

Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2022; 5:00 P.M.

Board Members Present: Carmen E. Lone, Chairman; Glenn R. Zaidman, Vice-Chairman; Paul A. Tworog; Robert J. McHatton, Sr.
Board Members Remote: G. Frederick Packard
Administration Present: Town Manager Robert A. Peabody, Jr.; Deputy Town Manager Georgiann Fleck; Town Clerk Laurie Chadbourne; Community Development Director Linda LaCroix, Recreation Director Gary Colello; Police Chief Philip Jones

1. Call to Order

Chairman Lone called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Board recited the "Pledge of Allegiance."

Chairman Lone read the following statement into the record: "The Town Manager's contract was on the agenda prematurely. The Board of Selectmen is currently in negotiations with the Town Manager. And those negotiations are confidential."

3. Approval of Minutes

a. January 25, 2022

b. February 2, 2022

Motion was made by Selectmen McHatton for approval of the minutes from the January 25, 2022 and February 2, 2022 Board Meetings; second from Vice-Chairman Zaidman. 5 approve/0 oppose

4. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Jonathan Morrell stated, "Good evening, I'm Jonathan Morrell. My wife Trudy and I retired here nine years ago. Prior to retiring, I spent ten years managing federal work and training programs, five of those years in Hancock County and almost twenty-six years in higher education at the cabinet level. During that time, there were hundreds of cases where I was part of a negotiation team on various contracts both vendors, purveyors of service, food service vendors as well as personnel at the senior level. Those negotiations, when we thought they were finalized, were placed on the agenda for the Board. At those board meetings, when the agenda was there, the outcome of our vote in negotiation was confirmed publicly. Two weeks ago, supposedly, you had an agenda item that had been negotiated and at that time, votes were changed. In my line of work, yes there were a number of cases where after negotiation seemed to be done, things arised and that point, we removed the agenda item before it ever got to a public hearing. That didn't happen two weeks ago. In between your negotiations and your meeting, votes were changed. I understand exactly who worked behind the scenes to have those votes changed. All I can say is that we love this Town, we've chosen to be here. But I was terribly embarrassed to be a part of this Town that day, watching it on tv. I've never seen such unprofessional behavior publicly by a ruling body. I was embarrassed, I hope some of you are. You need to do a better job. You got our votes but we're really questioning our choices at this point. You need to do better."

5. Committee/Liaison Reports

Selectman Packard has not heard anything from the Fryeburg Airport Authority since last October or November.

Chairman Lone noted that the Ordinance Review Committee meeting rescheduled their meeting from last week to tomorrow (February 9, 2022) at 5:00 P.M.

Selectman McHatton reported that the Community Development Advisory Committee will be meeting tomorrow (February 9, 2022) and the Recycling Committee will meet on Thursday (February 10, 2022).

6. Correspondence, Presentations and Other Pertinent Information

a. Discussion of the Comprehensive Plan Update and Public Input

Community Development Director Linda LaCroix reported that her office is developing an overview of the roll-out for the Comprehensive Plan Update. The Update will take place over two phases. Phase one will be researching, updating and/or validating current statistics, circumstances, opportunities, and challenges for each of the required subjects that are part of the Comprehensive Plan. Phase two will be targeted on community engagement, with the caveat that engagement is already underway with the work of organizing and detailing the engagement effort. Lengthy discussion ensued. Director LaCroix will put together a proposed task force and provide a work plan for Board review and consideration at the next meeting.

7. Public Hearing at 5:30 P.M.

a. To accept oral and written comments on a new Liquor License Application from Mountain Range (146 Harrison Road)

Chairman Lone opened the public hearing to accept oral and written comments on a new liquor license application from Mountain Range at 5:30 P.M. New owner, Ingrid Vivente, introduced herself and provided a summary of their plans for the restaurant. There were no other public comments. Chairman Lone closed the public hearing at 5:32 P.M.

8. Action Items Following Public Hearing

a. Approval of a New Liquor License Application from Mountain Range (146 Harrison Road)

Motion was made by Vice-Chairman Zaidman for approval of a new liquor license application from Mountain Range; second from Selectman Packard. 5 approve/0 oppose Town Manager Peabody welcomed them to the Bridgton business community and wished them best of luck in their new endeavor.

9. New Business

a. Awards and Other Administrative Recommendations

There were no awards or other administration recommendations.

b. Permits/Documents Requiring Board Approval

1. Victualer's License to Mountain Range (146 Harrison Road)

Motion was made by Selectman Tworog for approval of a Victualer's License to Mountain Range; second from Selectman Packard. 5 approve/0 oppose

2. Victualer's License to Venezia Ristorante (251 North High Street)

Motion was made by Vice-Chairman Zaidman for approval of a Victualer's License to Venezia Ristorante; second from Selectman McHatton. 5 approve/0 oppose

c. Selectmen's Concerns

- **Selectman Packard** suggested that snow be removed and the area outside the downstairs meeting room should be salted and sanded, especially when there is a Board Meeting to which Chairman Lone noted that there has been improvement.
- **Selectman Tworog** had no concerns.
- **Vice-Chairman Zaidman** commended the highway crew for doing a great job and requested that the snow on the left side at the intersection by Paris Farmers Union be removed due to the lack of visibility for vehicles.
- **Selectman McHatton** asked if the company has been contacted to make a pay per bag presentation to which Executive Assistant Nikki Hodgkins responded that she has made several attempts to reach them.
- **Selectman McHatton** asked for clarification of the policy for non-citizen-initiated referendum questions to be submitted to BOS two months prior to deadline to which Town Manager Peabody responded that the Board set the policy and the Board has the authority to amend their policy.
- **Chairman Lone** thanked town staff for their professionalism. She also stated that the Public Works Department has been working very hard to keep up, even while short staffed, and expressed her appreciation.

d. Town Manager's Report/Deputy Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Peabody read the following into the record:

General

A reminder that masks are no longer required at the Town Office, Town Hall and Transfer Station for vaccinated individuals. Unvaccinated individuals are asked to wear a mask.

An important reminder that with winter weather upon us, it is important to keep your driveways and private roads cleared and sanded so that, if the need arises, emergency personnel can safely access your property.

Regarding weather events, please be aware that we post information on the Town's Facebook page and the Town's website. Additionally, all the local television channels are notified when the Town Office closes.

Recreation Department

The Town Ice Rink is open 10am-6pm Monday-Thursday; 10am-8pm Friday and Saturday; and 10am-1pm Sunday. The schedule may be found on the Recreation page on the Town's website. Skating is free to the public and there are a limited number of skates which are also available free.

There will be a Happy Valentines Day Parent Night Out February 11th from 6:00pm to 10:00pm. Enjoy a night out while the kids hangout with Bridgton Rec. Activities include dinner, ice skating, games, arts and crafts physical activity, movie and popcorn. The cost is \$15.00. To register go bridgtonmaine.org/bridgton-recreation/.

Finance Office

The Finance Office has completed and dispersed all 1099's and W-2's and completed all year end reporting. Work continues with RHR Smith on the 2021 audit.

Personnel

Health Officer Cathy Pinkham resigned effective February 26. Thanks to her for all her efforts during the COVID pandemic.

A thank you to Forrest Kollander for his quick actions when he discovered one of the plow trucks on fire."

Town Manager Peabody added that the Town of Bridgton has a great staff and they are dedicated and give one hundred percent. He is blessed to have them working for him and the Town is indeed fortunate.

Deputy Town Manager Fleck recognized Public Works Department Employee Scott Smith for approaching forty years of employment with the Town. She also noted that she has been working for the Town for twenty-seven years.

10. Old Business

a. Wastewater Status Update

Town Manager Peabody provided a brief update on the Wastewater Status. He thanked Executive Assistant Nikki Hodgkins for all her work on the documents.

b. Proposed Senior Property Tax Assistance Ordinance

Town Manager Peabody noted the changes as requested by the Board at their last meeting. **Motion** was made by Vice-Chairman Zaidman to approve the wording of the Senior Property Tax Assistance Ordinance; second from Selectman Tworog. 5 approve/0 oppose

11. Treasurer's Warrants

Motion was made by Selectman McHatton for approval of Treasurer's Warrants numbered 78 through 85; second from Vice-Chairman Zaidman. Selectman McHatton asked Town Manager Peabody if the Town is reimbursed for legal expenses for land use issues to which Town Manager Peabody responded that the Town is not reimbursed.

5 approve/0 oppose

12. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

There were no public comments.

13. Dates for the Next Board of Selectmen's Meetings

February 22, 2022 at 5:00 P.M. Regular Meeting

February 28, 2022 at 9:00 A.M. Budget Meeting

March 1, 2022 at 9:00 A.M. Budget Meeting

March 8, 2022 at 5:00 P.M. Regular Meeting

14. Adjourn

Motion was made by Selectman McHatton to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 P.M.; second from Selectman Packard.

5 approve/0 oppose

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie L. Chadbourne

Town Clerk