

**TOWN OF NEW HAMPTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OFFICE, NEW HAMPTON, NH 03256**

Friday, November 1, 2024

MEMBERS

Present were Mr. Drake, Mr. Shaw, and Mr. Harvey.

PRESENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

Town Administrator Mr. Davenport, Fire Chief Cathy, & Richard Morse

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Drake called the meeting of the Board to order at 2:00 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES:

Public minutes of 10/24/24 and Non-Public minutes of 10/24/24 were held.

APPOINTMENTS:

Mr. Morse left the meeting room.

2:10 pm

Fire Chief Scott Cathy

NON-PUBLIC

SESSION:

At 2:03 PM, Mr. Drake made a motion, seconded by Mr. Harvey to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II(a) Personnel. Roll call vote was taken: Mr. Drake – Y, Mr. Shaw – Y, & Mr. Harvey – Y.

PRESENT:

Mr. Drake, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Harvey, Mr. Davenport, and Chief Cathy

**RETURN TO PUBLIC
SESSION:**

At 2:16 PM, Mr. Drake made a motion, seconded by Mr. Harvey to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes for 5 years. Vote was unanimous.

2:30 pm

Fire & EMS 2024

Budget Discussion

Mr. Morse returned to the meeting.

Chief Cathy provided the Board with some updated budget sheets.

EMS:

No changes compared to 2024 budget

Ambulance:

Net increase down by \$74,000 @26% - due to reduction in per diem and on-call staffing due to full time hires.

Increases for EMS training; reducing fire training.

Fire Chief wage study was provided to support request for a salary increase, as he is currently the lowest paid Chief in the area.

Increased wages proposed for both full-time employees & EMS Billing Clerk while all other wages are level, knowing that the Selectmen will be having a discussion on any increases for all employees.

Contract services increased due to LRMFA increase.

Data Processing increased due to software app cost for a full year.

Dues & Conferences increased.

Vehicle Fuel increased due to his requirement that employees spend a certain amount of time in the various vehicles to gain experience.

Warrant Articles:

1. Payment for Public Safety Building from Special Revenue Fund

2. AFG grant for new monitors and CPR machines.
3. New fire engine (no specifics yet)

Mr. Drake requested submission for documents on warrant article requests as it wasn't provided. There was discussion that there was no warrant article for a new roof as it needs replacement. He said there are items in the CIP that may need to be included.

3:00 pm
Town Clerk/Tax
Collector Budget
Discussion

Ms. Schofield arrive at 2:44 pm to review her proposed 2025 budget.

Town Clerk:

Contract Services, Printing & Advertising, Dues & Subscriptions, Office Supplies, & Postage all have increases do to increased costs of products. Equipment: laptop in office may need to be replaced and IT service is closely watching its performance to consider replacement.

Relative to the Deputy's wages Ms. Schofield and Mr. Davenport are recommending an increase based on her responsibilities in serving the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office and the Selectmen's Office.

Elections:

Decreased overall, based on there being less elections with the only increase being for an Accessible Voting Machine as required by HB1264.

Tax Collector:

Increases in Contract Services due to new tax software, Dues & Conferences to bring back to levels from year's past, Office Supplies and Postage due to increased costs.

Overall increase of \$15,674 without any wage increase discussed. Ms. Schofield said she had no proposed warrant articles.

Ms. Schofield reviewed plans for the Nov. 5th election.

OPEN ITEMS

No discussion on open items.

**ACTION &
DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- Insurance Rates Discussion: Mr. Davenport provided updated information on increased medical benefit costs and proposed wage increases, including various scenarios and the effects of each on the budget. There was discussion on what percentage the Town would pay and which deductible plan to consider. Mr. Davenport to obtain costs of a \$5,000 deductible plan and show the cost to the employee if they had to obtain their own medical coverage.
- Nov. 12th at 6:30 pm for Public Hearing to review proposed fee schedule.
- ZBA Variance discussion for William Hodges & Anne Tarryk; 102 Seminole Ave; Map U10, Lot 11; Mr. Davenport obtained legal advice that since the Selectmen are the enforcement body they would determine whether the variance has been utilized. The Board tabled this discussion to 11/7/24.
- Board signed Timber Yield Tax bill for \$6,182.10 for Michael, Sonya & Devon Fuller; Route 104, Map R5, Lot 9.
- FYI – Belknap County Apportionment

(Board of Selectmen, November 1, 2024, cont.)

OTHER BUSINESS: There was none

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was none.

ADJOURNMENT At 3:55 pm, Mr. Drake made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shaw to adjourn the meeting. Vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Vose