

**Town of Bradford
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
@Bradford Community Center Building
Monday, September 18, 2023 @ 6 PM**

PUBLIC HEARING ON MORATORIUM ORDINANCE.

Chairman Hanson opened the public hearing at 6:00pm. The Town's attorney, Kristi Trafton, was present to offer clarifications on the moratorium and to determine the need for any amendments to the proposed moratorium ordinance. Discussion and concerns were aimed at the possibility of camper trailers, RVs, and tents, and individuals living year-round in these accommodations. It was noted that the Town of Bradford currently has an ordinance for campers/campgrounds and subdivisions. A moratorium will provide the Town 180 days to review existing ordinances and make changes that may be needed. Majority of residents present were in support of a moratorium. Hearing was closed after approximately one hour.

PUBLIC HEARING ON GENERAL ASSISTANCE ORDINANCE MAXIMUMS.

Chairman Hanson opened the General Assistance Ordinance maximums public hearing at 7:24pm. Manager informed residents present the rules and guidelines on general assistance and that the State of Maine creates these maximum guidelines – which must be adopted by the Board of Selectmen on an annual basis. No other questions. Hearing was closed at 7:33pm.

Item 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER – FLAG SALUTE. Chairman Hanson called the meeting to order at 7:34pm, followed by the pledge.

A. Board Members present: Chairman Errol Hanson, Julie McCarthy, Edward Nevells, Carlene Oakes, Levi Surette.

B. Employees Present: Lois Jones.

C. Residents Present: See attached sign-in sheets (not all residents stayed for the regular Board of Selectmen's meeting.)

Item 2. APPROVE MINUTES.

A. September 7, 2023. Chairman Hanson made a motion and Selectman McCarthy 2nd to approve the minutes, as written. All in favor.

Item 3. TREASURER'S WARRANTS.

A. Payroll #65, 66, 67. Selectman Nevells made a motion and Selectman McCarthy 2nd to approve warrants #65, 66, & 67. All in favor.

B. Accounts Payable #68. Selectman McCarthy made a motion and Hanson 2nd to approve warrant #68. Due to discussion coming up on Item 5A, Selectman Nevells made a motion and Selectman McCarthy 2nd to table the vote until after discussion of Item 5A. All in favor. After discussion of Item 5A, a vote was taken on the motion to approve the Accounts Payable warrant #68 – All in favor.

Item 4. PUBLIC COMMENT.

A. Valerie Kane – She asked if she could speak now, or would participation be allowed during particular items of business. Chairman Hanson commented that the Board tried to allow relevant participation during discussion. Inquired the cost of the attorney. Selectman McCarthy commented that she believed the cost was \$225 per hour.

B. Mike Michaud – Suggested there should be some Amish buggy signs on the Main Road, coming into Town – or all roads leading into Town. Also commented that

several stop signs have been stolen; it may be a good idea to install “Stop Ahead” signs, in the event the actual Stop sign is missing, this would give a warning.

- C. **Rich Fredericks** – Asked if the Amish buggies are required to have reflective to alert passing motorists.
- D. **Joyce Dyer** – Commented that the Planning Board will have meetings on the second Wednesdays of the month at 6:15pm.
- E. **Jim Poehmel** – Asked if someone was self-employed, do they need a permit. Manager informed him that State statutes require someone that is self-employed to file a registration with the town at a fee of \$10 or \$15. If he is asking about a business permit, he would have to consult with the Code Enforcement Officer and Planning Board.

Item 5. NEW BUSINESS.

- A. **Cemetery and Mowing Maintenance contract discussion & discussion of perpetual care.** There was discussion regarding the definition of perpetual care and when decorations, etc, but be removed from the cemeteries. Usually, there is a notice to residents through the newsletter. E & E Powerlines owner was present to discuss the contract. It was felt that the weeding had not been completed the prior year, and due to the date of the contract bid, it was not feasible to view the condition of the cemeteries prior to the bid. Also, there has been a LOT of rain this summer, making the grass grow more than an average summer. It was questioned why the payment had been held back from payment during the previous accounts payable. It was noted that the due date of the payment was the 13th and could be paid on either warrant. It was included in the warrant again for this meeting.
- B. **Additional funding for legal fees from General Fund.** Chairman Hanson made a motion and Selectman McCarthy 2nd to ask for \$5,000 in additional funding from the General Fund for legal fees, to be added to the upcoming special town meeting warrant. All in favor.
- C. **Additional funding for Town Manager salary from General Fund. Taken out of order – after Executive Session.**
- D. **Food Sovereignty Ordinance review.** Reviewed ordinance. No major questions or changes needed. Discussion to have the ordinance included on the upcoming special town meeting. Chairman Hanson made a motion and Selectman Oakes 2nd to approve a public hearing for the ordinance at the next selectmen’s meeting and place on the special town meeting warrant for approval. All in favor.
- E. **Set Special Town Meeting Date.** A special selectmen’s meeting was decided to be held on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 6pm, for the public hearing of the Food Sovereignty Ordinance and the approval of the Moratorium on Development. Special Town Meeting to be held on Monday, October 2, 2023, at 6pm.
- F. **Approval of General Assistance Maximums.** Chairman Hanson made a motion and Selectman Oakes 2nd to approve the 2023-2024 General Assistance Maximum Guidelines. All in favor.

Item 6. OLD BUSINESS. None.

Item 7. ROAD COMMISSIONER’S REPORT.

Road Commissioner informed the Board the sand and salt are all mixed and in the shed. A culvert was plugged by the Webb’s on the Station Road that was cleared. Also, the ditch from Arrants to Strout’s on Station Road was cleaned out and shaped. Manager received a price quote Cody Caruso of \$1,550 to clear the guardrails as follows: 1 on Reeves Road, 2 on Lagrange Road, 1 on the Middle Road, 1 on the Tasker Road, 1 on the Station Road, and 1 on the Williams Road. Selectman Oakes made a motion and

Chairman Hanson 2nd to approve Cody Caruso to clear the bridges of brush and trees. All in favor.

Selectman Nevells reviewed all the gravel roads in town and made recommendations of which roads to have graded – Middle Road, Pond Road, and Atkinson Road need grading the most. Manager will make arrangements to have them done, with the Town Office driveway.

Erik Hanson reported on issues reported from last meeting, as requested by Road Commissioner. The following was observed, with suggestions and costs for repairs:

*Pond Road – intersection with Route 11, an issue near the farm, the intersection with Rozelle Road, and the transition from paving to gravel – one load of gravel would repair all issues, and probably a half to a day to repair.

*Wilder Davis Road – pull in the shoulders in and around the culvert by the Mowdy's. It would be a quick fix – less than an hour.

*Lagrange Road – gouging in the ditch from Dwyer to Brasslett.

*Charleston Road. – gouging down the hill between the Bubar residences. Also, the intersection with Main Road, needs cleaning.

*Wilson Hill also has gouging.

*Middle Road intersection by K. Dunfee's needs some repair.

Erik stated most of this work could be completed in 2-3 days, at most, and probably less than \$3,000.

Selectman Nevells made a motion and Selectman Surette 2nd to approve Hanson & Son Construction, up to \$3,000 for the recommended road repairs, as just reviewed. Four in favor – Chairman Hanson abstained.

Item 8, 9, and 10 were skipped to Item 11.

Item 8. SELECTMEN CONCERNS.

- A. Levi –
- B. Carlene –
- C. Ed –
- D. Julie –
- E. Errol –

Item 9. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS.

Item 10. CORRESPONDENCE.

Item 11. EXECUTIVE SESSION.

A. 1 MRS 405 (6) A – Town manager contract negotiations.

Selectman Nevells made a motion and Chairman Hanson 2nd to go into executive session under 1 MRS 405 (6) A, to negotiate the Town Manager's contract, at 8:58PM. All in favor.

Selectman Oakes made a motion and Chairman Hanson 2nd to come out of executive session, at 9:22PM. All in favor.

Chairman Hanson made a motion and Selectmen Nevells 2nd to hire Lorna Bell for \$55,000 annually, to start on October 2, 2023. All in favor.

Return to Item 5C. Selectman McCarthy made a motion and Selectman Nevells 2nd to ask for \$10,000 in additional funding from the General Fund for Town Manager salary, to be added to the upcoming special town meeting warrant. All in favor.

Item 12. ADJOURN. Selectman Nevells made a motion and Selectman Oakes 2nd to adjourn the meeting. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois A. Jones
Town Manager

Approved on _____, 2023 by:

Errol Hanson, Chairman

Julie McCarthy

Edward Nevells

Carlene Oakes

Levi Surette