

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 22, 2021 SELECT BOARD MEETING

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: Board Members Chair Mike Houghton, Vice Chair Joe Lovejoy, Board Member Allison Knab along with Town Administrator David Moore, Finance Administrator Dawna Duhamel, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer Shanti Wolph and Town Counsel Abby Karoutas, Esq.

Member of the public Barbara McLaughlin also joined the call.

The Board Chair opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Lovejoy motioned to adopt the January 19, February 1 and February 8, 2021 minutes as presented. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Houghton directed attention to the PFAS Remedial Action Plan and groundwater management review and discussion. In attendance were Russ Barton and Chelsea Hensley of Wilcox & Barton, and Jim Ricker who is associated with Wilcox & Barton and was involved in the focused site investigation. A draft remedial action plan (RAP), authored by Wilcox & Barton, has been reviewed by Town staff. The Town is now preparing to finalize and submit the RAP to the State DES for its review and eventual approval. The approved plan will be the basis for a Groundwater Management Permit the Town would also apply for. Remediation will be implemented when the plan is approved. Mr. Ricker gave a history of the focused site investigation. Ms. McLaughlin asked why People's Bank, which is across the street from the Fire Station didn't exceed maximum levels. Mr. Ricker explained that groundwater flows under the ground in unpredictable ways sometimes, including through unknown fissures and pathways in bedrock. PFAS levels are constantly fluctuating and is dependent on many variables. Mr. Ricker continued his presentation. 22 wells on 19 properties have exceedances and require remediation. He reviewed various treatment systems, monitoring, maintenance and cost. In response to questions from Ms. McLaughlin, Mr. Ricker and Mr. Barton detailed the complexities associated with monitoring contaminants. There is a long list of variables, such as well depth, location of pumps within the well, rainfall/drought conditions, etc., that effect the migration of contaminants. Mr. Ricker reviewed the various remediation systems and groundwater maintenance in future years. Frequency of monitoring will be approved by the State. In answering other questions, Mr. Ricker noted the risk of PFAS is only through ingestion, not bathing or other dermal contact such as cleaning, etc. Mr. Ricker explained the process going forward. Mr. Moore explained that the Town would need to have ongoing engineering support in finalizing remedial actions, working with a water system design and installer and ongoing testing and reporting under the Groundwater Management Permit (in addition to managing the deployed filtration systems).

They continued to talk about next steps in the remediation process and the Town's obligation going forward. Mr. Moore indicated he would finalize the report content with Wilcox & Barton and provide clarification to the Board about the affected properties, responsibilities under a GMP and cost estimates for ongoing testing, reporting and maintenance of systems.

Next Mr. Houghton directed attention to education funding and a request to join Coalition Communities 2.0. Mr. Moore referred to previously circulated materials included once again in the Board's packet for this evening. He explained that representatives of communities historically impacted as donor towns are forming a group to organize advocacy efforts and to

monitor legislation to protect against a return to donor towns. Mr. Lovejoy stated his opposition to joining the group. The implementation of a state wide education property tax is the State's way of equalizing education resources. He noted there are examples of how funds raised through certain taxes be they business taxes or meals and rooms are disproportionately distributed without regard to which political jurisdiction they were generated in. Ms. Knab also expressed opposition to the coalition for the same reasons. She also noted that it is not clear that Stratham would be a donor town. Mr. Houghton motioned to abstain from joining the Coalition. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Houghton addressed the request from the Heritage Commission. The Heritage Commission requests the Board release funds from the Historic Preservation Fund for a NHDHR Inventory form for the James Scamman house, 25 River Road. Ms. Knab motioned to approve the request to expend up to \$8,000 from the Heritage Preservation Fund for the purposes of performing a historic resource inventory at 25 River Road and to further authorize the Town Administrator to execute an agreement effecting the same. Ms. Knab motioned to approve the request. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Moore drafted an RFP for Assessing services. This RFP is part of a restructuring of the Assessing Dept and is focused on general assessing services. They discussed how to address the reval in the RFP. The Board would like to see included the cost if the Town provides some assessing functions and if the Town provides no assessing functions. Mr. Moore will finalize and invite proposals.

Under Town Administrator report, Mr. Moore reported back to the Board on the status of the State of NH MOU for vaccine distribution sites and use of Stratham EMTs. He addressed questions raised by the Board by referring to the NH DHHS proposed MOU document (not available for the previous discussion), an internal department MOU, and confirmation with Primex of liability coverage in this instance. Mr. Moore requested authorization to enter into the agreement with the State for the vaccine program as submitted. Mr. Lovejoy moved to authorize the Town Administrator to implement the Town EMS staff in the vaccination program as proposed by the state of NH. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

At 8:32 pm Mr. Houghton motioned to go into a non-public session to discuss a personnel matter in accordance with RSA91-A:3,II(a). Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

At 9:22 pm Ms. Knab motioned to come out of the non-public session and seal the minutes noting that failure to do so would render a proposed action ineffective. Mr. Lovejoy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

At 9:23 pm Mr. Lovejoy motioned to adjourn. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Richard
Recording Secretary