

TOWN OF WEBSTER
SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES MONDAY MARCH 18, 2024

The Select Board held a meeting on Monday, March 18, 2024. The meeting was held at 945 Battle Street, Webster, NH 03303

Select Board Members present: David Hemenway, Marlo Herrick, Normandie Blake.

Also present: Town Administrator Dana Hadley(virtually), Land Use Coordinator Russell Tatro, and see attached attendance sheet.

Chairperson Hemenway opened the meeting at 6:46pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. He then took attendance, and all Board Members were present. He apologized that the meeting had started late because they were having technical difficulties getting Administrator Hadly into the meeting virtually. He also announced that fire permits were currently being required and could be attained at the Fire House. He also stated that the solar array was being repaired and would soon be putting out data again.

Chairperson Hemenway moved to the first item on the agenda, the appointment with Chris Schadler regarding the future of the Grapevine.

Ms. Schadler began her presentation by pointing out that the Grapevine newspaper had been a part of the Town for four decades. She then thanked Selectwoman Blake for the service she had provided the Town in putting together the Grapevine. Now that she knew that Selectwoman Blake was retiring from the Grapevine, she wanted to do something to save the local paper. She was considering starting a non-profit to run the Grapevine going forward. She hoped that the Board would consider helping get the word out that she was looking for volunteers to serve on the future non-profit. Selectwoman Blake stated that she would serve, and Chairperson Hemenway responded that he saw no problem posting that they were looking for volunteers on the Town's Website.

Ms. Schadler also hoped Selectwoman Blake would be willing to donate her copier and the Town would be willing to give some space for the copier to be housed at Town Hall for monthly use to put out the paper. Kim Fortune commented that she was concerned about the liability of the Town housing equipment for a separate corporate entity and that should be considered. Chairperson Hemenway responded that if the Board made an agreement with the new organization that they would consult with legal counsel before they finalized any agreement. The Board supported the idea of the formation of a non-profit organization to take over the Grapevine and would discuss the details of how the Town could support the new organization once it was formed.

Chairperson Hemenway pointed out that Land Use Coordinator Tatro had a degree in Non-Profit Management and suggested that Ms. Schadler should work with him on creating the new organization. Ms. Schadler asked Coordinator Tatro if he would be willing to help. Coordinator Tatro responded that he would be willing to volunteer his personal time but would not do it on Town time.

Chairperson Hemenway moved to the next item on the agenda, the replacement copier.

The Board reviewed the quotes that Administrator Hadley had provided and eventually agreed to go with the State Contracting Pricing for a Toshiba copier that was half the price of the rest on the list.

MOTION: Selectwoman Herrick

To purchase a copier from Toshiba America Business Solutions Inc. for \$4,670 using the State Contract.

SECOND: Chairperson Hemenway.

1 **DAVID HEMENWAY – YES**
2 **NORMANDIE BLAKE – YES**
3 **MARLO HERRICK – YES**
4 **The motion passed 3 to 0.**

5
6 Chairperson Hemenway moved to the next item on the agenda, the furnace replacement.

7
8 Administrator Hadley informed the Board that he had requested quotes from four companies and had
9 received two quotes back so far. Member Herrick asked how old the current system is. Administrator
10 Hadley responded that the system was put in in 2014. Member Herrick asked if it was still under
11 warranty. Administrator Hadley responded that Huckleberry Hearting who had installed and serviced the
12 furnace had tried to get the repairs/replacement covered under the warranty, but it had expired. Member
13 Herrick asked if Administrator Hadley had gotten a second opinion on what was going on with the
14 furnace and if he had tried to call for the warranty himself. Administrator Hadley responded that he had
15 no reason to distrust the opinion given to them by Huckleberry Hearting and they had bent over
16 backwards trying to discover the problem. They had also spent an extensive amount of time trying to get
17 the furnaces covered under warranty, but the company would not honor it. The Board then discussed the
18 different options for the replacement of the heading system and decided they still needed to do additional
19 research before making a decision.

20
21 Chairperson Hemenway moved to the next item on the agenda, propositions for donations of property.

22
23 Administrator Hadley informed the Board that he had received inquiries from two property owners in the
24 Pillsbury Lake District who are interested in donating their properties to the Town. Both owners felt their
25 properties didn't have value. They had asked the Town if they would accept them as donations. The
26 Board discussed the Topic and agreed to get input from conservation commission, planning board, and
27 the Road Agent before the Board made their decision.

28
29 Chairperson Hemenway moved to the next item on the agenda, scheduling a joint meeting between the
30 ZBA, Select Board and Planning Board.

31
32 Coordinator Tatro informed the Board that at the last meeting of the ZBA the Board had requested a joint
33 meeting between the Boards to discuss code enforcement. He asked the Board if Tuesday, April 9, 2024
34 at 6:30pm would work. The Board agreed it would and Coordinator Tatro stated that he would set up the
35 meeting.

36
37 Chairperson Hemenway moved the next item on the agenda, public comment.

38
39 Dorothy Bourque commented that it was very difficult to follow what was being discussed at the meeting
40 because of all the interruptions and talking in the audience. She asked if Chairperson Hemenway would
41 try in the future to limit comments to the public comment section of the meeting.

42
43 Ms. Fortune asked if Webster was a home rule municipality. Coordinator Tatro responded that no
44 municipality in the State of New Hampshire was a home rule municipality.

45
46 Barbra Corliss thanked the Board for a well-run Town Meeting.

47
48 Michael Arpino asked the Board about the rumor he had heard regarding the transfer station fees going
49 up. Chairperson Hemenway stated that he had also heard those rumors and they had not gone up yet. He
50 pointed out that there was a process that had to be followed in order for the transfer station fees to be
51 increased that involved discussion between the two Selectboards and public hearings.

1 Tara Gunnigle commented that the Board had done a great job in reviewing and amending the Town's
2 policies and procedures. Chairperson Hemenway thanked her for her comment but stated that she should
3 also thank Administrator Hadley because he was the one who had put together the new code book. Ms.
4 Gunnigle also commented she had been disappointed in the Attorney the law firm had sent to represent
5 the Town at Town Meeting. Chairperson Hemenway agreed with her sentiment and stated that
6 Administrator Hadley would be contacting the law firm to discuss the Attorneys performance.
7

8 Ms. Fortune commented that the Board should be thanking Ms. Gunnigle and Jon Pearson for all the hard
9 work they did to protect the Town's best interests. She wanted this to be part of the public record. She felt
10 the Board should also recognize that she had received a New England First Amendment Reward for her
11 work on the Walker Pond Property incident. Chairperson Hemenway responded that one of the things he
12 liked best about the community was the passion that residents had regarding being involved with the
13 Town. He felt that everyone in Town should be applauded for working through this difficult subject.
14

15 **MOTION:** Chairperson Hemenway

16 *To approve the non-public minutes of 3/4/24 sessions 1-3*

17 **SECOND:** Selectwoman Herrick

18 **DAVID HEMENWAY – YES**

19 **NORMANDIE BLAKE – YES**

20 **MARLO HERRICK – YES**

21 **The motion passed 3 to 0.**
22

23 **MOTION:** Chairperson Hemenway

24 *To approve the attached motion for Trustees of the Trust Funds*

25 **SECOND:** Selectwoman Herrick

26 **DAVID HEMENWAY – YES**

27 **NORMANDIE BLAKE – YES**

28 **MARLO HERRICK – YES**

29 **The motion passed 3 to 0.**
30

31 **MOTION:** Chairperson Hemenway

32 *To adjourn the meeting at 8:54pm*

33 **SECOND:** Selectwoman Herrick

34 **DAVID HEMENWAY – YES**

35 **NORMANDIE BLAKE – YES**

36 **MARLO HERRICK – YES**

37 **The motion passed 3 to 0.**
38

39 *Minutes taken by Russell Tatro.*