

**Minutes
Select Board Meeting – Hastings Community Center
Thursday, August 10, 2023
6:00 PM**

Greg Huang-Dale
Thomas Klinepeter

Jim Tyrrell
Thomas Kingsbury

Tyrrell opened the Public Hearing for a Special Amusement Permit for the Old Saco Inn, owned by White Mountain Events located at 125 Old Saco Lane. There were no comments and the hearing was closed.

Tyrrell called the Select Board Meeting to order and declared a quorum. The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.

Kingsbury made a motion to approve the July 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes, which was seconded by Huang-Dale. Huang-Dale suggested that Nels Liljedahl be recognized as being the chair of the Water District. The minutes were unanimously approved with that amendment.

Department Head reports: Fire Chief Dufresne reminded people of the need to obtain burn permits. Kingsbury thanked him and his crew for their work with the high call volume. Library Director Eastman provided July stats and an overview of upcoming library events. Public Works Director France gave a status update of Little Chatham Road construction and other ongoing maintenance activities. Huang-Dale inquired about the Town's involvement with the rail trail.

Kingsbury made a motion to approve a Special Amusement Permit for the Old Saco in, owned by White Mountain Events located at 125 Old Saco Lane, which was seconded by Klinepeter and passed unanimously.

Klinepeter made a motion to approve a Liquor License for Old Saco Inn located at 125 Old Saco Lane for the Barn Venue, which was seconded by Kingsbury and passed unanimously.

Klinepeter made a motion to approve a Liquor License for the Old Saco Inn located at 125 Old Saco Lane for the Inn Venue, which was seconded by Kingsbury and passed unanimously.

Mike Morin, Conservation Director for the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust, provided an update on Jockey Cap project noting the grant process with Land For Maine Future, finalizing the conservation easement, and the expected timing of closing on the transfer of the property to the Town. Huang-Dale asked about the 50% interest acquisition and Morin provide some background on that. Klinepeter asked if all conservation project takes this long; Morin noted that the complexity of the state and federal grants processes do result in a lengthy process.

Haley reviewed correspondence from Dan Tinkham of Emery & Garrett related to the continued review of 2022 Water Level Monitoring Report Wards Brook Aquifer. Tinkham had a meeting with Mark Dubois (of Nestle/Blue Triton) and outlined the results via an email which Tyrrell read a portion of. Tyrrell noted that the tests are of the brook and not of the actual water supply; he thought that the Fryeburg Water District would be aware of that and would have mentioned it at the last meeting. Huang-Dale brought up the frequency of completing the testing and biological monitoring. After discussion, it was clarified the Nestle completed the monitoring in 2022 and would do so again in 2024 and every 2-years after.

Haley presented a tax rate calculation review, noting that the anticipated tax rate would be 16.5. She contributed that to less increase in valuation base than the past couple of years, certifying at 89%, and the budget increases. Klinepeter reviewed some specific revenue projections and suggested increase certain revenue lines including investment interest. This was discussed. The income and expenses related to metals, recycling and demolition waste was reviewed. Huang-Dale asked for clarification on the fiscal year.

Haley provided information related to a town-owned property on Meredith Lane that a resident approached her about purchasing from the Town. Haley reviewed new federal laws and state statues that have resulted in MMA and legal counsel recommending that the town doesn't sell tax acquired properties at this point in time. Klinepeter made a motion to table the topic, which was seconded by Kingsbury and passed unanimously.

Kingsbury made a motion to accept the following Mulford Grants: \$8,200 for the Legion Field Improvements, \$7,115 for the Fire Department for ATV/UTV Rubber Track Kit and \$8,5000 for the Eastern Slope Airport Authority for operating expenses. The motion was seconded by Huang-Dale and unanimously approved, with thanks.

Kingsbury opened the discussion on EV Charging Station procedures by stating that the free charging station should be removed and replaced with EV chargers that require credit card payment. He noted that it is not fair to all residents. Tyrrell commented that the intent of the existing EV charger was to draw people into the village. He learned that it is about \$14-15,000 for a new charger that accepts payments according to the CEBE who installed the EV charger at the fire station. There might be some grants in the future for upgrading. Klinepeter recalled that he supported the initial effort because it was a way to help businesses but he stated understanding the equity issue. There was a discussion about other available charging options locally and the impact to the Fire Department electric bill. Dufresne noted that the EV charger was installed at the same time the LED lighting upgrades were completed and it resulted in a net decrease in electricity costs.

Huang-Dale noted that he will recuse himself from any action related to EV charges as he does use the charger. He stated that he donated funds to the town and does not take using the charger for granted. He agrees that a pay for use charger is a good idea, as is offering more chargers. Haley stated that there needs to be a decision on how to proceed with enforcement. Huang-Dale suggested using cameras and clarifying short-term vs. long-term use. He also offered some suggestions for donations.

Kingsbury made a motion to take the existing EV charger offline until a grant for a pay for use charger is available and obtained. The motion was seconded by Tyrrell. Klinepeter sees both sides and suggested keeping the charger online with some sort of donation system so that costs are covered and so that the Town is offering some business assistance. The fairness aspect of free charging was further discussed. It was questioned what would happen to the existing charger and if the agreement with CEBE had any requirements that the unit be in place for a certain amount of time.

The motion passed with a 3-0-1 (Huang-Dale abstained) vote. There was further discussion about using chargers as a mechanism to help businesses. Dufresne asked for clarification on putting the charger out of service. It was decided that the sign on Main St would be removed, the charger would be covered, and CEBE would be contacted.

Haley provided her Town Managers Report. It was decided that legal training would take place in a workshop before the next meeting. Kingsbury made a motion to accept the report, which was seconded by Huang-Dale and passed unanimously.

Other Business: Tyrrell brought up the idea of the Select Board visiting town properties to become familiar with them and their potential needs. This was discussed and there was consensus to visit some properties before Select Board meetings.

Public Forum: Daymond Steer asked some questions related to agenda items. Stephen Chase asked if the Select Board has a policy or procedure related to Select Board attendance. There was discussion about this. Tyrrell noted that the townspeople spoke through their votes and the board cannot vote to remove elected officials. There was a discussion about past and current Select Board members attendance.

Klinepeter made a motion to approve Payroll Warrants #11 & 13 and Accounts Payable Warrants 12 & 14, which was seconded by Kingsbury and passed unanimously.

Kingsbury made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Tyrrell and passed unanimously.

Date: 8/24/23







