

TOWN OF EATON, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03832

EVANS MEMORIAL BUILDING

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

December 1, 2020

A duly-noticed virtual meeting of the Board of Selectmen took place on Tuesday, December 1, 2020 via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

As Chair of the Board of Selectmen, Dick Fortin found that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #23 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

There is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, Chairman Fortin confirmed public access to the meeting via Zoom for this electronic meeting. All members of the Board have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and participate in this meeting by clicking on the following website address <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9569071146>.

Notice was given to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting. Instructions have also been provided on the Town website at eatonnh.org. If anyone has a problem accessing the scheduled Selectman meeting, please call 603-447-2391. In the event that the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled.

Dick Fortin started the meeting by taking roll call attendance: Dick Fortin (Holly Fortin in the room), Ed Reilly (no one else in the room) and Joyce Blue (no one else in the room). Dick Fortin noted that all votes taken during this meeting will be done by roll call vote.

Town Clerk Suzanne Raiche joined the meeting to give an update on the Avitar Town Clerk software and noted that it will most likely be in place in January. Dick Fortin noted that while purging files in the Selectmen's closet copies of Town Clerk documents were found. It was requested that Suzanne be sure that all originals are in her possession. Dick Fortin explained that any request for information must be acted upon within 5 business days and stated that the requests must be taken care of immediately. Joyce Blue stated that the Board discussed changing the Town Clerk office hours back to the first and third Tuesday night instead of the Thursday hours. Suzanne Raiche stated that there have been no complaints and that the extra hours are not necessary. Suzanne Raiche requested that a second person be permitted into Town Hall so that it would speed up the process of registering a vehicle.

Joyce Blue made a motion, seconded by Ed Reilly, to adopt the Minutes of the Meeting on November 17, 2020 as amended. Motion unanimously carried by roll call vote (Dick Fortin-Yes, Ed Reilly-Yes, Joyce Blue-Yes).

Joyce Blue made a motion, seconded by Ed Reilly, to ratify the following items signed out of session: Payroll Manifest (week end 11/22/2020), Manifest and Accounts Payable checks dated 11/30/2020, Letter of Engagement with Roberts & Greene, Building Permit for James Hart (R04-016) and Notice of Intent to Cut Wood for Kenneth Cargill (R05-005). Motion unanimously carried by roll call vote (Dick Fortin-Yes, Ed Reilly-Yes, Joyce Blue-Yes).

Dick Fortin stated that the Conservation Commission will be holding a work session on Friday afternoon, December 4th.

Dick Fortin stated that he visited the Watson property on Woodland Acres Road and reported that it does not appear that any work was done to the lower driveway area.

Dick Fortin explained that the Gibson-Woodbury Foundation grants for cemetery work would have to be given to a Historical Society but Eaton does not have a 501(c)3 and, therefore, is not eligible for the grant funding.

Dick Fortin explained that he spoke to representatives at NHDES regarding septic system approvals that do not meet Eaton Zoning requirements and was told that Eaton could become a prior approval Town and was given contact information to pursue the issue. Ed Reilly questioned whether the Town can enforce local ordinances once the State approves a design. Dick Fortin noted that designers would have to resubmit a plan to the State for approval of the updated design that meets local requirements. **Joyce Blue made a motion, seconded by Ed Reilly, to pursue Eaton becoming a prior approval Town for septic systems. Motion unanimously carried by roll call vote (Dick Fortin-Yes, Ed Reilly-Yes, Joyce Blue-Yes).**

Heather McKendry joined the Board to discuss the South Eaton Meetinghouse and explained that no deed can be located. Heather McKendry questioned whether the Board would support efforts for the SEMH to pursue ownership of the property. Dick Fortin noted that there is a deed for the parsonage lot which was taken for tax deed. Joyce Blue stated that the property should be owned by the Meetinghouse non-profit organization. Ed Reilly stated that it should be presented to the voters and Heather McKendry stated that she will make a presentation at Town Meeting. **Dick Fortin made a motion, seconded by Joyce Blue, to authorize Heather McKendry to research and prepare a presentation regarding transfer of ownership of the South Eaton Meetinghouse from the Town to the non-profit Meetinghouse organization. Motion unanimously carried by roll call vote (Dick Fortin-Yes, Ed Reilly-Yes, Joyce Blue-Yes).**

John Border joined the Board to discuss the Broadband Committee and the options for internet in Eaton. Dick Fortin questioned whether satellite is an option with the topography. John Border stated that it is viable and noted that broadband is any service above 25mbs. Ed Reilly questioned whether there have been any cost estimates. John Border noted that the cost of installing fiber optics would be borne by the Town and the service provider and that the user then only pays a monthly fee. John Border explained that based on the number of poles in Town, he would estimate the cost to the Town to be approximately \$180,000. **Dick Fortin made a motion, seconded by Joyce Blue, to**

put a Warrant Article on the Town meeting Warrant to begin the process of forming a "Communications District" for the purpose of bringing high-speed, affordable Broadband to every premise in Carroll County. Motion unanimously carried by roll call vote (Dick Fortin-Yes, Ed Reilly-Yes, Joyce Blue-Yes).

Ed Reilly submitted the Summary Sheriff Traffic Patrol report for October.

Ed Reilly explained that he conducted a site visit of the Hatch Hill Cemetery and gave an overview of the work to be done on the railings and headstones. Dick Fortin noted that he has repaired the railings and stated that the granite posts need to be adjusted.

Tamar Roberts of Roberts & Greene submitted a listing of required documents for the audit.

Catherine Lovequist inquired as to the status of the former DeWitt property and whether the closing has occurred after the auction.

Carroll County submitted the proposed 2021 Budget and Revenue reports.

The Board reviewed a NHDOT driveway permit for Michael Callis (R03-020). The Board noted that a drive-thru pizza business will require a Special Exception from the Zoning Board and then Site Plan Review approved from the Planning Board. Dick Fortin suggested that a letter be sent outlining the process and that no work can begin on the driveway without the necessary approvals.

The Board reviewed a letter from Paul Hennigan requested a revaluation of his property. The Board reviewed photographs of the abutting parcel of land. **Dick Fortin made a motion, seconded by Ed Reilly, to write a letter to the Portnoys addressing the issues on their property. Motion unanimously carried by roll call vote (Dick Fortin-Yes, Ed Reilly-Yes, Joyce Blue-Yes).**

The Board discussed the revaluation for 2021 and noted that the Board can waive the bid requirement under the Procurement Policy.

The Board discussed heating oil for Town Hall. **Dick Fortin made a motion, seconded by Joyce Blue, to lock into the offered \$1.74 per gallon price by Rymes for heating oil this winter. Motion unanimously carried by roll call vote (Dick Fortin-Yes, Ed Reilly-Yes, Joyce Blue-Yes).**

Joyce Blue made a motion, seconded by Ed Reilly, to adjourn the meeting. Motion unanimously carried by roll call vote (Dick Fortin-Yes, Ed Reilly-Yes, Joyce Blue-Yes). The meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lianne M. Boelzner

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