

Town of Trenton
Board of Selectmen
Minutes of May 2, 2023

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Present: Fred Ehrlenbach, Dan Monahan, Charles Farley, Jr., John Bennett, Danielle Cole, and Carol Walsh. In attendance were Steve Heckman, Christina Heiniger, Susan Sargent, Mike Gilmartin, Carlene Hanscom, Chip Roskom, Kristen Farley, Jessica Thurston, Lisa Hallett, Kevin Hallett, Chantal Longo-Guess, and Susan Starr. Attending virtually were Gary Burr and Linda Hodgkins.
- II. Visitors to be Heard: Susan Sargent suggested that high school students, from both MDI High and Ellsworth High, be given an opportunity to earn community service credits by managing the zoom equipment at regular Select Board meetings. Many, if not most, have the skills to do so.
- III. Acceptance of Agenda: Add signing the warrant for town meeting.
- IV. Approval of Minutes of March 21, 2023: Bennett motioned to approve; Cole seconded. Vote: 5 Yes.
- V. Old Business:
 - a. Fire Department: Heckman thanked the board for the survey that has been completed on the Bayside Road property. He plans to meet with a civil engineer to determine the scope of work for future bids.
 - b. Parks and Recreation: Roskom added that Parks and Rec can benefit by students needing to perform community service. The committee would like to separate the Trenton Butterfly Garden group from Parks & Rec so that they might request funds for their own budget. It was suggested that the Newsletter be used to broadcast the need for support for the special day for butterflies that Roskom described.
- VI. New Business:
 - a. Discussion: RSU vs AOS 91 School System: After reading several news articles and hearing Supt. Zboray address the Board regarding the anticipated changes to the school system, Starr had provided board members with a list of questions regarding potential changes that were thought to be of particular interest to residents, parents, and teachers in Trenton. By putting the questions in writing, Starr hoped to begin a general, town-wide discussion to ensure that voters were aware of detriments and improvements that might be expected due to future changes. These need to be known to voters well before a town meeting is called to vote on changes. Starr would like to see two separate steps taken by the Board of Selectmen: #1: Reach out to residents/voters to determine the importance possible aspects of school change, i.e.

school choice, school location, etc. before our representatives to the yet to be formed Regional Planning Committee (RPC) finalize plans for an RSU. Starr had attended a recent Trenton School Committee meeting and posed the possibility of community outreach to them. It became clear that Trenton's School Committee members would defer to Supt. Zboray before taking any action. Lacking independence, Starr did not believe that the School Committee would reach out to Trenton residents in a neutral manner. Therefore, action from the Board of Selectmen was needed. Item #2: Starr asked that the Board identify persons who will research alternatives to remaining with the school district if it forms an RSU. I.e. becoming an independent school, or joining with other nearby schools to keep high quality in the Trenton school at less cost. These requests generated general discussion. It was finally determined that not enough details were known. The reorganization committee has yet to be formed. Board members agreed that communication with Trenton residents should take place as plans and funding details evolve, and that other options should be explored by Trenton representatives to the RPC.

- b. Re-sign Versant Revision Energy Document: Monahan motioned to authorize the Chair to sign the document. Bennett seconded. Vote: 5 Yes.
 - c. Signing the Warrant for Town Meeting: Farley motioned to sign the warrant; Bennett seconded. Vote: 5 Yes.
- VII. Other Business:
- VIII. Approval of AP and Payroll: Monahan motioned to approve; Cole seconded. Vote: 5 Yes.
- IX. Adjournment: Bennett motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm; Cole seconded. Vote: 5 Yes.