

TOWN OF BOZRAH
REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
ZOOM-VIDEO CONFERENCE
January 19, 2021

Item 1: First Selectman Carl Zorn called a Regular Meeting of the Bozrah Board of Selectmen (BOS) to order via Zoom on January 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: First Selectman Carl Zorn, Second Selectman Bill Ballinger and Selectman Glenn Pianka.

Others Present: 8 members of the public

Item 2: Public Comment

Raymond Barber, Goshen Road, commented on the town workers receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, tree trimming, the trailer parked by exit 23 and Bozrah Light and Power's new rates.

Item 3: Approval of the minutes from the regular meeting held December 15, 2020

MOTION 1: G.Pianka made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular Board of Selectmen meeting held December 15, 2020. B. Ballinger seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

Item 4: Fire truck pumper repair - Repairs completed and truck is back in service

C. Zorn noted the pumper truck has been repaired and is back in service.

Fire Chief, Ryan Sholes, noted the bill has been submitted to the Town Treasurer for \$29,968. R. Sholes noted \$19,834.59 is the town's portion to pay.

MOTION 2: G. Pianka made a motion for the town to pay their portion of \$19,834.59 for the pumper truck repairs. B. Ballinger seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

Item 5: COVID increases in Bozrah

C. Zorn noted COVID-19 cases have been rising in town. He noted those who feel sick or have any symptoms should get tested.

G. Pianka questioned if public works crews and town hall employees are scheduled to receive the vaccine. B. Ballinger noted the governor's plan lays out who is in line to receive the vaccine. Town workers are not included in the current phase.

Item 6: Transfer Station permit fee

C. Zorn noted the Transfer Station permit fee has been increased by \$10.

Item 7: Monthly Reports

a) Troop K

C. Zorn noted an accident on Wawecus Hill Road that caused damage to a guard rail.

b) Fire Marshal

c) Senior Center

C. Zorn noted an issue with the front door that will be repaired in the Spring.

d) Bozrah Food Bank

C. Zorn noted a job well done by Tom Ververis.

Item 8: First Selectmen Updates

a) Backhoe repairs are in progress for antifreeze leaks and replacement of swing cylinders and bushings

b) Route 82 grass and slope stabilization not completed, don't expect progress until Spring

c) Truck wash and garage expansion (looking to add to long term projects, working with Matt Brown to reduce cost)

d) Wawecus Hill catch basin repairs completed.

e) Looking for candidates for overlay when the asphalt plant opens.

C. Zorn noted he believes they should do portions of Caroline Road from route 163 and slightly past Seymour Adelman's facility where the pavement is split. He noted there are several other sections of Caroline Road that are breaking up as well as Cottage Road and Hough Road.

C. Zorn noted due to refinancing of the bonds the town has freed up \$240,000 cash flow. He noted this money can go towards items in the budget that had to be cut this year such as raises. G.Pianka noted a lot of the town's money has gone to the school, although it is reimbursable.

Item 9: Set budget workshop dates

B. Ballinger noted they should wait to workshop until all departments have their budget in. C. Zorn noted they will set the workshop dates in February.

G. Pianka presented the board with a list of items he wishes C. Zorn to consider before drafting the budget. G. Pianka noted the Bozrah Light and Power PILOT agreement should be reconsidered, he noted his support of reinstalling the raises, job descriptions should be created, policies should be put in place, Town Clerk hours should be considered, the summer camp should be reconsidered, he noted a list should be made of expected reimbursements and what has been reimbursed.

Item 10: Such other business the Board may vote to add

MOTION 3: C. Zorn made a motion to add item 10a Seven Lot Subdivision Consideration to the agenda.

B. Ballinger seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

Item 10a: Planning and Zoning road ordinance

Sam Alexander, Town Planner, approached C. Zorn about a seven lot subdivision road clearing and the town ordinance regarding that. C. Zorn noted road drawings were submitted to planning and zoning and some rock walls are situated close to the road. He noted the walls need to be pushed back 10 - 15 feet from the road. G. Pianka noted there is no requirement that a stone wall be maintained in town.

S. Alexander noted they are looking at a seven lot subdivision on about 35 acres that fronts on South Road and Bozrah Street. He noted on the South Road portion the land owner would like to increase right of way in that area. S. Alexander explained with the right of way the road is larger and the stone walls would be pushed back to reflect the property lines. S. Alexander noted they will submit to Inland Wetlands and Planning and Zoning in February.

C. Zorn noted the Board of Selectmen endorses the concept of the road clearance on South Road for the seven lot subdivision and requires a minimum of a 10 foot push back of the stone walls.

MOTION 4: B. Ballinger made a motion to add item 10b Renewal of the Fire Department Agreement for paid staff and Renewal of the Town Contract to the agenda. G. Pianka seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

Item 10b: Renewal of the Fire Department Agreement for paid staff and Renewal of the Town Contract.

Ryan Sholes, Fire Chief, noted that the Fire Department contract was up in July of 2020. He explained his revision in line 6 Ambulance Replacement Money so that it now includes EMS and fire equipment. R. Sholes noted they are receiving more income with the increased ambulance calls to Elmbrook. B. Ballinger noted the contract states the fire department can not spend the money without both the town and the fire department agreeing.

MOTION 5: B. Ballinger made a motion to renew the contract as proposed with the revisions to line 6 from July 2020 for 3 years. G. Pianka seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

C. Zorn noted the fire department paid staff agreement also needs to be renewed. G. Pianka noted as part of the paid staff agreement with the fire department they were to report after 12 months. B. Ballinger noted in the agreement there is not a set rate for the paid firefighters as it may change in the 3 year agreement.

R. Sholes noted the pay rate would be the same for all the paid firefighters. R. Sholes noted they did 559 calls this year and they only missed 8 calls due to no staff.

MOTION 6: B. Ballinger made a motion to renew the Fire Department paid staff agreement. G. Pianka seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

Item 11: Public Comment

No public comments.

Item 12: Adjourn

MOTION 7: G. Pianka made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m. B. Ballinger seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous - **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted for the Board,

Heather Barber
Recording Secretary