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Town of Danville
Board of Selectmen
Monday, March 4, 2024
7:00 pm

Meeting is Video-Recorded

Selectmen present: Shawn O’Neil, Chairman; Annemarie Inman, Vice Chair; Dennis Griffiths; Sheila Johannesen

Others present: Kim Burnham, Selectmen’s Administrator; Paul Taglieri; Dave Knight

Shawn called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with a moment of silence for the troops who put themselves in harm’s way. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. Delegate Session

Paul Taglieri told the Board that the salaries of town employees are not included in the town’s annual report. Shawn said he was made aware of that by another resident, and he contacted MRI to produce the report, it was then given to Janet Denison who assembles and edits the town report, and a revised edition was given to the Selectmen’s office, all within 24 hours. Sheila said she emailed Shawn when she noticed it was missing. Shawn said he never got the email. Shawn explained this list is not a required report but has been customarily included. Annemarie pointed out where on the town website the report can be found.

Paul asked about Paul Pizzuro and an incident involving cooking food at the Pizzuro residence. Shawn said that someone was picking winners and losers in the town on a personal basis. He said if someone is going to pass judgement, it should be with a broad stroke and not just against people you dislike. Paul said that a resident lodged a complaint which went to Sheila. Sheila contacted the state to see if Mr. Pizzuro had the proper license to be cooking in that manner and she was told that he did not. She then talked to the health officer who issued a cease and desist against Mr. Pizzuro. Shawn explained that a subsequent letter from the state indicated that Mr. Pizzuro did not need a license because he met the minimum threshold. Paul said that the ingredients Mr. Pizzuro was using require refrigeration. He said he understands the health code is a mess and as an example said there is one set of rules for baked goods and another set of rules for canteen trucks. Paul said that all Sheila did was follow the law and get the right people to the right places.

Annemarie asked when this incident took place and she was told it was in 2021. She pointed out that Paul’s comments to the Board all deal with Sheila and asked if there’s a reason he’s particularly defending her. Paul said that the Selectmen don’t have to like each other but should treat each other with respect and said Shawn has directed impolite comments toward Sheila. Annemarie said Shawn and Sheila have been at odds toward each other and she’s heard discourteous comments from Sheila directed at Shawn.

Paul referred to a more recent incident involving social media. He said that Shawn is articulate, a great orator and very smart. He said it is not good to hear Shawn speak “to the gutter” when he can speak very eloquently. Shawn spoke about the timeframe of the comment to which Paul was referring, saying the matters at that time were akin to Rome is burning. He explained that the default budget was not posted in a timely manner, which will be discussed more fully later in the meeting, and that the office staff was trying to remedy this as well as it could but was hindered in different ways. Shawn said the Selectmen just don’t have the bandwidth to deal with all of that. Kim, the selectmen’s administrator, was in contact with the NHDRA to keep the town from being in default. Meanwhile, someone else was “barking orders” rather than offering assistance. He said it would have been very easy for someone who’s retired to offer to post something to keep the town from being in default, but he would not expect that from Sheila. Shawn said he was frustrated and made the aforementioned comment on social media. He said that Sheila likes to “pour gasoline on fires” and after his comment, she contacted the newspapers and Paul to make herself look like a victim.

Paul asked why moderators keep quitting. Annemarie said that has nothing to do with this conversation. Dennis reminded Paul that the last time he was at a Selectmen’s meeting insulting the Board, he was told to run for a seat on the Board and Paul had said he’d think about it. Dennis asked Paul, if he has so many opinions, comes to the meetings to argue when he has only half the information, why did he not run for Selectmen. Paul said he didn’t want to run for Selectmen. Annemarie and Dennis asked why and Paul said it’s a lot of work. Paul said he just wants to see the Board members work together; Annemarie and Dennis said they do just that.

Dennis told Paul that it’s all on video and in the minutes that Paul has reprimanded Shawn for how he talks to another Board member, and he’s personally insulted Dennis and Annemarie. Dennis said that Paul is not setting an example of civility yet he’s telling the Board to be civil. Paul said the Board plays “follow the leader” and pointed at Shawn as the leader. Dennis and Annemarie pointed out that that comment was insulting and said the discussion has been unproductive and needs to end as his five minutes during the delegate portion has ended.

II. Agenda

Acceptance of Unanticipated Revenue – K9 Donations

Shawn explained that, per DRA, there are \$15,400.00 of wages already spent for the K9 unit. This is money that needs to be withdrawn from the grant and put back into the general fund. This is reimbursing the town out of the grant. These are wages for all the classwork for Officer Crue. Sheila made and Dennis seconded a **motion to withdraw \$15,400.00 out of the grant to be deposited into the general fund**. The motion **passed** unanimously.

Police Department Building Update

Shawn said this is a place holder on the agenda as a reminder to discuss as updates occur.

Budget Acceptance per NHDRA

Shawn explained, as mentioned earlier, the budget was not properly posted according to the NHDRA. Shawn tried to lobby with them toward lenience because the corrective measures are mundane and costly

to the town but was not successful. To correct this, the town must hold another election similar to the Deliberative Session in which one question will be asked. This meeting can be held a minimum of 21 days after the election in March. It will be posted like a public hearing with proper notifications including the time, place, and purpose. It does not have to be a formal written ballot, but can be a hand count or voice count, whichever is the moderator's preference. There is not a minimum number of people who need to attend, but the final decision will be whatever the majority vote is of those in attendance. Per the town attorney, this was explained to the public during the Deliberative Session, but the DRA is adamant that an additional meeting needs to be held. The town has been told that the DRA will not consider anything from the March election as valid until this additional meeting is held.

Shawn said that this started with the Budget Committee, and we are dealing with the fallout. He recommended to the Board that this additional meeting notice occur as soon after the election as possible. Annemarie asked if there are specific guidelines for the number of hours that need to be set aside for this. Shawn said he attended a similar corrective election at the school level and after explaining the purpose of the meeting, it was open to discussion and questions before the vote was taken. Annemarie pointed out that there may be certain hours that people cannot attend, and asked if there was anything said by DRA about being mindful of hours and days to conduct the meeting. Shawn suggested having this on a weekday around 7pm. He's aware of this happening in other states and these meetings are held during the day in anticipation of not having many people attend, but he wouldn't support that. Sheila asked about having this on Saturday. Annemarie said there are sometimes restrictions put on when these can be held, and this should be verified. It is anticipated that this will have low attendance anyway. There was a short discussion about what day of the week to hold the meeting. The moderator and Barry Hantman have been notified as this will require the Supervisors of the Checklist and camera operators.

Dave Knight asked what would happen if the town voted no at this meeting. Shawn said he did not know. He said the default budget is the minimum the town has at the moment. The vote concerns the delta between the default and the proposed warrant articles; therefore, the warrant articles are on hold until this extra meeting. Shawn said the dollar amount difference can be dealt with, but the worst part is that the appropriate people could have prevented this early on. He said the Budget Committee wanted to be in charge of this but now the town is having to deal with the problems that's created.

Dave Knight said the wording of the notice needs to be exactly what DRA wants. Dennis asked if the question to be discussed needs to be posted and he was told that it will be in the notice as to be as informative as possible. Sheila asked if absentee ballots will be used. Dennis said that he didn't think so if the majority vote of those in attendance is the deciding vote. The date to hold this meeting will be determined later.

III. Minutes

The public minutes of Monday, February 20, 2024, were reviewed. Sheila made and Annemarie seconded a **motion to approve the Monday, February 20, 2024, public minutes as amended**. Dennis abstained as he was not in attendance. Shawn, Sheila, and Annemarie voted in favor. The motion **passed**.

The non-public minutes of Monday, February 20, 2024, were reviewed. Sheila made and Annemarie seconded a **motion to approve the Monday, February 20, 2024, non-public minutes as amended**. Dennis abstained as he was not in attendance. Shawn, Sheila, and Annemarie voted in favor. The motion **passed**.

The non-public minutes of Monday, February 26, 2024, were reviewed. Sheila made and Annemarie seconded a **motion to approve the Monday, February 26, 2024, non-public minutes as amended**. The motion **passed** unanimously.

IV. Signature File

The tax map contract was signed along with other documents.

V. Old/New Business

No new business was discussed.

VI. Announcements

Tuesday, March 12: Town & School Election Session, Community Center 8am-8 pm

Monday, March 18: Board of Selectmen Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm

Friday, March 29: Senior Coffee Hour, Community Center 10am-12pm

Saturday, April 20: Rabies Clinic, Kimball Safety Complex, 10am-12pm

At 7:40pm, Sheila made and Annemarie seconded a **motion to go to a non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II (b)**. A roll call vote was taken:

Shawn:	yes
Dennis:	yes
Sheila:	yes
Annemarie:	yes

The motion **passed** unanimously.

Shawn stated the public portion of the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Denison