



Salisbury Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 9, 2020

APPROVED

Selectman Ken Ross-Raymond, Departing Chair	Present
Selectman John W. Herbert, New Chair	Present
Selectman Jim Hoyt	Present
Town Administrator April Rollins	Present
Municipal Assistant Kimberley Edelmann	Present

Visitors: Several citizens attended the meeting which was held outdoors on the grass behind the Town Hall.

Attendees included Shelley Barrington, Kelly Cote, Kathie Downes, Velma Emery, Mary Heath, Jason Hood, Joe & Gayle Landry, Sharon & Bill MacDuffie Sr, Bill MacDuffie Jr, David MacDuffie, Mac MacDuffie, Marcia Murphy, Jeff Nangle, Dora & David Rapalyea, Anne Ross-Raymond, Brett Walker, Leann Wesoja

1. Open Meeting

Chair Ross-Raymond opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

2. Minutes

Minutes of the September 2 meeting were unanimously approved after a motion by Selectman Hoyt, seconded by Selectman Herbert, with all in favor.

3. Payroll Registers

A motion was made by Selectman Herbert to approved the payroll registers, seconded by Selectman Hoyt, all were in favor.

4. Transfer Station

Town Administrator April Rollins noted that she was still waiting to hear from Scot Sweatt to learn whether he had finished up the work there. The generator had been picked up that day.

5. Investment Policy

Chair Ross-Raymond noted that the Selectmen's Investment Policy had been reviewed, corrected, and updated. The Chair thanked Brett Walker for his recommendations. Selectman Herbert made a motion to approve the updated version, Selectman Hoyt seconded, all were in favor.

6. State Primary

Town Administrator April Rollins reported that the State Primary went well the day before with zero to little incident. She was pleased it went so well. There was plenty of room for everyone. The November election would be run the same way.

TA Rollins noted that 438 people voted in person. During the last State Primary, there were about 120 voters.

Selectman Herbert added that there were 10 times the usual number of absentee ballots. He said that was common around the State. He also added that it was a well-behaved crowd, unlike in some other Towns where they had to call the police about people who wanted to vote without a mask. He had heard that at one place, a woman showed up wearing a Trump tee shirt. The moderator told her that wasn't allowed, so she took it off. Laughter ensued.

7. Town Administrator's Report

TA Rollins noted that she had received paperwork which the Chair needed to complete; the Election for the NH Association of Assessing Officials

The Budget Committee would be meeting on Monday September 14 at 7pm in the Academy Hall parking lot weather permitting, otherwise indoors upstairs.

TA Rollins noted that a GOFERR (Governor's Office of Emergency Relief & Recovery) reimbursement of \$1,086.49 had been received.

8. Thank You & Good Bye

Chair Ken Ross-Raymond made the following statement:

"I've got a list of people I would like to thank, so bear with me for a minute.

April, John, Gayle, Anne, Jim Mailloux, all the office staff, Kathie Downes, Bill MacDuffie Sr, Bill MacDuffie Jr, all of the volunteer firefighters & rescue, the Ladies Auxiliary, all of our board and committee members, all of our volunteers, and all of our citizens.

It's been my privilege to work with all of you over these past many years. It truly has been a privilege. I can't thank you enough. And thank you to the citizens for allowing me to serve you all these past years.

With that, I am submitting my resignation, effective immediately."

Ken handed his letter of resignation to Town Administrator Rollins before joining the public on the grass.

TA Rollins asked for a motion and a vote. Selectman Jim Hoyt made a motion to approve. Selectman John Herbert seconded the motion to accept with regret. Both were in favor. The motion to accept Chair Ross-Raymond's letter of resignation passed.

TA Rollins recognized Gayle Landry. Mrs. Landry made the following statement:

"Anybody who has attended a selectmen's meeting has heard Ken say the same two words numerous times: Thank you, thank you, thank you. Ken, you thank everybody. So, I've been making a list of things I want to thank you for. This list. I'm not going to read the whole thing.

Tonight, I am going to thank you for the benches in front of the Town Hall. You worked late into the night to get those benches done before Town Meeting.

Thank you for all of the time you have spent under these buildings. You've pulled wet insulation, you have reinforced beams, you have looked for dead animals.

Thank you for the railing at Academy Hall.

You have been Salisbury's biggest cheerleader, our biggest supporter and the biggest advocate ever for the taxpayer. You will leave this town with a legacy of kindness and integrity.

It has been my pleasure and honor to work with you for the last 15 years. You will be sorely missed. Thank you for being my friend."

A round of applause ensued.

Bill MacDuffie SR spoke next. He noted that Ken's famous words were, "I'll take care of it." He then stated that he wished to volunteer fill the position. Applause ensued.

TA Rollins noted that the following day, she would be posting the various positions that were open for the Town of Salisbury. TA Rollins then took a moment to echo Mrs. Landry sentiments.

"Anne. Most people know Anne as the Selectman's wife but some of us know Anne as a key member of the Town's Planning Board. Anne is a retired lawyer of the Public Utilities Commission and that experience brought many years of law knowledge to the Planning table.

Anne was often 'the voice of reason' during those meetings when we digress into conversations about pizza, which ultimately brought everyone's mind to food and Anne would immediately say.... 'OK, let's go I'm hungry, I haven't had dinner yet!'

Anne also took over the post of Town Moderator in 2018 and even though she has only held that position for a short time, she has performed the task seamlessly and with utter professionalism. She will be missed!"

Applause ensued.

TA Rollins continued.

"What can we not say about Ken. Dedicated to the job and always doing the job with integrity. Ken has touched many of the lives of the people that live in Salisbury by either working with them through one of the Town's Boards, Committees or Departments. If this was not the case then it was because Ken was volunteering to help in some way, shape or form. He not only dedicated his time, but also project materials. Mrs. Landry has already listed them, with exception to the library, some other projects and the neighborhood watch program.

Ken is infamously known to make house calls to check on people in their time of need or discuss any issues they may have to get the facts straight from the source or just to say 'Hi'. Not only can Ken drive to your house at tortoise speed but he also knows how to pick up the phone and check in with you just to see how things are going, which shows he truly cares. He treats everyone with kindness and respect. Ken is always, always known for saying 'Thank you'. And those two little words go a long way.

Best wishes to you both."

Applause followed.

9. Petitions for Selectman

9.1 In Support of Bill MacDuffie, Senior

A gentleman presented a petition signed by approximately 150 town residents to the selectmen. He read it:

"We the undersigned citizens of Salisbury request the Salisbury Board of Selectmen appoint William MacDuffie, Sr to the vacant selectman's position."

He continued by stating:

"Bill has lived in this town for probably close to 50 years. He has served on many boards, sat on many committees, volunteered for as long as I can remember, whether it was for the 4-H kids, baseball or the Town.

Bill knows the pulse of the Town, so to speak. He comes with a lot of experience. That should speak volumes. He has attended many selectmen's meetings, not as a selectman, but just because he cares enough to spend the time there. The same with the Planning Board. It's very hot up there! A lot of people don't want to take the time to sit. He was there for many many consecutive meetings.

I think, and a lot of people think, he's the most qualified for the position. He's very qualified, maybe not the most, but he's very qualified for the position. I often hear, when I come to the selectmen's meetings, that the selectmen are here to carry out the will of the people. I've heard that echoed many times. Well, it seems that the will of the people are looking to get Mr. Bill MacDuffie to fill this vacancy left by Ken. I think with Bill MacDuffie you're not going to get any surprises. You're going to get good old fashioned integrity, and that's it. Thank you."

Applause ensued.

Selectman John Herbert stated that he had lots of admiration and respect for Bill and that they would definitely take that into consideration.

9.2 Support for Brett Walker

Shelley Barrington presented a petition signed by people in support of Brett Walker for the position of selectman. She explained that he had a big financial background, something which based on what she had heard in the past month was something she believed the Town needed. She felt he would make a great candidate. She did not want to give a speech. She presented the petition to the selectmen on behalf of those who signed the petition.

Selectman Herbert accepted the petition.

10. Board of Selectmen Chair

Selectman Hoyt made a motion to make Selectman Herbert the Chair. Selectman Herbert seconded. Both were in favor. The motion passed.

TA Rollins noted that one of the selectmen needed to attend the upcoming Budget Committee meeting. Selectman Hoyt stepped forward.

Chair Herbert noted that the role of chair had no authority above the other selectmen, aside from the chairing of meetings.

11. Next Meeting - Beginning of October

Chair Herbert said the next selectmen's meeting would be in the beginning of October. He added that at that time, he expected to announce who would be filling in as the new selectman. There were a number of considerations for that, including some legalities. It would not be as easy as it appeared. At the next meeting, they planned to make an announcement.

Citizen Marcia Murphy asked if at the next meeting, making of the decision would be done in public. Also, she wanted to know if the two candidates, and any others who wanted to apply for that position, would be present so that they could be vetted. She pointed out that the two selectmen could not discuss the selection in non-public session. The only place discussion could be held was in a public meeting, not via email, non-public, nor conversation; only in public.

Both Chair Herbert and Selectman Hoyt acknowledged the discussion and decision would be made in public.

Ms. Murphy asked if the candidates would be brought into the meeting to be interviewed so that they would have an opportunity to speak to the citizens.

Both selectmen confirmed that would happen.

Ms. Murphy said they wanted to fill the vacancy legally, unlike what had once been done by the School District.

Multiple other citizens also stressed that the discussion must take place at the October meeting for all to hear.

Ken Ross-Raymond asked how many signatures were on the petition for Brett Walker. TA Rollins counted 61.

Gayle Landry asked Selectman Hoyt what he would be looking for in a new Selectman. He replied that he would be looking for someone who cared about the Town, was non-biased, would listen to the people and listen to what

they wanted, and not have an agenda.

Chair Herbert noted that the person would only be filling in until Town Meeting in March. Then, citizens would vote for a new Selectman.

Marcia Murphy asked if the three Supervisors of the Checklist would also be at the October meeting to appoint a new Town Moderator. Chair Herbert noted that they have their own meetings. TA Rollins noted that the Supervisors would be having a meeting before the November election; it would be a posted meeting.

Dora Rapalyea noted that filling the role of Moderator would also only be until March.

Ken Ross-Raymond noted that 61 signatures for Brett Walker was less than half of the signatures submitted for Bill MacDuffie Sr. He believed that was the voice of the people which Selectman Hoyt might listen to.

Chair Herbert put to rest discussion about who felt confident and safe signing petitions. In the end, he noted that Selectman Hoyt and he would be making the final decision.

Marcia Murphy noted she had once received flak for signing a petition with the goal of having a subject discussed and voted upon at Town Meeting. It resulted in her being blocked from the "Friends and Citizens of Salisbury NH" Facebook group. Brett Walker noted that the group was initially created for those in favor of blocking that petition.

Chair Herbert noted that there is also an Official Town of Salisbury page on Facebook.

It was noted that the number of signatures on petitions was not really relevant to the decision.

Joe Landry asked what would happen if the two Selectmen were not able to agree on one candidate. Chair Herbert noted the position could stay vacant until March. He also said that under State law, interested candidates could petition the court. Ken Ross-Raymond noted that any citizen could petition the court, not just the candidates.

Kathie Downes suggested to Chair Herbert that they review all candidates and select the most qualified person to fill the position for the next five months. Then, any resident that wants the position can run for it in March. She noted the position is not as easy as people think and asked the Selectmen to do what's best for the Town.

Sharon MacDuffie asked Chair Herbert how he was appointed a Selectman. Chair Herbert replied he was appointed during the meeting that Pete Ballou resigned at. Sharon MacDuffie asked why the appointment of the vacancy was being handled differently this time. TA Rollins noted she was not sure how this was handled in the past, but the vacancy will be advertised publicly, to see if other residents show any interest.

12. Adjournment

Chair Herbert made a motion to adjourn. Selectman Hoyt seconded. Both were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.

13. Next Meeting

Wednesday, October 7, 2020 @ 6 p.m. upstairs at the Academy Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberley Brown Edelmenn

Recording Secretary

These meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted on October 7, 2020.

Selectmen, Town of Salisbury