

**Center Harbor Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 24, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER: At 7:00 p.m. Chairman Richard Drenkhahn called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order. Selectmen Harry Viens and Richard Hanson were present. Karen Ponton, Moderator Charley Hanson, Deputy Moderator Bill Ricciardi, Eric Strapp and Selectmen's Administrative Assistant Robin Woodaman were also in attendance.

AGENDA REVIEW: Mr. Drenkhahn reported Canoe Restaurant has requested permission for dining under a tent, as they did in 2020, due to the COVID-19 indoor dining restrictions; this will be discussed under New Business.

MEETING MINUTES:

- **February 10, 2021 Board of Selectmen's meeting:** Mr. Viens motioned to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2021 Board of Selectmen's meeting as presented electronically. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Roll call: Mr. Drenkhahn – aye, Mr. Viens – aye, Mr. Hanson – aye.

APPOINTMENTS:

ERIC STRAPP:

- **Convention of States movement:** Mr. Strapp wanted the Selectmen to be informed about a nationwide Convention of States movement. He reported the movement is to take powers away from the federal government, force a balanced budget, place term limits for all federal offices and reduce the powers of Congress. Mr. Strapp referenced Article 5 of the Constitution; two-thirds of the Legislature can ask for a convention for proposing constitutional amendments. Mr. Strapp reported the movement is starting in New Hampshire.

TOWN MODERATOR CHARLEY HANSON:

- **2021 Town Meeting:**
 - **Schedule:** Moderator Hanson reported the 2021 Town Meeting will follow the regular schedule; Election of Officers on Tuesday, March 9th in the Cary Mead Meeting Room (same set up as the 2020 Primary Election with the COVID-19 safety protocols in place) and the Business Session on Wednesday, March 10th in the Fire Station; masks will be required and social distancing adhered to.
 - **Amended warrant article:**
 - **Legal expenses:** The Selectmen had proposed \$20,000 for the 2021 "Legal" line item, an increase of \$5,000 from the 2020 appropriation. The Selectmen reviewed the 2021 legal expenses paid to date of \$7,513. Mr. Drenkhahn suggested amending Article 2 by increasing the "Legal" line items to \$30,000. Moderator, and Planning Board Chairman, Hanson feels it would be prudent to increase the "Legal" line item due to Planning Board matters. Mr. Viens and Mr. R. Hanson agreed.
- **Code Enforcement Officer advertisement:** Mr. C. Hanson reviewed the advertisement for the Code Enforcement Officer position and suggested the time requirements be adjusted to 8 – 12 hours per week, not the 8 – 16 hours in the current draft. He reported Code Enforcement Officer Ken Ballance averaged 9 hours per week the past couple of years.

PUBLIC INPUT: None

SELECTMEN'S REPORTS:

MR. HANSON:

- **Inter-Lakes School District (ILSD):**
 - **ILSD Annual School District Meeting:** Mr. Hanson reported the ILSD Annual School District meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 3rd in the auditorium beginning at 6:00 p.m.
 - **ILSD school operations during the pandemic:** Mr. Hanson reported he is very proud of how the ILSD schools, including sports, have operated during the pandemic protocols.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:

- **Interim Code Enforcement Officer:** Mr. Drenkhahn reported a Center Harbor resident, who has previously conducted building inspections for Mr. Ballance, has offered to volunteer his services until the position is filled. He will speak with the resident regarding his offer. Mr. Drenkhahn reported on the possibility of speaking with the Town of Moultonborough's Town Manager about assistance from their Compliance Office.

BANDSTAND REPAIRS: Parks & Recreation Director Sandy Frost reported to Ms. Woodaman information she received regarding the Meredith Rotary Club's proposed repairs to the bandstand. Ms. Frost reported the Selectmen are to submit a letter of request to the Rotary including the cost of the project and the amount of assistance they are requesting from the Club. The Selectmen requested the previously compiled information on the repairs and associated costs be submitted to them for their review to prepare a letter to the Rotary Club.

NEW BUSINESS:

TIMBER TAX ABATEMENT: The Selectmen reviewed emailed correspondence from Jane Morrill-Winter reporting she and her husband paid a set amount to build access to their lot (320 Center Harbor Neck Road) and to harvest the timber; a copy of the contract was enclosed. They did not receive income from the harvest. Ms. Woodaman reported speaking with the State of New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration (NH DRA) Forrester, who explained that the property owners paid a fee for the logging work; it is very expensive to use the logging equipment and this yield did not generate income. Mr. Hanson motioned to abate \$480.20 for Winter/Morrill-Winter Revocable Trust, Tax Map 208, Lot 36. Mr. Viens seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Roll call: Mr. Drenkhahn – aye, Mr. Viens – aye, Mr. Hanson – aye.

WEDDING VENUE IN AGRICULTURAL/RURAL ZONE: The Selectmen were informed that a property owner in the Agricultural/Rural zone may be planning to use the barn on the property as a wedding venue and open it up for community use. A letter will be sent to the property owner asking them to refer to the Town's Zoning Ordinances for allowed uses in the Agricultural/Rural zone and recommending they contact Planning/Zoning Clerk Aimee Manfredi-Sanschagrin to discuss the proposed plans.

CANOE RESTAURANT REQUEST FOR OUTSIDE DINING: Mr. Viens reported Scott Ouelette, of the Canoe Restaurant, requested permission to have a tent for outside dining this summer due to COVID indoor dining restrictions. There was discussion regarding a fire inspection; Mr. Drenkhahn reported it is an open tent with no sides; it doesn't need an inspection. Mr. Drenkhahn motioned to approve outside dining for the Canoe Restaurant for this summer due to COVID indoor dining restrictions. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Roll call: Mr. Drenkhahn – aye, Mr. Viens – aye, Mr. Hanson – aye.

ELDERLY EXEMPTIONS: Mr. Viens motioned to send letters to elderly property owners currently receiving an elderly exemption on their property requesting they submit current financial information; State of New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration requires current financial information be submitted annually for the Selectmen's review to ensure they still qualify for the exemption. Mr. Drenkhahn seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

WEBSITE:

- **Photographs:** Mr. Viens submitted possible “background” photos for use on the Town's website. The Selectmen chose additional photos to be added to the website. Ms. Ponton referenced one photo currently on the website which show a picture of Lavinia Restaurant's sign; she feels it promotes
- **Resource Links page:** The Selectmen received an email request from AddictionGroup.com to link to the Town's Resource Links page; per the email the page provides general resources to seniors experiencing alcohol use disorder. Mr. Drenkhahn reported he was not in favor of approving this request; Mr. Viens and Mr. Hanson agreed.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

- **New hires:** Mr. Viens motioned to hire Sam Keenen and Alex Bosse as members of the Fire Department pending successful background checks. Mr. Drenkhahn seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Roll call: Mr. Drenkhahn – aye, Mr. Viens – aye, Mr. Hanson – aye.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

- **Winter sand:** Road Agent Jeff Haines requested permission to erect the following sign at the Town's winter sand pile at the entrance to the Highway Garage: “Winter sand is for taxpayer use on property in Center Harbor and not for contractor use or resale.” Permission was granted.

PLANNING BOARD (PB):

- **Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC) Circuit Rider Planner Assistance:** Mr. Drenkhahn motioned to contract, pending Town Meeting approval, with LRPC for Circuit Rider Planner assistance at the rate of \$81 per hour; the cost for general support assistance will not exceed \$3,000 through December 31, 2021 unless this agreement is modified by the Town and LRPC. Mr. Viens seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Roll call: Mr. Drenkhahn – aye, Mr. Viens – aye, Mr. Hanson – aye.

PARKS & RECREATION:

- **Band concert:** Mr. Drenkhahn motioned to approve the re-scheduled (from August 27, 2021 to August 20, 2021) Annie & The Orphans concert. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion

and the vote was unanimous. Roll call: Mr. Drenkhahn – aye, Mr. Viens – aye, Mr. Hanson – aye.

- **Facility Use application:** The Selectmen previously received Center Harbor Congregational Church’s Facility Use application to hold an Easter sunrise service on April 4, 2021 for thirty people on the Center Harbor Town Beach. The Selectmen previously tabled action on the application until closer to the date to see what COVID protocols were in place; action was tabled until closer to Easter.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE:

- **State of New Hampshire Department of Safety (NH DOS):** Mr. Hanson motioned to authorize E. M. Heath, Inc. to be a Deputy Collector of Boat Taxes for 2021. Mr. Viens seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Roll call: Mr. Drenkhahn – aye, Mr. Viens – aye, Mr. Hanson – aye.
- **State of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NH DES):** The Selectmen received notification from NH DES of groundwater contamination in a location on Route 25B. Mr. Hanson will contact NH DES for more information.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- **Cemeteries:** The Selectmen received an email from Shirley White, the Historian of the Mary Butler Chapter of the DAR, requesting the names of cemeteries are not changed without an “aka”; it is a big problem for people doing genealogy work. This information will be forwarded to Town Clerk Mary Richardson (also a Cemetery Trustee).

PAYROLL AND CURRENT BILLS PAYABLE: Mr. Drenkhahn motioned to approve the payroll and accounts payable manifests as presented. Mr. Viens seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Roll call: Mr. Drenkhahn – aye, Mr. Viens – aye, Mr. Hanson – aye.

PUBLIC INPUT:

KAREN PONTON:

- **Meeting schedules and time:** Ms. Ponton asked when the next Selectmen’s meeting will be. The Selectmen will be in session all day, Tuesday, March 9th for the Election of Officers, the Business Session will be Wednesday, March 10th. The Selectmen will then meet every other week beginning Wednesday, March 24th; the meetings will start at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:13 p.m. Mr. Drenkhahn motioned to adjourn the Board of Selectmen’s meeting. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Roll call: Mr. Drenkhahn – aye, Mr. Viens – aye, Mr. Hanson – aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Woodaman
Selectmen’s Administrative Assistant