing Zoom teleconferencing for this meeting. All members of the Board have the ability to communicate during the meeting through this platform and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and if necessary, participate in the meeting by dialing +1 312 626 6799 and using a webinar ID of 896-4041-4450 or by using the link contained in the agenda posted at amherstnh.gov.

Notice of the meeting and means to access it were previously posted in accordance with law. Members of the public that have phoned into the meeting can raise their hand by pressing the *9 on their phone, in order to make it known that they would like to speak to the Board. If anyone has a problem accessing the meeting, please call 603-440-8248 for assistance. In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled.

All votes will be taken by roll call and for ease, in alphabetical order. Lastly, the meeting is being recorded and will be replayed on ACATV.

The Board started by taking a roll call vote and stating if they were alone.

Roll call vote: Selectman Brew – present; Selectman D'Angelo – present; Selectman Grella – present; Selectman Panasiti – present; Chairman Lyon – present. All noted themselves as being alone.

39 **2. Citizen's Forum**

40 Bill Maddocks, 23 Juniper Lane, stated that he has gathered the necessary signatures and
41 submitted a public petition warrant article.

42
43 Chairman Lyon stated that this petition warrant article will be added to the end of the warrant
44 and can be spoken to at the Deliberative Session, if the submitter chooses to.

45
46 **3. Administration**

47 **3.1 Administrative Updates**

48 Town Administrator Shankle explained that the annual member dues for the New Hampshire
49 Municipal Association will soon be paid. These dues, totaling \$11,882, are used for training,
50 attorney needs, and advertising for open positions. These funds are already present in the
51 budget.

52
53 Town Administrator Shankle stated that he has reviewed resumes for the Finance Director
54 position and will have an applicant to share with the Board at its next meeting.

55
56 **3.2 Petitioned Warrant Article**

57 Chairman Lyon stated that a petition warrant article was received within the appropriate
58 timeframe and contains the signatures of at least 25 voters. This petition warrant article has
59 been verified by the Supervisors of the Checklist and run past Town Counsel.

60
61 Chairman Lyon read Petition Warrant Article 34: New Hampshire Resolution of Fair
62 NonPartisan Redistricting (By Petition)

63
64 *By petition of 25 or more eligible voters of the Town of Amherst to see if the town will vote to*
65 *urge that the New Hampshire General Court, which is obligated to redraw the maps of*
66 *political districts within the state following the federal census, will ensure fair and effective*
67 *representation of New Hampshire voters without gerrymandering.*

68
69 *Additionally, these voters ask the town of Amherst to urge the New Hampshire General Court*
70 *to carry out the redistricting in a fair and transparent way through public meetings, not to*
71 *favor a particular party, to include communities of interest, and to minimize multi-seat*
72 *districts.*

73
74 *Furthermore, as the New Hampshire State Constitution, Part 2, Article 11 allows towns of*
75 *sufficient population to have their own state representatives, not shared with other towns, for*
76 *the town of Amherst to petition the NH General Court for its own exclusive seat(s) in the NH*
77 *House of Representatives, ensuring that the State Representatives properly represent the*
78 *Town's interests.*

79
80 *The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice from the*
81 *Selectmen to Amherst's state legislators, informing them of the demands from their*
82 *constituents within 30 days of the vote. (Tax Impact = \$0.00)*

83
84 **3.3 Deliberative Session Discussion**

Chairman Lyon stated that the moderators have decided that the Deliberative Session should be held in-person at Souhegan High School. If citizens wish to participate and vote at the Deliberative Session, they must be present in-person. Others will be able to watch the meeting via Zoom, but unable to directly participate. Those in-person will be required to wear mask and appropriately socially distance. There will be overflow rooms available, if necessary. There will also be one overflow room available for those who unable/unwilling to wear a mask.

Chairman Lyon stated that he spoke with Town Counsel regarding the language in Warrant Article 33, to reflect funds being added to the existing Recreation Capital Reserve Fund. This was supported by Town Counsel.

In response to a question from Selectman Panasiti, Chairman Lyon stated that NH law allows any Selectman to be absent for the Deliberative Session, if he so chooses. He is unsure how an absent Selectmen would be able to actively participate in the proceedings though.

4. Staff Reports

4.1 AHSC Proposed Traffic Ordinances

Chairman Lyon explained that the Board has previously held two public hearings for these proposed traffic safety items. These are being proposed as one ordinance. If this passes, these items will take effect immediately. The Board has heard from the public and Highway Safety Committee regarding the following proposed items:

1. Two (2) stop signs at the intersections of the following Town of Amherst roads:
 - a. Madison Lane @ Williamsburg Drive
 - b. Madison Lane @ Georgetown Drive
2. A maximum speed limit of 30 M.P.H. for the section of Manchester Road located between the intersections of Mack Hill Road and Limbo Lane.
3. A no parking zone on Grater Road between the intersection with South Grater Road and the point 600 feet north of South Grater Road.

Selectman Grella explained that, as a resident of Old Manchester Road, he will abstain from voting.

A MOTION was made by Selectman Brew and SECONDED by Selectman Panasiti to adopt the proposed ordinance as written.

By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D’Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – abstain; Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 4-0-1; motion carried.

4.2 Annual Police Cruiser Purchase Approval

Chairman Lyon explained that the Chief Mark Reams sought bids from three companies for two new police cruisers. It is recommended that the bid be awarded to Northwest Hills.

A MOTION was made by Selectman Panasiti and SECONDED by Selectman D'Angelo to award the FY21 cruiser purchase bid to Northwest Hills Chrysler/Dodge/Jeep/Ram in the amount of \$56,286.

In response to a question from Selectman Brew, Chief Reams noted that the cruisers will be delivered to the Town and serviced locally.

In response to a question from Selectman Grella, Chief Reams explained that it is not uncommon for an out of state bidder to be the lowest bidder on this type of contract. State companies will do their best to beat the bid but did not in this case.

Chairman Lyon noted that Dodge Chargers are being proposed for these cruisers, as Ford no longer makes this type of police vehicle.

By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D'Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye; Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

4.3 Transfer Station – Long Lines and Potential Solutions

DPW Director, Eric Hahn, stated that he is considering putting out a survey to residents who visit the Transfer Station regarding what can be done about the occasional lines that spill out onto Route 101. He explained that the Transfer Station was particularly busy during the Christmas and New Year's holidays. He is considering having the Transfer Station be open extra days or hours, either permanently or during these heavy holiday times. Another option would be to add part-time employees and rearrange the schedule of existing employees to allow the Transfer Station to open on Wednesdays. He noted that Mondays and Wednesdays are usually reserved for trying to get rid of single-container commodities by the Transfer Station.

In response to a question from Chairman Lyon, Eric Hahn explained that, after April 1st, he will be able to cover any additional holiday hours with existing DPW staff because these employees won't be needed to cover storm events.

Selectman Brew noted that any reconfiguration of the Transfer Station is likely a little way away. Even if the traffic only spills onto Route 101 occasionally, it is a concern that it does at all. He suggested either adding additional hours or finding a way to allow more cars into the Transfer Station at the same time.

Eric Hahn questioned if opening extra Wednesday hours will help with traffic issues on Saturdays.

Selectman Brew explained that expanding the number of cars allowed in the spots from nine to twelve would increase the capacity of the Transfer Station during all of its hours by a significant percentage. He does not believe that doing nothing is an option.

Selectman D'Angelo stated that he is not a fan of trying to squeeze more cars into the space. He believes this may defeat the purpose of trying to socially distance people. He suggested opening the Transfer Station on the Sunday/Friday after Thanksgiving for 4-6 hours.

177 Something similar could be considered after Christmas. He explained that he goes to the
178 Transfer Station 2-3 times/week. He doesn't believe the Transfer Station is being used much
179 during some of the hours it's open. He is unsure how adding more hours at an increased cost
180 will fix this issue. He would like to address the issue directly, instead of blindly adding
181 additional staff and hours.

182
183 Selectman Grella suggested expanding the Transfer Station hours on Tuesday and Thursday.
184 He also suggested moving the trash dumpster to the middle of the deck. Finally, he suggested
185 asking the State to reinstall the warning signs along Route 101. He questioned if the Souhegan
186 Regional Landfill District could be asked to fund additional trash compactors.

187
188 Selectman Panasiti suggested doing away with recycling at the Transfer Station as a short-
189 term solution, as he believes this will alleviate the time people spend walking out to recycle
190 their materials. This could be a short-term fix until the Transfer Station can be reorganized.
191 He noted that many Towns in the State are doing something similar.

192
193 Chairman Lyon stated that he believes being open extra hours after Thanksgiving and
194 Christmas is important. Employees can be paid overtime, similarly to those in emergency
195 services, in order to achieve this. He believes that a survey card with three possible options for
196 reducing the traffic issue could be given to residents that visit the Transfer Station.

197
198 Eric Hahn stated that he likes the idea of a survey card. He also likes the idea of being open on
199 Fridays after Thanksgiving. He noted that part-time employees are limited to work 30
200 hours/week; it is not always as simple as adding hours to certain employees' workloads. He
201 explained that adding hours on Tuesday and/or Thursday would probably require hiring an
202 additional person. He also noted that moving the trash compactor to the middle of the deck
203 would be very costly and a large disruption.

204
205 Chairman Lyon suggested that Eric Hahn work on the simple survey card and also examine
206 increasing the number of spaces available. Eric Hahn agreed to adding at least one space and
207 will come back to the Board with additional information in March.

208
209 Selectmen Brew and Panasiti noted that they believe backed up traffic along Route 101 needs
210 to be addressed immediately. Chairman Lyon stated that the Board will hear more information
211 in March.

212 213 **4.4 Tamarack Lane and Rhodora Drive – Salt Usage**

214 Eric Hahn explained that he worked with the Amherst Conservation Commission (ACC) last
215 year regarding a salt reduction plan for the Town. At that time, the Board approved the
216 reclassification of a few no-salt roads in Town to be treated as the rest of the roads. The ACC
217 had concerns regarding Ponemah Bog because there was no baseline data on the effect of salt
218 to the water quality. Thus, Rhodora Drive and Tamarack Lane were left treated with sand
219 only. Since that time, water sampling has been completed at Ponemah Bog, with low chloride
220 and sodium findings. He noted that Route 101 is actually located closer to the Bog than these
221 two roads.

Eric Hahn explained that he recently met with the ACC and that in the ACC is favor of changing Rhodora Drive and Tamarack Lane to be treated as the regular roads in Town are. Ponemah Bog will continue to be tested and any issues will be dealt with. This proposal is a balance of the water quality with the safety of these roads.

Chairman Lyon noted that the residents of these two streets are interested in getting rid of the sand treatment on the roads. He explained that the ACC is very happy with the DPW's roads plan and spoke very highly of the results being achieved through it. Eliminating sand use on most of the Town roads has also led to less salt being applied. He stated that Eric Hahn deserves credit for these results.

The Board agreed and supported this proposal.

A MOTION was made by Selectman D'Angelo and SECONDED by Selectman Grella to reclassify Rhodora Drive and Tamarack Lane from no-salt to salt-allowed roads, effective today.

By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D'Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye; Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

Town Administrator Shankle stated that he spoke with the town of Hudson, NH regarding discretionary easements. He will wait to hear from the ACC regarding more information on this item.

Selectman Brew stated that there are 300+ lots in Town with less than 10 acres with no dwellings on them. He questioned, if discretionary easements are allowed in Town, what percentage of these parcels will be considered to meet the criteria to have a discretionary easement granted. He believes the assessed value for these lots is around \$12M. He believes the possible tax impact of allowing discretionary easements needs to be considered.

5. Approvals

5.1 Assessing

A MOTION was made by Selectman Brew and SECONDED by Selectman Panasiti to approve the Land Use Change Tax in the amount of \$24,500 for Tax Map 005 Lot 059-021, 4 Gatchel Way.

By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D'Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye; Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

A MOTION was made by Selectman Brew and SECONDED by Selectman Panasiti to rescind the previous granted abatement for Map 17, Lot 065-000 in the amount of \$3,700.

By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D'Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye; Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

A MOTION was made by Selectman Brew and SECONDED by Selectman Panasiti to approve the 2020 abatement credit for Map 017 Lot 065-000 in the amount of \$1,850.

By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D'Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye; Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

A MOTION was made by Selectman Brew and SECONDED by Selectman Panasiti to approve the supplemental tax for Map/Lot 001-013-000-003 in the amount of \$6,738.00 for the 2020 tax year.

By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D'Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye; Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

A MOTION was made by Selectman Brew and SECONDED by Selectman Panasiti to approve the supplemental tax for Map/Lot 001-010-012 in the amount of \$1,850 for the 2020 tax year.

By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D'Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye; Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

A MOTION was made by Selectman Brew and SECONDED by Selectman Panasiti to approve a Service-Connected Total Disability Veteran Tax Credit for tax year 2021 in the amount of \$3,200.00 for Map 001, Lot 005-001.

By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D'Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye; Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

A MOTION was made by Selectman Brew and SECONDED by Selectman Panasiti to approve the Veteran Tax Credit for tax year 2021 on the following map and lot numbers:

003-056-002 1 Joshua Road \$500.00

006-002-006 26 Pond Parish Road \$500.00

By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D'Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye; Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

5.2 Payroll and AP Approvals

A MOTION was made by Selectman D'Angelo and SECONDED by Selectman Panasiti to approve one (1) FY21 Payroll Manifest in the amount of \$228,674.67 dated December 31, 2020, subject to review and audit.

By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D'Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye; Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

A MOTION was made by Selectman D'Angelo and SECONDED by Selectman Panasiti to approve one (1) FY21 Accounts Payable Manifest in the amount of \$427,925.43 dated December 22, 2020, subject to review and audit.

By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D'Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye; Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

A MOTION was made by Selectman D'Angelo and SECONDED by Selectman Panasiti to approve one (1) FY21 Accounts Payable Manifest in the amount of \$3,266,428.00 dated January 1, 2021, subject to review and audit.

By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D'Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye; Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

A MOTION was made by Selectman D'Angelo and SECONDED by Selectman Panasiti to approve one (1) FY21 Accounts Payable Manifest in the amount of \$36,878.85 dated January 5, 2021, subject to review and audit.

By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D’Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye;
Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

6. Action Items

The Board reviewed its action items.

7. Old/New Business

Selectman Brew stated that the Master Plan survey closed yesterday. There were a total of 1,815 responses.

Selectman D’Angelo stated that the Amherst School District and Souhegan School District public budget hearings took place. The Amherst School District is proposing a \$98M bond article. The Souhegan School District is proposing an additional \$1M in its budget.

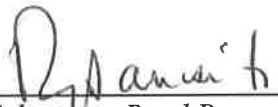
Chairman Lyon explained that the Town received a quote for printing and mailing the Voter’s Guide. This will cost less than it did last year.

Selectman D’Angelo asked for an update regarding the Jacobson court appeals.

A MOTION was made by Selectman Panasiti and SECONDED by Selectman D’Angelo to adjourn the meeting at 8:10pm.

By roll call vote: Selectman Brew – aye; Selectman D’Angelo – aye; Selectman Grella – aye; Selectman Panasiti – aye; Chairman Lyon – aye. 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

NEXT MEETING: Deliberative Session, February 3, 2021, at Souhegan High School



Selectman Reed Panasiti



Date