



Salisbury Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

July 6, 2022

Approved

Selectman Brett Walker, Chair	Present
Selectman John W. Herbert	Present
Selectman Jim Hoyt	Present
Town Administrator April Rollins	Excused
Municipal Assistant Kimberley Edelmann	Present

Attendees: Several citizens attended the meeting in person at Academy Hall; a few attended via Zoom.

1) Open Meeting

Chairman Brett Walker opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

2) Meeting Minutes

Selectman Herbert made a **motion** to approve the minutes of June 15, 2022. Selectman Hoyt **seconded**. The **motion passed**.

3) Signatures

Chairman Walker noted that the Selectboard had reviewed and signed Accounts Payable & Payroll Registers. They also reviewed the following, signing as required:

- ◆ PA-28 Inventory of Taxable Property Form
- ◆ Abatement – CV Building Concepts
- ◆ Report of Cut – Tax Map 255, Lot 5 (Fortin)

All documents are available for public inspection.

4) Joint Meeting with the Merrimack County Sheriff David Croft

Merrimack County Sheriff David (Dave) Croft introduced himself and said the visit was part of his plan to meet with each of the selectboards within the county. He wanted to help citizens understand what the Merrimack County Sheriff's Offices does. He also wanted the Town leadership to be able to answer questions about where their tax dollars are being expended.

Key points he shared include:

The county has a \$95,000,000 tax bill, of which \$4,500,000 is for the Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Croft has been in office 17 months. He's been in law enforcement for 36 years, 25 of those in Boscawen, 14 as Police Chief. He left Boscawen in 2007 to join the Sheriff's department and was assigned to the County Attorney's office.

The Sheriff is the highest ranking officer in the State. They have authority throughout the State. The authority dates back from when settlers migrated from England.

The Sheriff's Office has 70 employees, both sworn and civilian. The Civil Office is one of the largest and brings in the most revenue; around \$320,000 per year. Work includes serving restraining orders, delivering landlord / tenant writs, delivering divorce decrees, and delivering other writs of process.

Sheriff Croft spoke about evictions. When he took office, he learned how evictions were handled. In the past, boots were put on the locks, basically throwing people on the street without any services. Now, under his leadership, they research the tenant first looking for underlying issues (substance use, mental health, housing needs, foodstamps, etc) and then bring resources to the eviction and offer them to the tenant. He has found that about 80% of people accept the services which they bring. Ultimately, that has helped save money as people thrown to the street are more likely to seek welfare or resort to crime to feed their families.

The Transport Unit of the Sheriff's Office, prior to COVID-19, was doing approximately 720 transports per month. Transports are done all over New England, but also out of state. If someone commits a crime in Salisbury and takes off to California and is apprehended, Sheriff Croft flies a team to California to transport that person back. The number of transports is getting close to pre-pandemic numbers.

The Warrant Unit makes arrests. Most of the warrants are for drug related crimes.

The Detective Unit helps smaller communities in crime investigations. Eight months ago, Sheriff Croft was successful in getting a Federal grant to hire someone to focus on ICAK, Internet crimes against kids. He was amazed how busy the investigator has been. His work was resulting in 3 to 4 search warrants per week. Merrimack County's ICAK numbers increased 300% in the past year. Sheriff Croft noted that the increase was directly related to the fact that children were online more during the pandemic. In regards to ICAK, the department aims to provide continued education to communities.

The Communications Department provides dispatch services to 17 communities. That's currently the biggest revolving door in terms of staffing. He refers to the communications personnel as "First Responders". When he started the job in the 1980's, he believed the police / fire were the first responders. Back then, when someone saw a bad accident or a fire or someone trying to take their life, they had to detach themselves from the scene to find a pay phone. That took them away from the scene, so they deescalated when they were reporting. Now, the reporting was first hand, real time. The stress levels are that much higher for the communications team, making it more difficult to retain staff. He has a good group and is almost at full staff.

The Court Security Department, as required by Statute, supplies security for the three District Courts in Franklin, Hooksett and Concord as well as the Superior Court in Concord.

The Sheriff's Office also has a team which focuses on homeland security, including human trafficking. Sheriff Croft explained that human trafficking does occur in New Hampshire, often Asian individuals being smuggled into New England from Canada. Recently, the department was involved in a raid of a large human trafficking operation located across from the NH State Prison in Concord in a massage parlor. Sheriff Croft said the basement living conditions for the women blew his mind.

The Sheriff's Office also works with the drug task force.

Sheriff Croft said he was looking to expand the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program during the next school year.

Sheriff Croft said he believes Merrimack County Government is here to give back to the 27 communities that it represents. Personally, he is on Salisbury's Budget Committee, he helps with serving summonses for dog licenses, he helps on Old Home Day, but he also tries to help out with the other 26 communities. There are night patrols now, which has been well received.

Sheriff Croft thanked the Selectboard for their time.

5) Department / Board / Committee Reports

a. Town Clerk

Chairman Walker reported that Town Clerk Jim Zink-Mailloux delivered a list of residents who had been sent letters regarding outstanding dog licenses. He added that if residents didn't want to see Sheriff Croft at their door, they should pay their fees. The list was much shorter than in 2021.

b. Fire Chief / Road Agent

Fire Chief / Road Agent Bill MacDuffie Jr reported all was good. He planned to sign the contract for work on Raccoon Hill Road on the following day.

c. Planning Board

Selectman Herbert said the Board hadn't met recently.

d. Conservation Commission - Cyanobacteria Blooms @ Tucker Pond

Chairman Walker welcomed Doug Darling to speak. Mr. Darling chairs the committee focused on cyanobacteria blooms that have been occurring at Tucker Pond.

Mr. Darling reported that cyanobacteria blooms have been occurring for the past three years. During a bloom, a large yellow scum covers portions of the water. Not only is it ugly, but it smells. The bacteria, formerly known as blue-green algae, are able to produce liver toxins, kidney toxins and neurotoxins. Short term exposure can cause skin reactions. Longer term exposure can kill fish, pets, livestock and seriously harm humans.



Cyanobacteria Bloom, August 26, 2021

Dangerous levels of cyanobacteria have been measured in Tucker Pond by Amanda McQuaid, Harmful Algal Blooms Program Coordinator at NH's Department of Environmental Services (DES). Because of the level of toxins, the pond has been listed on the lake advisory list for the past few years. This means swimming is discouraged and the water should not be used for drinking nor outdoor showers. The condition degrades the recreational enjoyment of the pond, is medically dangerous and cyanobacteria

blooms have been shown to cause a significant decrease in property values. The history of the problem is online due to DES advisories. Mr. Darling noted that cyanobacteria was a growing problem across New Hampshire.

NH Lakes recently held a congress where several hundred people gathered. NH DES and some environmental companies presented. Mr. Darling provided the following list of online links to additional resources and information.

Resource Description & Reference Links
Tucker Pond Cyanobacteria Committee Blog: Protect Tucker Pond. This blog has multiple posts which explain how cyanobacteria are affecting the pond and what we are doing to prevent cyanobacteria blooms. https://protecttuckerpond.wordpress.com/
Kate Hastings, NHDES Harmful Algal Blooms specialist, presentation at NH Lakes Congress, 6-2022. Title: "Cyanobacteria—What You Need to Know About Toxic Blooms in Our Lakes" https://nhlakes.org/wp-content/uploads/Cyanobacteria%E2%80%94What-You-Need-to-Know-About-Toxic-Blooms-in-Our-Lakes.pdf
Laura Colcord, Tucker Pond Improvement Association presentation at NH Lakes Congress, 6-2022 https://nhlakes.org/wp-content/uploads/Talk-2-Tucker-Ponds-Cyanobacteria-Committee-is-Taking-Action%E2%80%94Volunteers-Making-a-Difference.pdf
FB Environmental Associates. This company is preparing the Tucker Pond Watershed Management Plan. https://www.fbenvironmental.com/
<i>Please Note: If the hyperlinks here don't work, copy & paste the links directly into your browser.</i>

Mr. Darling noted that the NH State Legislature recognizes the growing cyanobacteria problem. They recently passed HB 1066, signed into law by the Governor on July 1, requiring the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services to prepare a plan relative to cyanobacterial blooms in New Hampshire.

Mr. Darling spoke about the work the Tucker Pond Improvement Association has taken. In 2020, they set up a cyanobacteria committee, which he chairs. They put 1000's of hours into understanding what the problem was and what causes it. They had raised \$45,000 from the pond community to hire consultants.

They had analyzed 100's of water quality samples. They've had sediments chemically analyzed. Analysis showed that too much phosphorus was getting into the pond. Two main sources of phosphorus are 1) storm water runoff from the woods which brings nutrients to the lake, and 2) older septic systems.

Addressing storm water runoff, they measured 140 parts per billion of phosphorus in the tributaries running into the lake. A healthy, clear water lake will have about 9 parts per billion. This is a significant part of the problem. Given these observations, we need a State approved watershed management plan. That is where much of the \$45,000 has gone to. It will provide a path forward. It will model the inflow and output of phosphorus from the pond. It will suggest the top 20 to 25 specific locations where the runoff can be decreased.

Mr. Darling said it was important to note that the Tucker Pond community was strongly behind the efforts. For example, 91% of the property owners responded to a survey about individual septic systems. Also, they had an 85% participation rate in fund raising.

FB Environmental has been hired to prepare a watershed management plan. They have a strong history of analyzing nutrient flow in watersheds in New Hampshire and Maine. The plan will give a series of specific projects to remediate the cyanobacteria problem. Part of the plan is to bring the whole community to the process. FB Environmental will be presenting a near final draft plan to the pond community on Saturday, August 6 at 1 pm at the Salisbury Town Hall. The Town Administrator and Selectboard are invited to attend. Selectman John

Herbert said he would like to attend the presentation.

Mr. Darling explained that the Water Management Plan is a required prerequisite for going to the State to ask for the State to pay for remedial actions. Many of the actions may require involvement from the Selectboard. Actions may include approving conservation on a certain hillside to make sure no houses are built on the hillside, bringing backhoes in to change the flow of tributaries and regrading roads to prevent rain water from going into the pond.

Mr. Darling encouraged everyone to review the links provided.

Chairman Walker noted that both he and Selectman Hoyt would not be able to attend the meeting due to being on vacation, but Selectman Herbert would be there. Mr. Darling said he would be recording the meeting and make that available to the Selectboard.

Selectman Herbert made a **motion** to waive the fee for the rental of the Town Hall for August 6, 2022. Chairman Walker **seconded**. The **motion passed** with all in favor.

e. Highway Department Advisory Committee

Bill MacDuffie Jr reported that the first meeting went well. They reviewed the outline of the tasks. They will be meeting every second and fourth Monday of the month. Bill said he felt it was a good group in the committee and that the work should go well.

6) New Business

a. Traffic Control Signs

Chairman Walker explained that the contract for the web services for the traffic control signs was up for renewal. A year ago, he was questioning their effectiveness. In 2020, they were left on in stealth mode. Reviewing the data, he found that some drivers would slow down. However, it did not appear to have an impact on those who were driving at dangerous speeds.

He compared the months of May and June. One month, the feedback sign was on; the other, it was off. The average speed for period one was 43 mph. The average speed for period two was also 43 mph. The number of people going over 45 mph during period one was 32%. It was the same for period two. When they were installed in July 2020, 29% went through over 45 mph. He concluded that the signs slow down slower drivers, and the faster drivers just keep going. He believes the signs work in Sunapee because there's usually a police officer not far from the sign.

Chairman Walker said he could not justify turning the signs back on when they don't have an impact and was inclined to let the contract run out. He suggested that the Town consider selling the signs on the NHMA classified ads section. Selectmen Herbert and Hoyt agreed.

A member of the public asked if a roundabout was planned for the intersection of Routes 127 and 4. Selectman Herbert said it was at the bottom of the list. Chairman Walker said it had been discussed but he did not see it happening.

Faith Muello asked what it would take to get an officer to do radar in the area. Chairman Walker noted that Salisbury pays to have NH State Police in town 8 hours per week, which includes traffic enforcement.

7) Old Business

a. SOP - Public Meetings & Non-Public Meetings

Chairman Walker made a **motion** to approve and adopt the updated Standard Operating Policy / Procedure for Public Meetings & Non-Public Meetings. Selectman Hoyt **seconded**. The **motion passed** with all in favor.

b. SOP - Inclement Weather

Chairman Walker made a **motion** to approve and adopt the updated Standard Operating Policy / Procedure for Inclement Weather. Selectman Herbert **seconded**. The **motion passed** with all in favor.

c. Library Shingles

The shingles were installed in 2007. Selectman Hoyt felt the shingles were in good condition, but there was an installation issue. Selectman Herbert suggested the next budget should take the roof into account.

d. TDS Poles

Selectman Hoyt said 11 utility poles needed to be replaced before work could continue. Paperwork with Eversource had to be done.

8) Public Comments

a. Jeff Strouth

Jeff Strouth said he owns property on the North Road end of Robie Road. He has a signed timber permit. He needs to get an 11 foot wide truck up the 7 foot wide road. He wanted to clear the pathway, removing some trees. He had talked to all of the neighbors. The Town Administrator sent an email to Mr. Strouth in response to communication with one of his neighbors. He was looking for assistance.

Chairman Walker reported that he had visited the site. He noted that the general requirement is that the road needs to be in equivalent or better condition after logging. Mr. Strouth said he had already repaired a culvert damaged by another party.

Chairman Walker said that no trees with diameters of 15 inches or more could be taken down without permission of the property owner. Mr. Strouth said everything was 4 inches or less.

Bill MacDuffie Jr said he visited the road. He had no concerns.

Chairman Walker made a **motion** to allow Mr. Strouth to upgrade the road, including ditching, after consultation with the Road Agent, obtaining the Road Agent's approval, and that nothing over 15 inches in diameter was taken without permission, and that the road would be left in same or better condition when the logging was done. Selectman Hoyt **seconded**. The **motion passed** with all in favor.

b. Loverin Hill Road Turnaround

Cindy Romano informed the Selectboard and Road Agent that the turnaround area at the end of Loverin Hill Road needed attention. The turnaround, used by plows in the winter, got washed out during the spring on top of the culvert. A big rock blocked water drainage. Al Romano pulled the rock, did some ditching. He noticed that the culvert was rotted. It needed to be fixed before winter.

Road Agent MacDuffie said he would take care of it.

c. Property Assessments in Town Report

A member of the public asked if property assessments would be published in the next Annual Report. Chairman Walker said the values were published online and he didn't know how many pages it would require. Kimberley Edelmann said she could run a report and answer that question. She noted that the property information had not been included in recent reports.

9) Town Administrator's Report

Chairman Walker reported that letters had been sent out to property owners with changes to their assessed values.

10) Next Meeting

Chairman Walker noted that with he and Selectman Hoyt both on vacation during the first week of August, he wanted to modify the meeting schedule. Instead of meeting on the 1st Wednesday of the month, they would meet on the 2nd Wednesday. The others concurred.

Chairman Walker made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting 7:45 pm. Selectman Hoyt **seconded**. The **motion passed**. The next scheduled meeting: Wednesday, July 20, at 7 pm at Academy Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberley Brown Edelmann

Recording Secretary

*These minutes were approved at the Board of
Selectmen's meeting of July 20, 2022.*