



Town of Dublin
Select Board Meeting
Monday, October 2, 2023

4:30 PM in person and via Zoom

In attendance: Carole Monroe, Susan Peters, Chris Raymond, Judy Knapp, Ramona Branch-Recreation Committee chair, Jay Schechter-Conservation Commission chair and John Morris-Zoaning Board of Adjustment chair

Select Board reviewed the correspondence file.

CALL TO ORDER: Carole called the meeting to order at 4:30pm

SELECT BOARD'S BUSINESS:

1. **Approval of the Minutes for September 25, 2023-** Chris made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Susan seconded. Roll call vote: Chris, yes. Susan, yes. Carole, yes.
2. **Budget Presentation- Recreation Committee-** Ramona told the Select Board that she is stepping down as chairperson and that in doing so, several of last year's events are not included in this year's budget due to lack of volunteers. The Select Board stated that they would hate to see the Recreation Committee disband, especially at this point in time, since Dublin is enjoying having more children participating. The Board offered support in helping to find committee members and volunteers. It was suggested that recruits might be found within the parents of Dublin Consolidated School students or during the Halloween Trunk or Treat Event sponsored by the Dublin Christian Academy. The Board compared the proposed budget to last year's actual budget and decided that the budget should remain the same and include all the wonderful events that the Recreation Committee sponsored last year.
3. **Budget Presentation- Conservation Commission-** Jay presented a flat-line budget to the Select Board. This year's Invasive Spraying Program was, once again, successful. The Commission was able to save some money from the estimated cost for the two-day program. Discussion ensued about the cost of improvements for a maintenance road in Dublin Park. Jay received an estimate for \$6,000. The Select Board agrees that it is important to have safe access to park areas for upkeep/maintenance. Their suggestion is to use money left in this year's budget, about \$1,800 and improve the road in phases. Town owned property on Old Troy Road, Map 1 Lot 7B, was also discussed. Con Com is proposing to pay the Town to place the land in conservation by using their special

revenue account. Legal counsel will be consulted to fully understand the purchase process.

4. **Budget Presentation- Zoning Board of Adjustment-** John presented a budget that was slightly lower than last year's budget citing that the State has changed the way in which Towns need to post public hearing/meeting notices. Towns can now legally post this information on their website in a prominent place in addition to two other locations. The State no longer requires public notices to publish in a newspaper. ZBA's budget is proposed at \$2217.00.
5. **Supplemental Warrant for deeded property-Map 5 Lot 69- for signature-** signed by the Board.
6. **Intent to cut timber for signature-** signed by the Board.
 - Map 17 Lot 11 Sub A
7. **Miscellaneous:**
 - The library is reopened being staffed with volunteers. Volkert Volkorsz has been hired as the Circulation Librarian while the Town conducts a search. The Town Administrator has been in contact with the Library Trustees concerning new employee wages.
 - The Board discussed with Jay the trade offs of allowing a resident to partially store his raft on Town property during the winter months. The resident allows the public to use the raft on Howe Reservoir during the summer months. It was agreed that storage may begin shortly before the reservoir is drained providing that the raft does not block entry to the water.
 - Susan updated the Board on a housing meeting she attended in Concord. There was discussion that construction of multi-family housing was very common prior to World War II. This moved towards single family homes with the trend now to consider in-law apartments and accessory dwelling units. Susan is hopeful that funding will be available for the 3rd phase of the HOP Grant to continue studying plans and options. Rindge currently has a "condex" housing area in which single family homes are owned individually but share common septic systems, wells and/or other amenities.
 - The upcoming School Reconfiguration/Consolidation Meeting on October 4th was discussed. Carole is asking the consultants what it costs to run the Dublin Consolidated School. The Board stated that this meeting is strictly a fact-finding meeting and that no pre-conceived opinions have been formulated.
 - A flyer for the public Cheshire Community Power meeting was delivered in this month's *Advocate*. The meeting date is currently scheduled for Oct 16th at 7pm on the third floor of Town Hall.
 - Kate submitted the MS-434 Review of Revenues form after it was reviewed by the Department of Revenue Administration. Figures are entered from the third quarter numbers. The DRA suggested increasing the Town's overlay number due to the revaluation starting in January.

- ConVal reimbursed the Town the postage and printing cost for the School's Public Meeting announcements.
- The Town is updating their financial policies; there was a small edit to the Town's Unreserved Fund Balance Finance Policy to include language about having two full months expenditures available. Language to this effect will be added for the Board to review and sign.
- Review of the Thanksgiving holiday schedule. Monday, Nov 20th, is a payroll date, and Town Hall will be open regular hours. The office will then be closed for the remainder of the week. Notices will be posted in the *Advocate*, on the website and in-house.
- The Energy Committee will meet this Thursday at 3pm at the Highway Barn to consider the practicality of placing solar panels on the Barn's roof and also the Fire Department's roof. Questions were asked about how a project of this nature would be paid for. Susan mentioned that grant money could be applied for and could cover 30%, and possibly more, with the balance having to be put forth to the Town in a Warrant Article. Questions about the cost versus the return were also proposed needing to be answered by the consultants. Chris thought it more prudent to be looking at land for the panels rather than placing them on rooftops that would eventually need maintenance. He suggested the ground behind the Highway Barn and under the power lines west of the Transfer Station. Susan will ask the committee to include these areas in the assessment.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Chris made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:29pm. Carole seconded.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Katherine M. Fuller and Pamela J. Celko

Carole Monroe (Chair)

Susan Peters

Chris Raymond