

Town of Oakham

Board of Selectmen

Regular Session

Minutes of January 24, 2022

Present: Lucy Tessnau-Chairman, Don Haapakoski-Vice Chairman, Brad Taylor-Clerk

In attendance: Maribel LaRange-BOS admin asst, Christine Mardirosian-Town Clerk, Sue Shays, Paul Rochette, Alan Flagg, Steve Labarre, Stephen Dollinger (via phone), Tina Lindsey-Animal Control Officer, Kevin Currier, Joseph Manna

Meeting opened at 6:03 PM by Chairman, Lucy Tessnau

Approve Warrants: Brad made motion to approve warrants for 1/10/22 & 1/24/22, Lucy 2nd, Don all in favor.

Approve Minutes: Don made motion to approve minutes for 1/10/22 & 1/18/22, Brad 2nd, Lucy all in favor.

Dangerous Dog Complaint: On 1/19/22 the BOS received an email from Joseph Manna regarding a dangerous dog complaint. In the email Mr. Manna explains his history with the dog. The situation has involved the town's Animal Control Officer, Tina Lindsey. We replied to Mr. Manna's email inviting him to attend the following BOS meeting which was on 1/24/22. We also invited ACO Tina Lindsey to attend as well. Mr. Manna expressed his concerns with the Rottweiler during his encounters while jogging. Mr. Manna said the dog has lunged at him on two different encounters. When it was the adult male waking the dog and the dog lunged at him and aggressively barked the male has been able to regain control of the dog. (summer of 2020). At another encounter a young female was walking the Rottweiler on a leash and there was an adult woman there too. Mr. Manna said as he approached, he got their attention by greeting them. As he attempted to pass the Rottweiler lunged at him while barking. The dog was aggressively barking and pulling the female forward. The two females appeared to struggle to control the dog. The dog was held to the ground by both females. Then he was told by the adult female he could pass and as he attempted to pass the dog lunged at him while aggressively barking and pulling the two forward. He told the females he would jog around the other side. (August 2021) Mr. Manna contacted the OPD and the Animal Control Officer. Mr. Manna agreed not to file a Dangerous Dog Complaint based on an agreement facilitated by AOC. The Owner of the Rottweiler agreed to use a choke collar while walking the dog, the young female will not walk the dog and the dog will not be walked on Adams Rd, road Mr. Manna lives on. Since the agreement in August of 2021 Mr. Manna states, he witnessed the

dog being walked on Adams Road on 1/8/22. He informed the ACO that he will file a Dangerous Dog Complaint.

Tina Lindsey, ACO, said that the Rottweiler Mr. Manna saw on 1/8/22 being walked on Adams Road is not the same Rottweiler he's had encounters with. The Rottweiler from 1/8/22 was visiting on Scott Road. Tina asked Mr. Manna how he announced himself to the dog when he did encounter the initial dog. Mr. Manna said he yelled "hello ladies," they didn't reply, then he clapped to be heard. Tina says the owners of the Rottweiler are keeping up to their agreement, confining to his yard and walking with a prong collar, which is more than the agreement asked of choke collar and is not walked on Adams Road. Mr. Manna is concerned that the dog can be dangerous. Don said that under law, dangerous complaint has to hold a hearing. Mr. Manna would like to proceed with the complaint. Lucy said the dog owner's will be notified. Hearing will be March 7, 2022 during BOS regular meeting.

Town Clerk Budget: The BOS along with members of Fincom reviewed the town clerk's budget requests for FY23 presented by the Town Clerk, Christine Mardirosian. Christine went through her budget and explained the bigger line items. The poll workers budget is currently 3,326 and asking 5,000. The expenses are currently 2,000 and asking 5,000 as she does not know how elections will run. If there will be early voting? If so, the budget would need to cover the expenses and the poll workers. Christine also requested 500 for equipment & repairs, there was no former budget for this. This is for elections and Chris had put it under town clerk budget, she wasn't sure. Sue Shay from Fincom said it should be under the Town Clerk-Elections budget.

Christine also let the BOS know that a light in her office is out and needs to be replaced.

Highway Dept. Budget: The BOS along with members of Fincom reviewed the highway department's budget requests for FY23 presented by the Town's Highway Department Superintendent, Kevin Currier. Kevin went through his budget and explained the bigger line items. Kevin asked for a 10% increase on hwy/superintendent salary. Lucy asked if the highway department has a custodian budget, Kevin said no they do all their own cleaning. Alan from Fincom asked why plow blades are under highway budget and not in snow & ice budget. Kevin said it's always been in the highway budget. Also, because blades are used for the equipment to cut grass.

Brad said he'd like to see the roof in the fire/highway municipal building fixed (as discussed in prior meeting with Fire Chief) between both departments, Highway & Fire. Lucy said if the funding is put in the FY23 budget request the repairs can not be done until FY23 begins (7/1/22).

Don asked if the fire department gives Kevin the slips for what they use in diesel, Kevin said no. Kevin said police department's Humvee are diesel, each department should have its own account.

Kevin also requested for Town Meeting Warrant Article to purchase a metal structure to cover the existing fuel tanks at the safety complex. Estimate cost \$5,000

Town Accountant laptop: The BOS received a quote of \$673.83 for a Dell laptop from CMGeeks. Steve Labarre said that is a reasonable price. Because the laptop is mostly basic and to be used to mirror the desktop of the accountant's computer in his office. The laptop will be for the town accountant, Tom Wilson, to use while working from home. Once he's back to work the laptop will be a spare at the Town Hall and can be used by other's if needed.

Don made motion to purchase laptop in the amount of \$673.83 for accountant to use while working from home, Brad 2nd, Lucy all in favor.

Single precinct classification: The Town of Oakham keeping the Town as a single precinct meets the requirements and has been approved by the Commission.

Cyberspace Security: No updates

New Business: Tom Wilson, the Town Account has started his medical leave a week earlier than anticipated. His last day of work was scheduled for 1/28/22 but due to medical reasons and letter from his doctor his last day was on 1/24/22.

Don asked if Lisa's (treasurer/collector) software for Springbrook has been completed. The grant for this ended on 12/31/21 but we got an extension until 1/31/22. Don said he will not be signing off on the grant if the software hasn't been installed. Maribel will contact Springbrook in regards to this matter.

Edna Holloway helped Maribel with the processing of warrants-15. Tom had them all entered but checks needed to be printed. Maribel and Edna with the help of Springbrook support were able to finish the warrants. Don said Edna should be paid for her time in helping this time and for any future times. Lucy and Brad both agreed. Possibly pay her as a vendor? If so, if her gains are more than \$600, she would need a 1099.

Lisa received a letter for a hearing from unemployment for Tom Wilson.

Old Business:

The BOS will be meeting with Don Jacobs, wage consultant next week to be updated on the process on the study.

Public Session: Sue Shays asked if there has been a reply from legal counsel regarding the spectrum contract. Maribel said she did email them the contract but has not received a reply. Maribel will email and call to follow up.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:01PM: Brad made motion to adjourn, Don 2nd, Lucy all in favor

Next Regular Meeting: February 7, 2022 6:00 PM

