

GOFFSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING OF JANUARY 18, 2016

In attendance were Chairman Peter Georgantas, Vice Chairman Mark Lemay, Selectman Scott Gross, Selectman Collis Adams, Selectman Allen Brown, Selectman Scott Gross and Town Administrator Sue Desruisseaux.

6:00 PM CALL TO ORDER by Chairman Georgantas.

The Board said the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Town Administrator Desruisseaux said there are no non-public meeting minutes this week. They didn't have a non-public session. They did have a non-meeting.

Vice Chairman Lemay made a motion to approve the public minutes to the Board of Selectmen's meeting of January 11, 2016. Selectman Adams seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0-1. Selectman Brown abstained due to his absence from that meeting. All in favor. Motion carries.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Georgantas addressed the Town and School openings for the upcoming election. For the Town, we have 2 openings for the Board of Selectmen for 3 years; for the Budget Committee we have 4 openings for 3 years, 2 openings for 2 years, and 2 openings for 1 year; for Cemetery Trustee we have one opening for 3 years and 1 opening for 2 years; for Library Trustee we have 2 openings for 3 years and one opening for 1 year; for Planning Board we have 2 openings for 3 years; for Sewer Commission we have 1 opening for 3 years and 1 opening for 2 years; for Supervisor of the Checklist we have 1 opening for 6 years and 1 opening for 2 years; for Town Moderator there is 1 opening for 2 years; for Trustee of the Trust Funds there is 1 opening for 3 years; and for Zoning Board there are 2 openings for 3 years. On the School side, we have 3 openings for 3 years. Official openings above have been updated from the January 4, 2016 original posting. Future resignations of elected officials may add to candidate openings through the close of the business day, January 19, 2016. Candidate filing opens at the Town Clerk's Office, Wednesday, January 20th, during regular Town Hall business hours, and ends Friday, January 29th at 5 pm. Candidates filing on the last filing day must appear in person.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Selectmen's Meeting Schedule

Town Administrator Desruisseaux said this Wednesday at 6:30 pm is the meeting of the Library Trustees. And Parks & Recreation meets on Wednesday at 7 pm. Selectman Adams said he just got an email from Planning Board Chairman Barbara Griffin who has called an emergency meeting this Thursday, which he cannot attend. It is to discuss the Briarwood Bond release. Selectman Gross said he is set to attend the Parks & Recreation meeting on Wednesday. Vice Chairman Lemay said he is fairly sure he can attend the Planning Board meeting and will confirm with Town Administrator Desruisseaux tomorrow. Town Administrator Desruisseaux said alternate 2 is Selectman Brown.

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Consensus Folder

Chairman Georgantas said there is an employee status report of a retirement and a Special Officer assignment. There is also a Federal Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification (Police Department).

Selectman Adams made a motion to approve the Consensus folder. Selectman Brown seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.

Assessor's Recommendations

Town Administrator Desruisseaux said there are 2015 Betterment Abatements recommended for Map 24, Lot 43. There are Solar Energy System Exemptions recommended for Map 16, Lot 208. There are Veteran Tax Credits recommended for Map 21, Lot 79, Map 2, Lot 16-10, and Map 2, Lot 16-10. There are two on that lot.

Selectman Brown made a motion to accept the Assessor's recommendations. Vice Chairman Lemay seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.

HUNTER ALDENBERG - EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Hunter Aldenberg said he is here regarding an Eagle Scout project. He provided handouts to the Board.

His project is to improve the 60 foot portion at the beginning of the Rail Trail leading up to the abutment that borders the Piscataquog River. It will include installing an aluminum fence into the stone abutment for safety, removal of the existing yellow guardrail, and putting loam and seed on the shoulders of the trail. He will also put gravel nit pack in the center, which is a 10 foot wide portion of the trail. That will extend 60 feet leading to the stone abutment. He addressed pictures of what he was talking about. They will install wooden rail fencing 24 feet down the trail. His plan is to start the project in May and to work on it throughout the summer until it is complete. A company called John White Stone Masonry will provide labor to install the metal fencing into the stone abutment by drilling holes into the granite. At that point we will put the posts in for the aluminum fencing.

David Pierce, 21 Mill Street, said he will be the community sponsor in his role in Friends of the Rail Trail to accept the completed project when it's done. The granite abutments are historical. It's not right for a volunteer to start drilling holes in there. It should be done by a professional fence installer. DPW will contract with that so it will be a Town contract for installing the fencing.

The money will be from the scout to the Town. Selectman Adams clarified there would be a portion of steel fence on top of the abutment. Hunter Aldenberg said it would be aluminum fencing. David Pierce said it would be like at the rotary. Selectman Adams clarified coming off of that, would be sections of wooden fencing. Hunter Aldenberg said yes. David Pierce said the 24 feet approaching the trail tend to have some steep embankments so it serves for protection. It will be the same as what we've been using.

Selectman Adams asked if they have checked with the Division of Historic Resources to make sure they have no problems with it. He thinks it's an historic bridge abutment. David Pierce said

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they have not. Selectman Adams suggested they do so. David Pierce said he knows who to call and will work with Hunter Aldenberg to do that.

Selectman Gross said it seems like a very good project. He walked it a month or two ago. It is ripe for this type of project and he commends him for this type of selection. It will be a really nice addition, especially when you want to watch the Pumpkin Regatta.

Selectman Gross made a motion they approve Hunter Aldenberg's Eagle Scout project proposal. Selectman Adams seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENT—There was no public comment.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT (continued):

Final Annual Warrant—vote on recommendations and identify speaker for each article

Town Administrator Desruisseaux said section 7d of the Selectmen's packets includes the recommendations of the Budget Committee on the Draft Warrant. Now we need the Selectmen's tally on their recommendations.

Article 13 is the Fire Station bond.

Selectman Gross made a motion to recommend Article 13 on the warrant. Selectman Adams seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.

Town Administrator Desruisseaux said Article 14 is the operating budget, amended by \$5,000.

Vice Chairman Lemay made a motion to recommend Article 14 on the warrant. Selectman Adams seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.

Town Administrator Desruisseaux said Article 15 is the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the firefighters.

Selectman Gross made a motion to recommend Article 15 on the warrant. Selectman Adams seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.

Town Administrator Desruisseaux said Article 16 is the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund.

Vice Chairman Lemay made a motion to recommend Article 16 on the warrant. Selectman Gross seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.

Town Administrator Desruisseaux said Article 17 is the \$280,000 for the harnesses and equipment we added. She added the term "equipment" because, in his presentation at the hearing, the Fire Chief said "and equipment," so she wants to make sure it is broad enough they can get what they need for the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and Jaws-of-Life.

Vice Chairman Lemay made a motion to recommend Article 17 on the warrant. Selectman Adams seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.

Town Administrator Desruisseaux said Article 18 is for \$230,000 to purchase a new ambulance, with the money coming from the Special Ambulance Fund.

Selectman Gross made a motion to recommend Article 18 on the warrant. Selectman Adams seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.

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Town Administrator Desruisseaux said Article 19 is \$250,000 for Goffstown's Road Improvement Program.

Selectman Adams made a motion to recommend Article 19 on the warrant. Selectman Brown seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.

Town Administrator Desruisseaux said Article 20 is for \$20,000 for Goffstown Main Street Program.

Selectman Adams made a motion to recommend Article 20 on the warrant. Selectman Gross seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.

Town Administrator Desruisseaux said Article 21 is for \$20,000 for Crispin's House.

Vice Chairman Lemay made a motion to recommend Article 21 on the warrant. Selectman Brown seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.

Town Administrator Desruisseaux said Article 22 is for \$15,000 for Goffstown Waterways Association and Namaske Lake Association to manage milfoil. Selectman Gross said you may see an amendment at the Deliberative Session on Article 22 to include language similar to Article 19, which has to do with being in the operating budget. Some people feel it is an operating expense.

Selectman Adams made a motion to recommend Article 22 on the warrant. Selectman Brown seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.

Town Administrator Desruisseaux said Article 23 is the housekeeping article to adopt RSA 41:9-a, to establish and amend fees as outlined in the statute until rescinded. There is a piece of legislation about recommending authorization articles. In the past there was dissention. Selectman Gross said they are allowed to.

Selectman Gross made a motion to recommend Article 23 on the warrant. Vice Chairman Lemay seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.

Chairman Georgantas said Article 24 would be discussed later.

Town Administrator Desruisseaux said Article 25 is a petitioned article to keep big money out of government. She asked who wants to speak on which articles at the Town Meeting. Selectman Gross said he would speak to Article 13—the Bond. Chairman Georgantas said he would speak to article 14—the budget. Selectman Brown said he would speak to Article 19—the Road Improvement Program. Selectman Gross said he would speak to Article 15—the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Vice Chairman Lemay said he would speak to Article 16—the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund. He said he would also speak to Article 17—the SCBA and Jaws-of-Life. Selectman Adams said he would speak to Article 18—the new ambulance. Selectman Adams said he would speak to Article 20—Goffstown Main Street Program, and to Article 22—for milfoil. Selectman Gross said he would speak to Article 21—Crispin's House. Chairman Georgantas said he would address Article 23—regarding RSA 41:9-a.

SELECTMEN'S DISCUSSION

Committee Reports:

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Sewer Commission

Selectman Adams said we discussed the article, which we will hear more about later.

Budget Committee

Selectman Gross said the Budget Committee recommended all of the Town articles as well as the two School articles. The Budget Committee commended the Selectmen and Administration for a really good budget. It was fiscally sound and that's why the votes were unanimous.

Planning Board

Selectman Adams said there was a woman there who submitted a petitioned article for sandwich boards in the Commercial and Commercial Industrial Flex zones to be allowed within 10 feet of the property. She owns a nail salon in Goffstown Plaza. There was some discussion and at the end the Board took a vote of 5-0-1 to recommend the proposed change. We talked of a conceptual review hearing for Goffstown Junior Baseball to build a parking lot on the easterly end of the field where the gravel field is. A lot of issues came up—an Eversource easement, Rail Trail, drainage study, and other items. They are in a tough spot. The folks who bought the Villa property refuse to let them use the parking lot. It's a big problem because there is no way they are going to get this through for this year. It was suggested they approach the owners of the Villa property with a \$1 million insurance policy and an offer to lease it for one year. Selectman Gross asked if the Select Board should intervene in a friendly way. We could send a letter explaining we've had a very long history of that parking lot and the Villa assisting with Junior Baseball for parking. We could tell them we'd appreciate their consideration in giving Junior Baseball time to go through these processes. He says that because, hopefully, they want to be a good neighbor. The voters of the community changed the zoning for that parcel. It would be a good gesture to the Town and the people to let them park there another summer. Selectman Adams said that would be good but he suggests first letting Junior Baseball approach them. If it comes back "no" again it may be the proper time. Chairman Georgantas suggested being cautious because they may want something down the road and come back saying they gave us the use of the parking lot. Selectman Adams said it would depend on how the lease is written for that one year. He'll keep tabs on it. Selectman Gross said he doesn't want it to be a quid pro quo. The law allows 25 people to put forth a zoning change to change the zoning of that parcel again. Chairman Georgantas said it is a citizen's right to do that, but as a Board he's not sure they should intervene with a private organization.

Selectman Adams said they addressed Briar Woods, and they are holding the emergency meeting for that this Thursday to deal with the bond release.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Georgantas said there is no new business, but he wants to remind everyone of the election class at the High School. It is from 9 am -11:30am on January 23. There is a quiz they want you to take online beforehand so you will have an idea what the program is about.

Selectman Gross said he spoke with Cathy Ball. We need an answer quickly. The High School Athletic Director had scheduled a basketball game on Primary Day. It has been cancelled and he is looking to reschedule it for the Monday prior. If we do choose to use the main gym, it would

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have to be rescheduled again. The sooner we know the better it is for them to make those arrangements.

Chairman Georgantas said he scheduled the Town Clerk Cathy Ball, the Fire Chief, the Police Chief, and DPW Director to come in next week to discuss the whole issue. We're all on the same page.

OLD BUSINESS

Action Matrix

Vice Chairman Lemay said there is nothing new regarding Grasmere Town Hall. Assistant Town Administrator Horne was waiting for someone to come in to tend to the compressor downstairs. Chairman Georgantas said we are going to meet with the Sewer Department. Selectman Gross said the next EDC meeting, on February 10th, is the meeting at which they will meet with realtors. Selectman Adams said the subcommittee is still waiting on the study. Chairman Georgantas said they know what the story is regarding the US Postal Service. Selectman Adams said the planning issues will follow when we get beyond the zoning stuff. Chairman Georgantas said they need to get back on track for department head evaluations. We should start scheduling them right after the elections. Town Administrator Desruisseaux said it should be after the Deliberative Session but before elections. We have the public hearing tonight for the Finke easement, and we also meet with the Sewer Commission tonight.

PUBLIC HEARING: ACCEPTING EXECUTORY INTEREST IN A CONSERVATION EASEMENT—Map 12, Lot 6-3 off Montelona Road

Chairman Georgantas said in compliance with RSA 41:14-1 the Selectman announce Public Hearings on January 4, 2016 and January 18, 2016 starting at 6:30 pm at Town Hall, 16 Main Street, Goffstown, NH to accept an executory interest in a Conservation Easement on approximately 60 acres on Map 12, Lot 6-3 on Montelona Road. The Selectman plan to vote on January 25, 2016. Any person with a disability who needs a reasonable accommodation please call Town Hall at 497-8990 ext 100 at least 72 hours in advance for arrangements. This is the second meeting.

Chairman Georgantas opened the public hearing at 6:30 pm.

There was no public comment and the public hearing was closed at 6:31 pm.

SEWER COMMISSIONERS TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE CHANGE IN GOVERNANCE

Sewer Commissioners Robert Trzepacz, Stephen Crean, and Cathy Whooten were present. Chairman Georgantas said we are here to talk about a possible change in governance of the Sewer Commission. There is an article on the ballot for it—Article 24—and it can be taken off if something changes and we decide not to go forward with it. The article is *“to see if the Town will vote to abolish the Sewer Commission effective March 15, 2017.”* That allows a full year to get together and make sure everything is running efficiently.

Commissioner Crean asked what they are hoping to gain by this. Selectman Adams said he met with the Sewer Commissioners Thursday afternoon and told them we had discussed some efficiencies that may be gained from it. They had some concerns and he suggested the Sewer

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Commissioners show up for the meeting tonight. If we think it's the appropriate thing to do, we will. If not, we'll take other actions. Chairman Georgantas said what he read was that the Sewer Commission was formed when we had a road agent and no other professionals on site. Now we have a full staff with an engineer and people at DPW who are doing Sewer Department work. It seems to him to be another layer of governance in between and it would be more efficient to eliminate that layer.

Commissioner Whooten asked the cost of transferring the responsibilities of the Sewer Commission to the DPW. Town Administrator Desruisseaux said it would be transferred to this Board. Chairman Georgantas said DPW would be operating under this Board. Commissioner Whooten asked who would be responsible for Sewer Ordinances. Who would be responsible for attending meetings at the Manchester Waste Water Plant? Who would be responsible for overseeing the grants? Who would be responsible for doing the work we do on a volunteer basis? Who would absorb that at DPW and what would the cost be?

Chairman Georgantas said part of the answer is that the Board of Selectman would decide who would do that. It could be a Board member or someone from DPW. That would be a decision of this Board. It's not uncommon to eliminate middle management and that's what we're doing. We're trying to make it more efficient. Our job as Selectmen is to operate the Town as efficiently as we can. By eliminating another layer of management in between, he thinks they are doing that.

Selectman Gross said he thinks there are greater efficiencies to be gained. This is not the only commission he would consider folding. A lot of these commissions started in the 30's, 40's, and 50's. It was a different era. He thinks we have a dedicated DPW, so we don't have road agents. We have folks in charge of environmental issues. We have the technical expertise within DPW to make this a seamless transition. He's not diminishing what they have done over their many years of service. But sometimes you have to make progressive type changes. He thinks it's a good idea. Regardless of who would be going to the meetings, they would have the ability to attend those meetings. They also keep hearing that, even developers want a greater degree of simplicity. Dealing with the Sewer Commission is another layer they have to go to. He thinks it can be streamlined so they don't have to go to so many.

Selectman Brown said he fails to see where they will save anything. The Sewer Department runs efficiently. If we have DPW run it, are they going to say they need more people? Right now we're not paying for any of this work.

Selectman Gross said when he takes an outsiders look at this, we have personnel at Town Hall so the space is Town Hall space. We provide all of the accounting back up to the Sewer Commission. We already have a town employee who works for Sewer who is dealing with the billing and other issues. We provide the administrative and technical support. We have DPW employees who work for sewer and almost have two different people to report to—the Sewer Commission and their department head, which is then us. He doesn't think it's right for one person to have multiple bosses. Because all these resources are shared, he doesn't think it's such a big change. Administratively, when it comes to developing a budget, this Board develops a \$20 million budget. He doesn't think budget-wise we'll see a lot of difference. In terms of

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keeping up with regulations, etc., we've been dealing with storm water retention and issues, EPA things, etc. On the DPW side we have two engineers. Adam Jacobs is an engineer. The bad thing is it comes across as a slight to these people here, but he doesn't think it's a slight. It's not intended to be a slight. It's intended to be one less thing.

Selectman Adams asked how having a Sewer Commission slows down development projects. Selectman Gross said if a developer comes in to town, they go to the Sewer Commission. If they aren't here, where would they go? Selectman Adams said they would come to the Selectmen. Selectman Gross said if someone wants to do something in Goffstown they potentially have to go to a Sewer Commission, a Conservation Commission, a Planning Board, maybe the Selectmen for an easement issue. There are more things they have to go through. There are a lot of things that we used to do as a Board of Selectmen that our department heads now do. This Board does have the capacity to take on some of those responsibilities.

Vice Chairman Lemay said he agrees with what has been said at the table tonight. Times have changed. Streamlining some of the things we do might make things a little easier. He thinks who we have at the DPW could handle what we have. He's in favor of making the change.

Commissioner Crean said one thing being overlooked is that there is \$2.5 million in the Sewer Fund right now. We've been very conservative with our spending over the years. Between 1992 and today, sewer rates have only gone up about 64%. Taxes have gone up 200-250%. The Sewer Commission has been very efficient. Our job is to protect the rate users as to what happens with that money. What's in the best interest of the rate payer and the tax payer isn't always the same thing. There are constant conflicts into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. For example, when we re-did Pinardville we got ½ million dollars from the federal government. According to their guidelines all we had to do was rip up the street and do trench repair. And that was acceptable. But you'd just have a mess. So we got together with the highway department to come up with something else. So we took the money for the trench overlay and figured out what a total overlay would be. We contributed the money from the trench overlay plus 25% to make the deal a little sweeter and we got the whole project done. It's the same with the drainage. Sewer is usually with the drainage. In Pinardville the drainage was all rotten. You'd be foolish to repair it. So at every point it was negotiated who would pay. The Sewer Department would pay so much and the Town would pay so much. When the \$2.5M is under Selectmen control will you be sticking up for the rate payers and the taxpayers? And will you take that money and put it into other areas? We've talked about the Daniel Plummer Road project. The biggest thing he feels slighted about is that the Board says it's on the warrant and this is the first time we've sat down and talked about it.

Chairman Georgantas said it is on the warrant but doesn't necessarily have to stay there. We are still in the stages where that can come and go. But it's on there for tonight and we're bringing it up for discussion. He's not sure about the question of comingling of the funds. It's still going to be an enterprise fund. Commissioner Crean said, using the sewer and drainage work in Pinardville, you could have said the Sewer was paying for everything. That would be under your purview.

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Chairman Georgantas said we've learned from the Commission how things are supposed to be done. Our DPW has learned from you how things should be done. Why would we change it? If it's a sewer problem, sewer pays for it. If it's a town problem, the town pays for it. We can comingle the projects just like you said you did in Pinardville. Why can't we do that? Commissioner Crean said the 5 of you know how but in a few years there might be different people sitting there.

Selectman Gross said the beauty of it is that, like you and this Board, the members of the community elect us. The rate payers do not solely elect the Sewer Commissioners. All citizens elect the Sewer Commission and the Board of Selectmen. If someone or a Board did something whacky, there is a whole set of checks and balances for things to get verified. The concern of comingling of funds is noteworthy. But the Town has elected us, and the School Board, to oversee and manage the things of the Town and School. The voters would essentially be asking us to pick up another \$2-3 million of responsibility.

Selectman Brown asked if they would next be taking over the water precinct and Manchester water coming into town. Chairman Georgantas said those are set up differently.

Selectman Adams said one thing he heard Thursday was how important it is for people to volunteer so they feel like they belong, are contributing, and they bring their expertise and experience to the community. That stuck with him. As a member of many different boards, he understands it's the lifeblood of the community.

Commissioner Trzepacz said he has 20+ years of wastewater experience. That's what he does day in and day out. That's why he was approached to fill the vacancy on the Sewer Commission. He had never considered serving before. There are a lot of differences between highway engineering and sanitary engineering. There are a lot of nuances that go into a project when you start talking of the pump station infrastructure we have and the age of it. He's been on the Commission about three months and hasn't been in every pump station, but is interested seeing them because he speaks that language. In the course of a project he'd be in a position to advice people on it. If you had to count on that from an outside source you are paying about \$140 per hour, or whatever the billing rates are of a consultant. Selectman Gross asked what would prohibit the Town from having an advisory group. Chairman Georgantas said he doesn't want to get rid of one to start another.

Commissioner Whooten asked how much experience the Selectmen have in dealing with sewer matters. Chairman Georgantas asked her how much experience she had before becoming a Sewer Commissioner. Commissioner Whooten said she had some because of attending Planning Board and different committee meetings and listening to how the sewer operates within those plans. Chairman Georgantas said we do the same things and have the same experience you do. We don't have the experience of Commissioners Crean or Trzepacz. But we are lucky to have people in the town.

Commissioner Crean said he may stick around, but who knows? It's his profession. It's been great having him. He's ushered this in with Jim Bouchard, who Commissioner Trzepacz replaced. All it takes is an election and you don't have the expertise. By turning it over to DPW

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the election isn't going to eliminate the expertise. Cathy Whooten said Commissioner Crean has been on the Commission since 1992. For Commissioner Trzepacz, she's sure he didn't run just for the remainder of this term. She believes he will run for another three years. When you put that together you realize these two people have sewer related knowledge second to none, and they offer it to this town for nothing. As Mike Walton from DPW said, who will he call? Right now she has the choice of calling either Commissioner Trzepacz or Commissioner Crean who are extremely knowledgeable. If that was to change they'd have to call someone on the Board of Selectmen. Those positions change annually. Chairman Georgantas said he's not sure the chain of command would be from Mike Walton to the Board of Selectmen. That would be set up later on, not now. Selectman Brown said you may have to call an outside engineer. The DPW engineers may not have the expertise. Chairman Georgantas said they will never have the expertise unless they get involved in it.

Selectman Gross said he knows what we've had over the last 20 years. But it's an elected board. You are an elected board and have the expertise. You could be replaced with three people who have name recognition but no experience whatsoever who are looking to do exactly what you don't want to see done with \$2.5 million in a fund. Where are the checks and balances there? We've been fortunate to have the expertise we've had on this commission, but there is no guarantee someone won't run with next to no experience. There is no qualifier that requires a level of expertise to run for the position. You just have to be a resident of Goffstown. It is the same with the Selectmen. There is no prerequisite of education or skill level. Commissioner Whooten said it might be better to place an article on the warrant when there wasn't the expertise on the Commission to handle the issues and to support sewer users. Chairman Georgantas said we can't do that. It has to be in before the people run. The time isn't there to put in a warrant article because the people running aren't qualified.

Commissioner Trzepacz said one thing heard this time of year is the wish for better voter turnout and the wish for more people getting involved. What you are doing is contrary to getting people involved. Chairman Georgantas said he understands that. It would be helpful to have people like you on the Planning Board. Sometimes we don't have people with the knowledge that you do. People get in just because of name recognition or not enough people sign up. All of a sudden we have people who have no clue about planning on the Planning Board. When you (Commissioner Whooten) signed up, you had no one run against you. Town Administrator Desruisseaux said she brings her accounting expertise to the table. Commissioner Whooten said she ran against Paul LaPearl and won. Chairman Georgantas said he had a lot of expertise when it came to sewer. Using your own analogies, who would have been a better person to have on the Sewer Commission?

Selectman Gross asked, in towns similar in size to ours, how many have sewer commissions. Commissioner Crean said maybe 60%. He used the Town of Bedford as an example. They went to charter reform. They knocked off the Board of Selectmen, eliminated the Budget Committee, they changed the Planning Board and the ZBA from elected to appointed, and then instituted a 7 member council. They consolidated all the power and gave most of it to a Town Manager. Following your logic, the next step would be to change the Planning Board to an appointed board to be able change the membership when you don't like someone. Commissioner Trzepacz said

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Rollinsford, Epping, Allenstown, Pembroke, and probably others, have Sewer Commissions. These are just ones he's dealt with.

Selectman Gross said we are the 14th largest municipality in the State of NH and he doesn't feel we've evolved like a 14th largest municipality. We still do a lot of things like we did decades ago, which doesn't work as well. There are two schools of thoughts. One is that government is not intended to be efficient but is intended to be time consuming, etc. The other thought is that if you can streamline things, it helps to expedite things and make them go a little smoother. It's time to make some changes.

Commissioner Trzepacz said there is a metric we've not discussed, and that is how much of the land here is sewered. That causes a division and is one thing that necessitates a commission because we have a very different population of sewer rate payers versus the whole town. There are specific technical needs there and project accounting needs that go along with it.

Selectman Gross said, regarding cost savings, he was on the Board when the sewer project was done in Pinardville. The Selectman at the time, and the employees at Town Hall and at DPW spent a ton of time and energy and effort into the project. They were the ones who fielded the phone calls from business owners. We had to deal with all of the meetings and dealing with the public, so he doesn't necessarily agree there is a cost savings. There is a Sewer Commission but the Town bore a lot of the costs and a lot of the abuse on that one. Carl Quiram took a pretty good beating on that also. It goes both ways.

Commissioner Crean said everyone took a beating on that one but look what we ended up with compared to what it used to look like. It's beautiful. Everyone chipped in and did their part. It was one of the better success stories. Commissioner Whooten said the Sewer Commission never questioned paying the employees at DPW, but the project was under the eyes of the Sewer Commissioners. Phone calls should have been received at the Sewer Commission Department. Foremost of all, taxpayers realized a great benefit from our doing that because the Town was able to get their drainage system in while the road was open. We tarred that road and sidewalked a sidewalk. We never asked the Town or taxpayers to pay for any of that road paving. If you had to open that road again, and it was because of Carl Quiram looking to save taxpayers dollars, and with the cooperation between the DPW and Sewer Commission, we saved the taxpayers and the sewer payers dollars. We were able to finance \$1.25 million for 20 years at zero percent interest. Why, when you have the expertise sitting in front of you, and we've been able to accomplish what we've been able to accomplish, would you in 15 minutes say we disappear for inefficiencies she has yet to hear. She'd like to hear about those inefficiencies. Chairman Georgantas said he'd like to see the paperwork that says the Sewer Commission paid for all that pavement from sidewalk to sidewalk. That's not what Commissioner Crean said. Commissioner Crean said the Town paid \$80,000 and the Sewer Commission paid \$320,000, give or take \$10,000. Chairman Georgantas said the Selectman will discuss it and figure out what they are going to do. He thanked the Sewer Commissioners for coming in.

7:04 pm Vice Chairman Lemay made a motion to enter into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II (b) hiring and (e) legal. Selectman Brown seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote:

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Chairman Georgantas-aye; Vice Chairman Lemay-aye; Selectman Adams-aye; Selectman Brown-aye; Selectman Gross-aye. VOTE: 5-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.

7:50 pm Vice Chairman Lemay made a motion to exit non-public session. Selectman Gross seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.

Selectman Brown made a motion to seal the non-public minutes. Selectman Gross seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Chairman Georgantas-aye; Vice Chairman Lemay-aye; Selectman Adams-aye; Selectman Brown-aye; Selectman Gross-aye. VOTE: 5-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.

Vice Chairman Lemay made a motion to approve the Police Chief's recommendation of a Conditional Offer of Employment to fill the vacant dispatcher position at the compensation level discussed. Selectman Brown seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.

Vice Chairman Lemay made a motion to approve the Town Administrator's recommendation to promote an internal candidate to Tax Collector at the compensation level as discussed. Selectman Brown seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.

Selectman Gross made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to process payment to the developer of Black Brian Woods in an amount to be determined by the Planning Board in consultation with the Department of Public Works. Selectman Brown seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.

Selectman Adams made a motion to not place the article to abolish the Sewer Commission on the warrant. Selectman Brown seconded the motion.

Selectman Adams stated that efficiencies were not identified, allegations of slowing down the development process were speculative, and we should maintain the long history of volunteerism in this community. Sewer design and development were not within the realm of current Public Works operations. Vice Chairman Lemay said he thought it would put too much work on Public Works. Selectman Gross thought the article may have a negative impact on the warrant. Selectman Brown stated that it would send the wrong message regarding volunteerism.
VOTE: 5-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.

8:05 pm Selectman Adams made a motion to adjourn. Selectman Brown seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.

Gail Labrecque
Recording Secretary

Approved by the Board on 1/25/16 with no corrections.