

2025-05-22 Board of Selectmen Minutes

Town of Canterbury, NH
Board of Selectmen
Date: 2025 May 22
Location: Meeting House

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

Town Administrator: Ken Folsom

1. Call to Order
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m.
2. Administration
 - a. The Selectboard signed:
 - i. Beth made a motion to sign the Accounts Payable Manifest in the amount of \$13,030.36. Calvin seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried. Scott signed the checks.
 - ii. Appointment slip for Megan Portnoy to Solid Waste Committee
 1. There was discussion about the two Right to Know requests that Megan submitted. Kal is handling collecting that information.
 2. There was discussion about if the SWC should be disbanded and if a change in leadership would have better results. They hope Megan will be a good addition and hold the SWC accountable.
 3. The Selectboard would like to invite the SWC to a future meeting to discuss their future and goals.
 - iii. The deed to sell Map 102 Lot 71 to Kenneth Smith as per their decision on 5/5/25.
 - b. Old Business
 - i. Louis Audet Abatement
 1. See Selectboard minutes 5/19/25 section 7.a. for previous discussion.
 2. The Selectboard reviewed a draft letter for Mr. Audet that explained their decision to deny the abatement request.
 3. There was discussion about the appeal process to the BTLA. Assessor Mandy Irving was doubtful that the BTLA would hear the case because of how long ago the issue occurred. But that will be up to Mr. Audet to pursue.
 - ii. Sale of Map 226 Lot 2 to Brian Magoon
 1. See Selectboard minutes 3/17/25 section 6.a. for previous discussion.
 2. Absolute Title will be doing the closing and wanted to know if the Selectboard would be available on May 29th.
 3. The Selectboard will meet Absolute Title and Mr. Magoon at the Sam Lake House on May 29th at 9 a.m.
 - iii. 367 Shaker Road Update
 1. See Selectboard minutes 5/19/25 section 7.g. for previous discussion.
 2. Canterbury Behavioral Health (CBH) would like to meet with the Selectboard.
 3. The Selectboard will meet with the CEO and Director of CBH along with the Town's attorney, and Chief Crotty on June 10th.
3. Healthcare for Employees
 - a. See Selectboard minutes 4/21/25 section 7.c. for previous discussion.
 - b. Ken and Kal reviewed the options they collected information for and the 4 options that they have narrowed it down to.
 - c. Proposals were received from CGI Business Solutions and SchoolCare. None of the CGI options were doable due to cost.

- d. SchoolCare is another pool, so they may have the same issues as NHIT and HealthTrust.
 - e. SB 297 would require municipalities to save funds in case the pool goes out of business. It is currently being discussed in the legislature. HealthTrust says this would make them go out of business. Even if this did pass, it likely wouldn't take affect until next year.
 - f. Two of the remaining options are the proposals from SchoolCare. One would continue using the Harvard Pilgrim network but would only last through the end of the year. The other would use SchoolCare's regular network, Cigna.
 - g. Harvard Pilgrim would be least disruptive to employees right now, but would require changing again at the end of the year. It is also much more expensive than the Cigna option.
 - h. Either of the SchoolCare options would have the Town pay for the extra premium cost in 2025 so that employees wouldn't suddenly have to contribute more from their paycheck.
 - i. Rachel Baker (Library Director) surveyed other towns who were on NHIT and found that most of them are switching to SchoolCare.
 - j. The other two options are variations of a buyout. One would be that the Town reimburses employees for 100% of their premiums elsewhere (likely through HealthCare.gov). The other is that the Town just gives all eligible employees a flat buyout that is very likely to cover their premiums elsewhere.
 - k. The reimbursement option would be the cheapest for the Town and employees. The buyout only option would let employees choose how they wanted to spend the money. Both increases employee privacy and choice and lowers administrative burden.
 - l. The Selectboard discussed the pros and cons of each option. The buyout options look good, but Scott and Calvin have known people who had bad experiences with healthcare.gov.
 - m. The Selectboard decided that they want to have each employee vote on which option they want. They want to do what is best for the employees, but understand that what is best will be different for everyone.
 - n. The Selectboard will decide on one option at their next meeting, after considering the results of polling Town Employees.
4. Goodwin Road
- a. A resident on Old Tilton Road talked to Ken about how Goodwin Road washes out into their yard every time there is a heavy rainstorm.
 - b. This road is a one-way dirt road that connects Hackleboro Road and Old Tilton Road. The last 200 ft are a very steep hill.
 - c. Several years ago the Road Agent thought about making Goodwin Road a dead end that stops after the last driveway going west. The steep hill would be replanted so the plants could prevent further erosion. A trail would be left and the Town would retain the right of way.
 - d. Road Agent John O'Connor has no objections to this plan. Ken could contact the residents on that road to see what they would prefer.
 - e. The Selectboard agreed to explore the option and see what the residents think.
5. Electricity in Town Hall
- a. The Canterbury Fair would like to know if they can still use the electricity from the Town Hall to run the wood turning equipment. Last year, someone with the Fair illegally rewired the panel to get more power for the equipment and then left it behind.
 - b. The Selectboard have no objection to the Fair using the power from the Town Hall, but they would like to know what power is needed so we can figure out how to get them what they need without rewiring.
 - c. Beth will get that information from the Fair.
 - d. The Farmers Market would like to run an extension cord to the Town Hall for a food truck. The Selectboard agreed that was fine.

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- e. The Historical Society asked what it would cost to run electricity from Town Hall to the Houser Museum. The Houser has it's own meter right now, but is only used a few times a year. So every month there is a meter charge, even though power isn't being used. Using one meter would save money.
 - f. Ken will ask the electrician who does the work on the Sam Lake House Garage for an estimate on what it would cost.
6. Solid Waste Committee Membership
- a. Kal missed an email that the SWC would like to appoint another member. Since Megan is now appointed, there may not be enough spots left.
 - b. Since the Selectboard can make the SWC larger if needed, that isn't an issue. They will consider the new appointment at the next meeting.
7. Adjournment
- a. Scott made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 a.m. Beth seconded. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Next Meeting: 2025 June 2, 6:00 p.m. at the Meeting House

Minutes submitted by Kathleen McKay, Administrative Assistant