

**Town of New Haven Selectboard Meeting**  
**7:00 pm**  
**Tuesday, February 6, 2024**  
**Town Offices**

Selectboard: Chair, John Roleau, Vice Chair, Bruce Many, Mike Audy, Marie Jewett and Kathy Barrett (via zoom approx. 7:30pm)

Selectboard Assistant: Pam Kingman

Visitors: Kate Rothwell, Kim Callahan, Jeff Pratt, Alan Mayer, Deborah Young, Jenna Koloski and Alyssa Johnson

Remote: Steve Dupoise, Cheryl Mitchell, Erin Ruble and Chris Granstrom

**ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA:** Town Meeting Warning / Mileage reimbursement up to Fed rate / Dog Team Bridge / Town Hall renter

**VISITORS BUSINESS:**

1. **Kate Rothwell, MREMS Director.** Kate previously forwarded PowerPoint for the Board to look over ahead of her coming. The Board had concerns that MREMS rate per Capita has increased to \$13; by comparison, Bristol is quite a bit lower. Kate felt as though she could not speak to Bristol's situation, however, she knows that across the state services like theirs will be moving to career staff. Right now, many ambulance services depend on volunteers who can drive; however, they cannot do patient care. Middlebury currently has 3 paramedics on staff to treat those on board. These paramedics must go through hours of training to get certified. Mike Audy pointed out in the PowerPoint, it shows overall for statewide per capita, Middlebury isn't far out of range. Kate is currently working on revising the contract and will forward a copy for review. The Board has budgeted the appropriation request for 2024, and they will have the Town Attorney look over the new contract. The Board thanked Kate for coming.
2. **Steve Dupoise updates on VELCO land** the town agreed to purchase to relocate the Fire Dept. Due to Lot 5 not perking, Steve has been reaching out to area landowners that are close to Lot 5; asking if they would consider allowing the town to do test pits for a possible septic site location. Steve was recently granted permission to do test pits on Candy Davidson's land and Wayne and Sheila Marcelle land. Steve asked who he should contact as the engineer to help with the test pits, and he is hoping the road crew can do the digging. Bruce Many said you can't do test pits in the winter, so it will need to wait until spring. Alan Mayer asked if it would be alright for him to reach out to Steve Revell from

Lincoln Applied Geology, for the engineering portion; and do both parcels simultaneously. The Board agreed to have Alan reach out to Lincoln Applied Geology and to keep Steve Dupoise in the loop. Alan Mayer asked about where the town is with the VELCO Contract. Said contract has expired, however, Steve has reached out to VELCO to let them know we want to renew it.

3. **VELCO Tax Escalator** – this money is separate from what they will pay in taxes. This is for valuation, the town should receive approximately \$5,600, this money goes straight to the town, and not splitting with the schools. Over time, this amount will continue to increase.
4. **Kim Callahan: Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) and grants that may be available to the town.** Kim said this project is offered through VCRD as a community collaborative and thought it might be a good thing for our town. She introduced Jenna Koloski and Alyssa Johnson who work for VCRD. Jenna explained that VCRD initially starts with a Community Visit, this brings people in town together where they gather ideas on what they want for their town. She said the goal is to get ideas and then set priorities and work towards making that priority happen. VCRD is a nonprofit, however they do receive a small amount from the Agency of Commerce. The first event would be having the Town pay for a community dinner, this brings folks out and talking about visions for the town. VCRD helps with a mailing to get the word out. Due to upcoming deadlines, they would need a letter of support from the Selectboard to move forward. Kim Callahan said she feels this is a good way to engage towns people, maybe to work on, for example, the train depot, school or even a community center.  
Marie Jewett made a motion to draft a letter of support to VCRD and ask if they would consider a Community Visit to New Haven. Motion seconded by John Roleau. Roll call 5 yes / 0 no
5. **Steve Dupoise – Update on the Depot:** Jim Northup is working on an RFP to replace the roof on the Depot. He should have it ready by next week.

#### **ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA:**

1. **Town Meeting Warning:** John Roleau made a motion to approve the Town Meeting Warning to remove the extra Library Trustee elected position. Motion seconded by Mike Audy. Roll call 5 yes / 0 no
2. **Mileage Reimbursement:** John Roleau made a motion to raise the mileage reimbursement amount to the federal standard at \$.67 per mile. Motion seconded by Marie Jewett. Roll call 5 yes / 0 no
3. **Mike Audy reached out to Jim Cota re: Dog Team Bridge.** Jim would like to attend a Selectboard meeting to discuss the condition of the bridge. He has asked for any information the town can provide prior to the meeting. Mike

suggested meeting with Jim Cota after Town Meeting. Town Bridges go through bi-annual inspections conducted by the state. They recently added a weight limit to the bridge, however, Agricultural vehicles are exempt from weight limit restrictions. If we could keep Nops farm trucks off the bridge, the bridge lifespan would be longer. A few years ago, the Selectboard mailed a letter to the Nops, asking them to refrain from using the bridge with loaded trucks, however, they are still using it. John Roleau did a quick review of a folder on the bridge. After an inspection in 2015, it said the bridge should be replaced in 10 years. Pam Kingman will scan and email what she can find on the bridge to Jim Cota.

4. **Town Hall renter:** Pam Kingman said Tammy Jewett from Beeman Lunch program came over to express her gratitude because she has not seen the cafeteria so clean in a very long time after a private function. She said the person cleaned in places the custodian doesn't clean. Pam Kingman asked if the Selectboard would consider refunding the rental fee to Phyllis Smith for going above and beyond. Bruce Many made a motion to refund the rental fee to Phyllis Smith. Motion seconded by Marie Jewett. Roll call 5 yes / 0 no

#### **UPDATES ON:**

##### **1. Roads:**

- Bruce Many asked for permission to buy a tarp for F550, with the rain, the salt is freezing in the body. Mike Audy made a motion to approve the purchase of a hand crank tarp for the F550 for approximately \$500.00. Motion seconded by Marie Jewett. Roll call 5 yes / 0 no
- Bruce Many said they just purchased a used wing plow for \$300.00 from Heffernan's.
- Portable generator: Bruce said he has spoken to Mark Livingston about what that generator will and will not run in the Town Hall.

##### **2. Town Buildings and Land:** No updates

#### **AUTHORIZATIONS:**

1. Bruce Many made a motion to approve the pay order for the week ending 2/6/24, in the amount of \$18,914.52, seconded by Marie Jewett. Roll call 5 yes / 0 no
2. Marie Jewett made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 1/27/24, in the amount of \$5,179.47, seconded by Bruce Many. Roll call 5 yes / 0 no
3. Mike Audy made a motion to approve the payroll for the week ending 2/3/24, in the amount of \$5,162.15, seconded by Marie Jewett. Roll call 5 yes / 0 no
4. **Local Hazard Mitigation Plan** expired July 2023. There is a BRIC Planning Grant we can for apply that asks for a 25% local match. The grant is the opportunity to get help hiring a consultant to put the LHMP together. Andrew said we can expect to pay approximately \$6500 - \$7500 for a town our size.

Pam Kingman has spoken with Andrew L'Roe from ACRPC. He said to put this together usually is a committee made up of one Selectboard member, a Planning Commission member, Road Foreman and Emergency Management Director. Pam Kingman said there is a survey that our Treasurer, Danielle Hubbell is willing to fill out; then we can move forward from there.

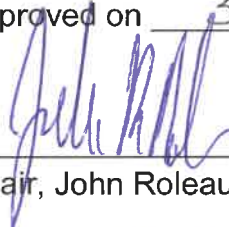
- 5. **Moderator Appointment:** Mike Audy made a motion to appoint Lanny Smith as Moderator for the 2024 term. Motion seconded by Marie Jewett. Roll call 5 yes / 0 no.
- 6. Marie Jewett made a motion to approve the minutes from the dog hearing on 1/3/24, seconded by John Roleau. Roll call 4 yes / 0 no 1 abstention (Barrett)
- 7. Marie Jewett made a motion to approve the minutes from 1/23/24, seconded by John Roleau. Roll call 4 yes / 0 no 1 abstention ( Barrett)
- 8. Marie Jewett made a motion to approve the deliberative session minutes from 01/23/24, seconded by John Roleau. Roll call 5 yes / 0 no

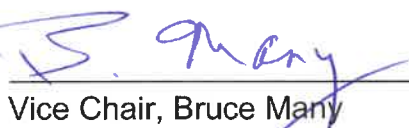
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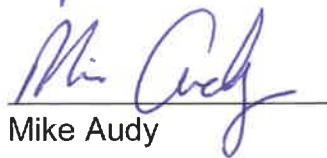
Respectfully submitted:

Pam Kingman

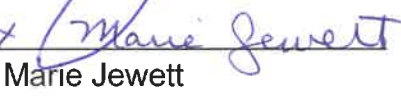
Approved on 3-13-24

  
Chair, John Roleau

  
Vice Chair, Bruce Many

  
Mike Audy

  
Kathy Barrett

  
Marie Jewett