Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 13, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

Corner Meeting House

Chairman Ruth Mooney called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.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, Police Chief Mark Lewandowski, Donna Hepp, Tom Garfield, Carmen Lorentz, and George Condodemetraky.

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 Patten moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 6, 2020 as written; seconded by Selectman Pike and the motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Pike moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 9, 2020 as written; seconded by Selectman Patten and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Bond Hearing RSA 33:8-a

Chairman Mooney opened the Public Hearing in accordance with RSA 33:8-a to take public comment on a bond in the amount of $3,500,000 to construct a new Police Station on Town owned property. TA Beaudin noted that it will be article # 2 on the warrant and will require a 3/5 vote to pass. The Budget Committee will be holding their Public Hearing tomorrow. The bond includes a 2.45% interest rate that is subject to change, but the Bond Bank felt that the 2.45% is the best estimate to go with at this time. Members of the Facility Strategy Committee are here to answer any questions and add additional comments. We are in the
process of having brochures, posters and postcards made up that highlight the new PD and give information on voting, in hopes to increase voter turnout.

Donna Hepp stood at the podium and addressed the Board and gave their update of the past 2 years of the study findings. Selectman Mooney also commented that it was the voters that proposed this committee and voted it in. Donna continued on that the committee held two community public sessions and held two public tours and the video of the public tours is on the website and on the lakes Region Public Access Television. Through all the community discussion the PD was the option they felt needed to be addressed first. Where the current PD is it gave no room for future expansion if they were to add an additional level. Selectman Pike asked if members of the committee can be at the deliberative session on February 1st to be able to address questions and concerns. Tom Garfield a member of the committee also stood and addressed the board as a resident stating that he supported the bond and rebuilding a new PD where the CMH house stands. He feels that the new facility will meet the needs of the PD and the current site is inadequate and has outlived its life and served the community well. It is pretty evident that we outlived our space hence the trailer outside. Selectman Mooney commented that many have done tours of the PD and the PD when available is still willing to give tours to those that are interested to see the state of the current PD and why the need is there. George Condodemetralkuy stood to address the Board, stating that he supports the PD and the bond, however, does not approve of the location. George felt the space is to small of a lot. George feels that there are more suitable lots in Town to consider and does not support tearing down the CMH with the cost of that not being built into the bond. Dennis Grimes stood at the podium and addressed the board, stating that he felt the current site is not adequate enough and is a safety concern. Selectman Mooney asked the Police Chief how long has the PD been at that location and how many accidents has there been as a result of the location and cruisers exiting the station? Mark commented since 1996 and there have not been any accidents, but a few close calls. Selectman Pike commented that the public came out to make comment on the proposed locations not the Selectmen or the committee, and the consensus was to keep it at the current site. Carmen Lorentz member of the committee stood at the podium and addressed the Board stating that she is in support of the bond and will be at the February 1st deliberative session. She understands that everyone will have a difference of opinion of where the optimal location should be, but wants people to understand the committee looked at options that the Town already owned versus buying land to keep the costs down. Also adding that selling the CMH or TH would be very hard as the use is very limited and it would be very difficult to find a buyer. With no additional public comments, Selectman Mooney closed the Public Hearing at 10:46.

Chairman Mooney opened the Public Hearing in accordance with RSA 31:95-c to take public comment on changing the purpose of the Special Revenue Fund known as the Fire/Ambulance Equipment and Apparatus Fund. TA Beaudin noted that this will be the first of two Public Hearings, the second one will be on February 24th at 10:00 a.m. Expenditures being proposed to be restricted is $129,500 for the following purposes:
Training Expenses $3,000
Medical & Supply Expenses $30,000
Ambulance Billing Fees $25,000
Overtime $40,000
Telephone $2,000
Conference & Dues $1,500
Office Equipment $12,000
Vehicle Repair & Parts $8,000
Fuel $8,000

Selectman Pike inquired what the balance was in the fund. TA Beaudin replied balance as of November was $404,071.07. Selectman Pike asked Fire Chief Newhall what the collection percentages for the ambulances were. Mike didn’t have that on him currently but will bring to the next meeting. With no additional public comments, Selectman Mooney closed the Public Hearing at 10:52.

Donation- TA Beaudin is seeking acceptance of a donation in the amount of $5,000 from A.E. Mitchell to be used for the IMC Mobile project at the PD. TA Beaudin noted that we will create a separate line item to account for these funds. Selectman Pike asked how much the total system will cost, Police Chief replied that it will cost $28,000 and the remaining funds were taken from the 2019 budget that were left over. Selectman Mooney noted the acceptance of the donation. Selectman Pike asked that the Police Chief to personally thank Mr. Mitchell for the donation.

Donation- TA Beaudin is seeking acceptance of a donation in the amount of $2,000 from A.E. Mitchell to be used for building supplies to be used for a small renovation at the Fire Department. Selectman Mooney noted the acceptance of the donation. Selectman Pike asked how much the project cost, and Fire Chief Newhall responded it cost $1,800 and no labor cost, project was completed by Fire House staff. Selectman Pike also asked that the Fire Chief personally thank Mr. Mitchell for the donation.

Old Business

Acceptance of Tax collectors Deeds- TA Beaudin sent letters in October and follow up letters in December we have received payments from three individuals. One paid 2017 in full, another paid all back taxes in full and Potts did come in on Friday and made a large payment and is expected to come in by the end of the close of business today to pay the rest. TA Beaudin suggested to the Board they sign the deeds today and hold till the end of the day in accordance of the law incase they do show up and pay. Two parcels are vacant land, and the others may take some time as we will need to go through the eviction process. If they wish to regain ownership, they will need to pay all back taxes in full plus interest.

Updates- TA Beaudin commented that the Budget Committee has their Public Hearing tomorrow evening, Tuesday is also the last day for petitioned articles. January 29th at 4:00 pm
we will have a review with moderator Al Nix to review the Warrant and to make sure we are all ready for the deliberative session.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Ruth P. Mooney, Chairman

Claude B. Patten, Jr., Vice-Chairman

Jon Pike, Selectman