

Submitted by:

Amc

Adele M. Suggs
Admin Asst

Approved by Selectmen:

1/13/21
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**TOWN OF PHIPPSBURG
SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
January 6, 2021**

The Selectmen convened at 5:00 p.m. at the Town Hall with Selectman Young, Selectman House via Zoom, Selectman Mixon, and Administrator Jones present.

I. New Business

1. Review new medical insurance plans.

Currently there are two employees on the Town's medical insurance plan. Without having the independent broker present Administrator Jones did not feel comfortable explaining the comparison. She is not sure what happened to the broker and she apologized to the Board for not being ready. Codes Enforcement Officer, Lee Rainey, and Administrator Jones have been researching plans for several days and they have found a couple of possibilities. Administrator Jones would like to present them to the Board in a way that makes sense and will get the information to them in as clean a format as possible as soon as she can. Selectman Young asked if there was any cost increase. Administrator Jones explained that the plan the broker would outline for them would cost less for the employee and the employer. It's an HSA plan that gives a little flexibility around co-pays which a standard plan does not have. Administrator Jones will see if the presentation can be done at next week's meeting. Selectman House inquired as to whether the Open Enrollment period had already closed. Administrator Jones replied it has, but if the Town agrees to take on a different plan that it constitutes a qualifying event which means it's like opening up enrollment again.

Vote: Selectman Mixon motioned to table this discussion until next Wednesday which was seconded by Selectman Young and passed by a vote of 3-0.

2. Consider accepting the following donations to the Goodwill Fund:

- \$6.36 from Bradley Ewald
- \$250.00 from Kevin & Joyce Anderson
- \$200.00 from Gregory & Susan Harrison
- \$100.00 from Julie Erb & Herbert Thomson

Vote: Selectman House motioned to accept the above donations which was seconded by Selectman Mixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.

3. Consider accepting a donation of \$1,250.00 from the Historical Society for the Historic Preservation Commission, specifically designated to the Fisherman's Museum (Murphy House).

Vote: Selectman Mixon motioned to accept the above donations which was seconded by Selectman House and passed by a vote of 3-0.

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II. Unfinished Business

1. Consider the status of clean-up at 39 Maple Street on the last site visit on December 11, 2020, and next steps.

The Board visited the property individually on December 11th. The Board had asked Lee Rainey, Codes Enforcement Officer, to let them know about the ordinance that applied to this situation; Mr. Rainey replied, by email, on October 22nd. Mr. Rogers had never applied for a business permit to operate that type of business. He included the sub-section from the Land Use Ordinance which dealt with junkyards and automobile graveyards. Bottom line is that Mr. Rogers needs a business permit from the Town if he wants to run a business the way he is currently doing. In the absence of a permit, the property should be cleared of the items listed in the State definition to the point the Board feels he is in compliance with the ordinance and does not require a business permit. Mr. Rogers will need to apply for a business permit through the Planning Board or clean-up the property in compliance with the definition of a junkyard. The Board has been visiting the property for three years. It's time for the Board to make a decision on what route they're going to go. Selectman Mixon stated that before a decision is made he would like follow up to a conversation that he had with Mr. Rogers at the site visit. Mr. Rogers stated that he was going to initiate the process with the Planning Board to seek a license, but Selectman Mixon is not sure where that stands. Selectman House added that Mr. Rogers is in compliance with the original complaint. He did address the violations as originally written, but that doesn't bring him in to compliance with the Junkyard Ordinance. Mr. Rogers talked about enclosures and has fences there which he knows he is going to need to satisfy the Planning Board. Administrator Jones will talk to Marie Varian, Chair of the Planning Board, to see if she has been contacted by Mr. Rogers as well as call Mr. Rogers and let him know that Ms. Varian is waiting to hear from him. Another site visit date has not been set up for the winter months. By next spring we will need to have some closure on this; whether he gets his permit through the Planning Board or starts cleaning up the property. As far as abandoned vehicles, there is only one left on the property which was his fathers and is allowed.

Vote: Selectman Young motioned to table this discussion until feedback is received on Mr. Rogers' intentions which was seconded by Selectman Mixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.

2. Reconsider strategies to maintain a safe and healthy work environment and public services in response to the pandemic Covid-19.

Things seem to be running smoothly and going well; no complaints have been received recently. Selectman Young feels the board needs to consider the Covid vaccine. More research will need to be done on this; whether it is mandatory or not for employees – there are pro's and con's to both. It is being highly discussed and more guidance is needed before the Board makes a decision on which way to go. Administrator Jones will look into what other municipalities are doing; MMA is also working on this.

Selectmen Mixon added that the Board should start thinking about Town Meeting. The feeling is there will not be any group meetings allowed inside during the month of May. Administrator Jones will start preparing a time line. Selectman House suggested that a printout be prepared of where we are on expenses. Administrator Jones replied that she's finishing up year end 2020 and that budget sheets should be going out to the department/committee heads soon so everyone will know where they are at.

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Audit is nearly complete.

III. Selectmen/Administrator Comments and Announcements:

Selectman Nixon stated that he feels that the winter road crew is doing a fantastic job treating the roads.

Selectman House reminded that the Salt Shed at the Transfer Station is off limits to the public; public is to get their sand from the building off to the side. Administrator Jones will check on the wordage of the signs to make sure they are clear. This information is also posted on the town's website.

IV. Review and/or Sign:

1. Payroll and Accounts Payable Warrants

Vote: Selectman House motioned to sign Payroll Warrant #65 and Accounts Payable Warrant 66, which were seconded by Selectman Nixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.

Vote: Selectman Nixon motioned to sign Accounts Payable Warrant 67, which was seconded by Selectman Young and passed by a vote of 2-0.

2. Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for December 9th, 16th and 23rd, 2020

Vote: Selectman House motioned to approve the above meeting minutes which were seconded by Selectman Nixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.

V. Executive Session

1. Meet in Executive session per Title 30 M.R.S.A. 405 § 6A to consider applications for the On-Call Transfer Station Attendant position.

Above applications will be discussed, but no action will be taken on these until the next meeting.

Vote: At 5:28 p.m. Selectman Nixon motioned to adjourn into Executive Session which was seconded by Selectman House and passed by a vote of 3-0.

Adjournment

Vote: At 5:40 p.m. Selectman Young motioned to adjourn into a Budget Goals and Salary Review Schedule Workshop which was seconded by Selectman Nixon and passed by a vote of 3-0.