Town of Canterbury, NH
Board of Selectmen
Date: 2025 April 15
Location: Sam Lake House

Selectmen: Scott Doherty (Chair), Beth Blair, Calvin Todd

Town Administrator: Ken Folsom

Others Present: Donald O'Connor, Ben Davis

1. Call to Order
   a. The meeting was called to order at 5 p.m.
2. Executive Session
   a. Scott made a motion at 5:01 p.m. to enter into Non-Public session as per RSA 91-A:3 II (a) to discuss a personnel matter. Beth seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.
   b. Scott made a motion at 5:12 p.m. to exit the Non-Public session. Beth seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.
   c. Scott made a motion to seal the minutes. Beth seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.
3. David Booth Right of Way (ROW)
   a. See Selectboard minutes 4/7/25 section 9 for previous discussion.
   b. At the 3/17/25 meeting it was decided that Ken would contact Mr. Mordarski, but Beth asked him to wait so the Selectboard could have a chance to discuss some concerns she has.
   c. The Selectboard discussed the history of the ROW on the Municipal Complex property. It was originally created in 1951. The properties involved changed hands a couple of times. In 1986, the Booths bought Map 246 Lot 6 and in 2003, the Town bought Map 107 Lot 3. It was never established in any document what the width of the ROW was.
   d. At the time, Mark Stevens went to a previous owner and had them sign a quitclaim deed, but that person didn't have the authority to sign it, so that document is moot.
   e. In 2003, David Booth went to a Planning Board meeting for a different application and this ROW was discussed. The Planning Board advised him to follow-up with the Selectboard, but he never did. The Municipal Complex building was constructed in 2005.
   f. Since it has been 22 years, the Town may have adverse possession. The Town's counsel advised negotiation, since adverse possession isn't guaranteed.
   g. Scott recalled that Mr. Booth went to the Planning Board in 2017 or 2018 because he was trying to build a road to the back property through land he owns at 6 Center Road. It was blocked by the state because the line of sight wasn't sufficient.
   h. The property also comes out by the Transfer Station, but wetlands would prevent a road being installed there.
   i. The Selectboard discussed giving Mr. Booth 25 ft instead of the 50 ft he has requested. 25 ft would be sufficient for access and a driveway, but not enough to build the road he wants to install.
   j. If Mr. Booth installed a smaller road, he would need approval from the Planning Board to build more than one house on the back property. One such development was recently approved on Boyce Road.
   k. Beth feels that the onus to contact Mr. Mordarski is on Mr. Booth, since it was recommended in 2003 that he follow up on this matter and he did not. The Selectboard agreed.
   l. Ken will draft a letter for the Selectboard to review.

4. Highway Truck Repairs
   a. T1 needs an "in chassis repair" for $24K.
   b. John O'Connor had hoped to buy a replacement for T1 next year and retire it then.
   c. John got quotes for replacements from International ($321K) and HP Fairfield ($242K). The companies both said these are "pre-tariff prices".
   d. Ken went through the list of other vehicles the department still has. Assuming nothing breaks, there are enough to handle plowing next season.
   e. T1 is a dump/plow truck from 2011. It is used to plow snow in the winter and haul material in the summer. Usually if there is a lot of material that needs to be hauled, John contracts out 10 wheelers instead of doing multiple trips with the Towns's vehicles.
   f. If we didn't fix T1 and instead sold it, that savings could fund a contracted plow driver next winter.
   g. The capital reserve for a new Highway truck only has ~$100K so the Town would likely need to bond $200K to get a new truck.
   h. Ken will ask John what the lifespan of T1 would be if it was fixed.
   i. John arrived later in the meeting and was able to answer this question. He would like to proceed with the engine repairs and try to get another 2 years out of it.
   j. The Selectboard agreed to repair T1.
   k. The funds will come from the State's Highway Block Grant.
   l. T1 is close to 90K miles. T3 is at 60K miles.
5. NHIT Closing
   a. At the start of the year, the Town switched from HealthTrust to NHIT for employee health insurance.
   b. NHIT's board met on Friday and decided to close the company on June 30th. This was due to rising healthcare costs and a 19% claim increase in 2024. They would have had to increase rates by 40% to stay solvent, and the customers they checked with said no.
   c. NHIT has offered help finding a new option.
   d. We could switch back to HealthTrust if they agree to waive the 2-year lockout, but if SB 297 passes, they will also be closing within a couple of years.
   e. We could also switch to offering a buyout to employees and helping them sign up for coverage on healthcare.gov.
   f. The affected municipalities could form a new pool, but it wouldn't happen fast enough.
   g. SchoolCare is another pool that we could look into.
   h. Ken will notify employees and call Laconia to see what they are planning on doing.
6. Executive Session
   a. Scott made a motion at 6:08 p.m. to enter into Non-Public session as per RSA 91-A:3 II (a) to discuss a personnel matter. Beth seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.
   b. Scott made a motion at 6:53 p.m. to exit the Non-Public session. Beth seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.
   c. Scott made a motion to seal the minutes. Beth seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.
7. Solid Waste Committee (SWC)
   a. See Selectboard minutes 4/7/25 section 4.b. for previous discussion.
   b. The Selectboard discussed the Solid Waste Committee meeting that occurred on 4/14/25.
   c. SWC Chair Rich Marcou had sent an email to Beth and Ken afterwards explaining his behavior. Ken sent this email to Scott and Calvin for review.
   d. Beth observed that new information she presented at the meeting (such as the mission statement from 2016) was initially received with surprise, rather than being seen as helpful.

e. Rich told her that there were no documents when Kent Ruesswick resurrected the SWC in 2022. Beth explained that all she did was ask Ken and a couple of the previous chairs for documents, and the information was readily provided.
f. The Selectboard thought that finding those documents was the job of the SWC Chair.
g. At the meeting in question, Rich emphasized Scott's reminder that the SWC serves at the pleasure of the Selectboard, there was pushback when Beth suggested corrections to the minutes, and there was an incident where Beth was talked over and had to tell Rich to let her finish speaking.
h. The other Selectboard members have witnessed similar behavior from Rich at other board/committee meetings. They expressed concern about whether this attitude was helpful in representing the committee.
i. Ken expressed concern that Rich may not be able to work effectively with town employees such as David. In conversation with Ken, David expressed that the SWC was initially unwelcoming to him.
j. There was discussion about what projects the SWC should be working on. They appear to be in a holding pattern while the Aries Engineering study is conducted. Projects that still need doing like raising awareness of the new lithium battery recycling requirement and updating the recyclables guide weren't being acted on.
k. Based on the recent minutes and statements made at meetings, the SWC seems to be set on moving the TS regardless of the study's findings.
l. It is still not clear when the SWC decided to advocate for moving the Transfer Station. The minutes show the first real discussion about the topic was on 10/28/24 and then it was brought as a formal presentation to the Selectboard on 12/2/24.
m. The Selectboard agreed that they want to stay at the current Transfer Station site as long as possible. The $2M figure brought up in the proposal to move was unacceptable and irresponsible. We don't know how many people actually use the TS and trash pickup was estimated to be cheaper (but without recycling).
n. Next Wednesday, Aries Engineering will be doing a walkthrough of the TS with Ken, Beth, Rich, and Kim Scamman (SWC member). Then Aries plans to sit down with DES and try to get it in writing when they would force the Town to cap the landfill and to find out what is doable at the current site.
o. After reading through the SWC minutes from 2022-2024, Beth got the impression that the SWC didn't like that the staff at the Transfer Station were less concerned for change than were members of the committee.
p. The Selectboard discussed if giving the SWC a specific task list might help get the committee back on track. They agreed to see how the SWC acts with another chance at the table.
q. Ken will attend the next SWC meeting to provide historical context and have it in the record that the SWC didn't ever ask the Town Office for information about the SWC mission statement or formation of the SWC after the Recycling Committee was disbanded.
r. The Selectboard want to be sure the SWC treats David with respect and is made to feel a functional member of the SWC.

8. Signing
   a. The Selectboard resigned the Enforcement Patrol Grant Agreement since a few signature spots had been missed at the last meeting.
   b. The Selectboard signed the 2025 Investment Policy. The policy did not change, but it must be resigned every year.
   c. The Selectboard signed the Governance Letter from the auditors.
9. Selectboard Representatives
   a. See Selectboard minutes 4/7/25 section 7.d. for previous discussion.

    b. Beth is going to be the representative for Sherwood Forest.
    c. Community Power Committee
        i. The CCPC is supposed to designate a primary and an alternate representative to the NH Community Power Coalition. Since Howard and now Tom have left, there is no primary.
        ii. Scott is the alternate, but in name only since his work hours preclude him from attending meetings.
        iii. Beth asked Tom Franco for details about the job (e.g. duties, hours, skillset) and she will bring this to the CCPC.
        iv. The Selectboard thought John Schneider might be a good candidate.
        v. There still needs to be a discussion about combining CCPC and Energy Committee.
    d. School Board
        i. Calvin brought up the idea of having a School Board rep who would attend the meetings they have at CES.
        ii. The Selectboard liked this idea as a way to improve communication, particularly around the budget.
        iii. Calvin is going to be the representative for the School Board.
    e. There was discussion about what a Selectboard rep should actually do. The Planning Board is the only one where the Selectboard member is ex officio. Besides that, the position is advisory and meant to facilitate communication. The rep brings the big picture to them and brings relevant details back to the Selectboard.
10. Tricentennial Update
    a. Beth provided an update on the Tricentennial Committee. They are doing well, they have met with the website designer for the Historical Society about adding pages for them and have recruited lots of people. Naomi and Heidi are doing well as co-chairs.
11. Adjournment
    a. Scott made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. Beth seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Next Meeting: 2025 April 21, 6:00 p.m. at the Meeting House

Minutes submitted by Kathleen McKay, Administrative Assistant