Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 6, 2020, 5:00 p.m.

Corner Meeting House

Chairman Ruth Mooney called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Also present were Selectman Claude Patten, Selectman Jon Pike, Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin, Assistant Town Administrator Alicia Jipson, DPW Director Craig Clairmont, Fire Chief Mike Newhall, Assistant Fire Chief Deborah Black, and Representatives from Comcast.

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Abatements, Manifests, Exemptions & Credits

The appropriate abatements, exemptions, credits and manifests were signed by all attending Board members.

Selectman Pike moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 16, 2019 as written; seconded by Selectman Patten and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Comcast Request- Comcast of Maine/New Hampshire Inc. requests the Board for a grant of location to install an underground conduit system on Overlook Drive. Comcast is constructing a concrete structure to house their infrastructure on Overlook, and they have asked to bury the underground conduit. Comcast and DPW Director Craig Clairmont have been in discussion and a $25,000 bond to the Town has been proposed. Selectmen Pike asked Craig if he agreed with the proposed plan. Craig responded that he has looked over the plans and has expressed to Comcast that they work outside of the road but within the ROW as best as they can. The less they have to cut into the pavement the better. Selectman Pike motioned to grant Comcast of Maine/New Hampshire Inc. the requested license for site work in the ROW as discussed today; seconded by Selectman Patten and the motion passed unanimously.

Belknap Merrimack CAP letter- TA Beaudin received a letter from the CAP program who have been operating out of the Mill. As of January 31st they will be terminating their lease at the Mill. CAP has sent letters out to current participants notifying them of the changes. CAP expressed that the reason for the closure is due to low attendance in Belmont. They have been
doing a lot of advertising and the numbers are not rising to the levels that they need to stay operational. Belmont residents are welcome to go to the locations in Tilton, Franklin and Laconia. TA Beaudin received a call from Mrs. Roche, a Belmont resident who frequents the Senior Center expressing her concerns and has inquired with Jeanne if it will still be possible for a small group of seniors to still use the facility on occasion. Mrs. Roche expressed that Belmont is her home and she and others do not want to travel to other Towns to use the other facilities. Selectman Pike expressed that he is in favor of them using the space and suggested that they form some sort of a committee. Someone needs to be responsible for the keys and cleaning of the space after use and making sure it is not already being used. TA Beaudin and ATA Jipson will come up with a contract for use of the Mill for the various outside entities to use.

Local Option for Sports Betting- HB 480 took effect July 12, 2019. This is very similar to the Keno vote the Town had a few years back. Any and all Towns that would allow the sport betting to be in their Towns will need to place it on the Ballot for vote in March. Not every Town is guaranteed to have the sports betting. In the instance that a facility is chosen to have it at their site it will need to be approved by the Town first. TA Beaudin suggested that if the Board is in favor that they go ahead and put it on the ballot, it will make it that much easier. Collectively as a Board they agreed to put forward to the voters the local option for sports book retail locations.

Fuel Purchasing as of June 2020- TA Beaudin has been notified that the gentleman handling our fuel biding is retiring and will no longer be handling the account, and no one else has expressed interest in taking over. Our current contract expires as of June 2020. The current price under this current contract is $2.21 a gallon for oil. Selectmen Pike expressed that he has a contact with Irving Oil and wholesale pricing and believes that we may be able to join the group he is a part of and get the wholesale pricing on propane and oil. TA Beaudin will follow up with Selectman Pike and see if this will be an option and work out the details. The Board collectively agreed that if they can save money, they are in favor of it.

Public Hearing to Accept the Terms of an Emergency Management Performance Grant- TA Beaudin noted that at our last meeting as she was signing the documents, she noticed that it needs to hold the same process of a posted meeting including notice in the paper, web, and post office. So today we are repeating the actions taken at your 12/16/2019 meeting to accept the grant for the generator at the fire Department.

Selectman Mooney opened the public hearing at 5:30 p.m. to accept the terms of an Emergency Management Performance Grant in the amount of $22,500 to purchase and install a generator in the Town’s Emergency Operations Center. The total cost of the project will be $45,000, in which the Town is responsible for 50%. Fire Chief Newhall confirmed that the Town has met its burden of the 50% share in response to Selectman Pike’s question regarding impact on the tax rate. As there were no more public comments; Selectman Mooney closed the public hearing.
Selectman Mooney moved to accept the terms of the Emergency Management Performance Grant as presented in the amount of $22,500.00 to purchase and install a generator for the community’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Furthermore, the board acknowledges that the total cost of this project will be $45,000.00, in which the Town will be responsible for a 50% match ($22,500.00). Selectman Patten seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Selectman Mooney moved to give Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin the authority to sign the necessary documents; seconded by Selectman Patten and the motion passed unanimously.

Shaker Regional Public Hearing- The booklets have been dropped off at TH their meeting is scheduled for Tuesday January 14th. Which conflicts with our meeting. Selectman Pike expressed some concerns about the school spending and how they handled not forming a formal Budget Committee as asked by the voters in a prior year.

Old business

Legal Fees- Mr. Sylvia has requested the Town consider payment of ½ of the legal fees due. We have received a check from him in the amount of $3,100. Selectman Mooney expressed that the full amount for legal fees is just. Mr. Sylvia was ordered by the court to pay that and he should be held accountable to do so. We have been dealing with this issue for 3 or 4 years now. Mr. Sylvia is a resident who was not in compliance with town and state regulations. The court ordered him to pay back the legal fees. He chose to go this route versus making it right. Board members Patten and Pike were in agreement, TA Beaudin will deposit the check and send Mr. Sylvia a letter stating that the balance is due in full.

Potts NH RE LLC- Mr. Gloddy has been in contact with Mr. Potts and is requesting to make two payments on the 2017 liens. TA Beaudin expressed that the payments are due by January 13th or the Board will issue a Tax Collectors deed. Selectman Mooney expressed that yes, he can make the two payments, but they need to be done by January 13th and no later.

Request for Abatement of Water Fees- Chris Nye of 6 Leisure Lane received a number of high-water bills. He did a number of things to determine what was going on and to remedy the issue, and ended up having to cut into the concrete slab under the trailer to find the leak that was 4 feet underground. It has since been repaired and is looking for consideration. He is currently making payments on the past high bills. Selectman Pike suggested to use the last bill as a reference and abate the difference on the other high bills.

PD Brochure- TA Beaudin stated that they are meeting Thursday to discuss the PD Brochure concept, posters and distribution ideas. The Board members expressed some items on the brochure that they would like to see revised. TA Beaudin noted that to have 1,000 printed in color at staples will cost $399. Selectman Pike expressed that to be effective the brochures should be handed out 30 and 15 days prior to Town meeting. Selectman Pike asked for TA Beaudin to consider a mass mailing.
Default Budget- The total proposed default budget will be $7,778,705 which overall is an increase of $82,249 over last year’s operating budget. Currently we are looking at 31 articles on the warrant, 6 of which are due to union contracts.

Other Old Business

Cemetery-TA Beaudin asked the Board if they still want to move forward with eliminating the Cemetery Trustees. Selectman Pike motioned to move forward and put the article on the warrant; seconded by Selectman Patten and the motion passed unanimously. TA Beaudin noted that it will sit as article #3.

Non-Public

Chairman Mooney moved to enter non-public session in accordance with RSA 91: A:3 II (c) at 6:07 p.m. Those present and voting were Ruth Mooney, Claude Patten and Jon Pike. Also present were TA Beaudin and Asst. TA Jipson.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Ruth P. Mooney, Chairman

Claude B. Patten, Jr., Vice-Chairman

Jon Pike, Selectman