

SELECT BOARD MINUTES
DECEMBER 10, 2018

The Select Board meeting for Monday, December 10, 2018 started at 6:30 p.m. Present were Selectperson Hardekopf, Selectperson Hatch, Selectperson Knapp, Chairperson Bailey, Administrator Scruton, Deputy Administrator MacIver and Clerk McNeil. Selectperson Ayer joined the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

Chairperson Bailey welcomed everyone, led in the Pledge of Allegiance and gave his rules of order for the meeting.

APPOINTMENTS

Ted Gatsas, new member of the Executive Council, offered his assistance if anyone had questions or concerns.

BUDGETS – ABC Budget Presentation - Peter Royce – The ABC didn't take a stand one way or another on the proposed town hall bond of \$1,900,000. In the Executive budget there was a question figures in the benefits line. It has to do with the computer program and three sub categories. The ABC recommends a reduction of \$500 in the maintenance line in the Town Clerk budget. In Financial Administration they recognize that there would be changes in personnel. The lines reflect the staff as of the summer and the billing of three part-time positions. The ABC questioned the money in assessing – the total contract is for \$99,000 broken down as \$45,000 for assessing services, and revaluation at \$54,000 - an increase of \$5000 between two lines. Under General Government Building, we are overspending our heating line this year but have locked in a good price for the upcoming year. The electric line will go up \$4,400. In the cemetery line, the expenditures will be made before the end of the year. In the Police budget there was a question in shift differential – the line will be zeroed out as the funds are included in the salaries. Under Fire/Rescue, the ABC wanted to wait until the Board votes on the part-time hourly versus stipend. The ABC would like to increase the vehicle maintenance line. Building Inspection – they thought that the overtime line could come down by \$2,000. In the Highway Budget, they agreed with the Fire Chief to install fire alarms in the highway buildings at a cost of \$15,000 and could it come out of the 2018 budget. The ABC would like to see any contracts be completed early in 2019 that can be encumbered from the 2018 budget. In the Transfer Station Budget the ABC wanted to know if any future plans could be encumbered from the 2018 budget. The ABC wanted clarification on the mileage line in the Recreation Budget. They would like to see the mileage for bank deposits come out of the Revolving Fund. After much discussion the mileage line was put in the budget at \$1,509. The Library conferences and training line was reduced to \$1,375. The ABC had concerns regarding several capital reserve warrant articles and was there enough funds being requested for the needs to be realized.

The ABC had discussed becoming a Municipal Budget Act Community – it was not approved by the ABC with a vote of 4 to 1. The ABC felt that this year's budget discussion was much more streamlined than in the past and they would like to keep this format. They would like to see next year's budget book more organized by department. The ABC also recommended excess revenues and unexpended budget amounts be shared with 50% to warrant articles and 50% to tax rate reduction. The ABC asked if there was a written policy for the 2-hour callback.

Chairperson Bailey moved to recommend the following changes: Town Clerk maintenance line reduced by \$500, Finance Administration – Assessing up to \$45,000 and Revaluation at \$54,000, General Government Building Electricity up to \$44,000, Police Shift Differential line reduced to zero, Fire/Rescue

vehicle maintenance line increased to \$15,000, Building Overtime line reduced to \$3,000, Recreation Mileage line reduced to \$1,509, Library Conferences and Training line reduced to \$1,375, seconded by Selectperson Hardekopf. Selectman Ayer abstained from the vote. The motion passes

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chief Walker presented the proposed Fire/Rescue Paid Per Call Rate Schedule. The average rate of pay would be \$15.50 per hour. Currently they use a point system and he would like to go to an hourly rate. He would like to reduce by \$4,000 the per-diem hourly line and move that money to the vehicle maintenance line.

Charter Weeks asked the Select Board to rescind their vote from last meeting to have a bond for a new town office on the 2019 Warrant. This action by the Board surprised the Library Trustees. At a prior meeting in October, Mr. Weeks noted that the Select Board postponed a bond warrant article until a site review and plans were in place. In his support for the proposed new library, he further spoke on the number of people who have supported the library project and want to see it through to its completion. The Select Board is proposing a \$1,900,000 bond. He feels the Board should do more research and noted that “cheap is not economical”. The town should build for a life expectancy of 40 to 50 years.

Selectperson Ayer noted that he had just received the paperwork from Chief Walker regarding Proposed Fire/Rescue Call Rate Schedule and the Volunteer Firefighter Pay Categories and he needed five days to review the material.

Marie Harris asked to clarify a couple of points. Several meetings ago the Board stated that the library bond would be put forward. She understands that the \$1,900,000 was a number given on the fly. Two buildings could still be built on the Ramsdell Lane property for a town campus – town office/library. She would support a new town hall when the year comes. But they were told the town would not put forth a bond for 2019. Administrator Scruton noted that the \$1,900,000 was not a number given on the fly. The Board took into consideration the space needs study along with other concerns. Selectperson Hardekopf noted that the current land that is offered to the town was only recently made available. Construction needs to be started in 2022 to use of the land that has been offered. Selectperson Ayer noted that various State regulations have changed, and he feels that the lot on Ramsdell Lane is not large enough for two structures – town office/library. Selectperson Knapp stated that an ICF building can be built for under \$150 per sq. ft. Sam Boduch noted that the Select Board, placing the bond on the warrant, came as a surprise to the Library Trustees. It would be a competitive bond for March by the two entities’. Chairperson Bailey noted that the time constraints give the town little or no choice.

Lindsey Maziarz, Chairman of the Library Trustees, noted that the Board was going to go back to the developer who offered the land and asked for more time. However; the developer stated that something needed to be in place for 2019. Selectperson Hardekopf asked if there had been a projection of the financial impact on the taxpayer and would the amount be less than the middle school bond that is paid off in two years. Selectperson Ayer stated that the bond may be gone but the school budget isn’t expected to go down. Marie Harris said the cost of the library bond will compare to the price of one small pizza a month. Hundreds of hours and people have worked on public relations and outreach for this library bond. Charter Weeks feels that the Board is putting at risk the \$500,000 that has been raised

by the Library Foundation and will not come from tax dollars. The Foundation is doing everything they can to drive costs down for the bond.

REVIEW OF MINUTES – December 3, 2018 – the minutes were not available.

STAFF REPORT

Administrator Scruton

1. Chairperson Bailey moved to charge \$6 for printing large prints and \$12 for color prints, seconded by Selectperson Knapp. The motion carries.
2. Engagement Letter for Town Office Bond – The issue will be tabled until there are better cost numbers.
3. Selectperson Hardekopf moved to approve of the Town Administrator job description effective with Administrator Scruton's retirement, seconded by Selectperson Hatch. The motion carries.
4. Administrator Scruton presented the job description for the combined Assessing/Building Administrative Assistant. Administrator Scruton summarized information from the Board's previous concerns. This is a full-time position that will cost an additional \$7,500. The full-time administrative assistant will be available nine hours for the public. Selectperson Hardekopf's hesitation was finding a qualified candidate and the reduction in productive hours. Selectperson Hardekopf moved to combine the positions of Assessing Administrative Assistant with Building Inspection-Codes Administrative Assistant, seconded by Selectperson Hatch. The motion passes.
5. FEMA Assistant Emergency Management Director, Erin Paradis, indicates that Barrington will be receiving \$30,000 reimbursement for winter maintenance costs. The Board thanked Erin for the hard work in securing this money.

Clerk McNeil

1. Clerk McNeil requested signatures on the following: an Eviction Notice (to be discussed in non-public session), two Private Road Agreements that only need one signature as all work is being done within the footprint, Agreement with Stone Hill Municipal Solutions, payroll manifest dated 12/02/2018 (2) and vendor manifest dated 12/06/2018.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business

NEW BUSINESS

Cost for Copies of Large Prints – previously discussed

Bond Engagement Letter for Town – previously tabled

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chief Walker stated that he has contacted a radio vendor. He will not have any solid numbers until the end of the year. The cost for a new radio ranges from \$2,500 to \$4,000 each and his department has 40 and mobile radios. The cost for the upgrade could be \$150,000.

SELECTPERSON'S REPORT AND CONCERNS

Selectperson Ayer attended a Conservation Commission meeting where Anne Melvin spoke on how the Town of Amherst monitors their conservation easements. Charlie Moreno will be talking at the next meeting about logging the Tamposi property.

Selectperson Hardekopf did not have any meetings to attend.

Selectperson Hatch said that the next ZBA meeting will be in January.

Selectperson Knapp attended the last Planning Board meeting where they viewed a corrected subdivision plan and discussed solar regulations.

Chairperson Bailey had nothing to report.

Selectperson Knapp moved to go into non-public session at 8:19 p.m. per RSA 91-A:3 II for personnel, reputation and legal, seconded by Chairperson Bailey. Chairperson Bailey asked for a roll call, Ayer – aye, Hardekopf – aye, Hatch – aye, Knapp – aye, Bailey – aye. The motion passes.

Selectperson Knapp moved, Selectperson Hardekopf seconded to exit non-public session at 9:20 p.m. Chairperson Bailey asked for a roll call, Ayer – aye, Hardekopf – aye, Hatch – aye, Knapp – aye, Bailey – aye. The motion passes.

Selectperson Knapp moved, Selectperson Hardekopf seconded to seal the minutes indefinitely as it could adversely affect the reputation of a person not a member of the Board. Chairperson Bailey asked for a roll call, Ayer – aye, Hardekopf – aye, Hatch – aye, Knapp – aye, Bailey – aye. The motion passes.

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.