



## **BARRINGTON, NH SELECT BOARD MINUTES**

MONDAY, January 6th, 2020

The Select Board meeting for Monday, January 6th, 2020 began at 6:30 p.m. Present at the table were Chairperson Knapp, Selectperson Hardekopf, Selectperson Bailey, Selectperson Ayer, Town Administrator MacIver, Municipal Office Administrator Caudle, Town Treasurer and Advisory Budget Committee (ABC) member Peter Royce and ABC member Dannen Mannschreck. The meeting was held in the multipurpose room of the Early Childhood Learning Center to allow for additional members of the public to join.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Knapp. Chairperson Knapp welcomed all in attendance, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and requested all in attendance silence their cell phones.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

#### **Library and Community Center Bond - \$3,998,877**

6:31pm. Library Trustee Chair Lindsey Maziarz thanked those who have contributed in any way to the progress towards a new Town Library and Community Center, and [presented information and an update](#) in regards to the plans, progress, and proposed budget.

As the tax rate decreased, the impact on taxpayer cost has decreased from the previous year. The interest rate and ultimate cost will also be affected by the interest rates set by the bond bank.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**6:45pm.** Representative Matthew Towne of Stillwater Way offered congratulations to the Library Trustees and all volunteers for their efforts in this decade-long project.

Diane St. Jean of Small Road asked if the community room will be able to be sectioned off into smaller spaces with the new plans. Lindsey Maziarz clarified that though it is still a possibility, in order to reduce the budget to its current amount, that plan was removed.

*There were no further public comments. Public comment closed at 6:47pm.*

### **2020 Proposed Operating Budget Presentation - \$7,300,847**

**6:48pm.** Administrator MacIver presented the [2020 Municipal Operating Budget proposal](#), including information about the tax rate, increases and decreases in the budget of greater than \$10,000, the new Town Hall building, the Greenhill Bridge Replacement, as well as a review of reoccurring warrant articles.

### **Stormwater Asset Management Grant Bond – \$30,000**

**7pm.** This warrant article would allow the Town to pursue a \$30,000 grant for asset management. If the Town is not awarded the grant, no funds will be borrowed or expended.

*There were no public comments. Public comment closed at 7:01pm.*

Administrator MacIver encouraged all residents to review the full [2020 Budget Binder](#) for in-depth information about the Town Budget.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**7:03pm.** Public comment for the 2020 Proposed Operating Budget, Stormwater Asset Management, and a final request for comments for the Library and Community Center was held following the presentations.

Susan Gaudiello of Franklin Pierce Highway requested clarification regarding the two Service Connected Total Disability Warrant Articles being proposed, and also asked why Keno continues to be added when residents have voted no for several years.

Article 17 would increase the amount to \$2,550, so the total credit (including the All Veterans Tax Credit of \$450) would be \$3,000. This was proposed by Selectperson Hardekopf with the intention of incrementally increasing the credit to have a smaller impact on Town residents taxes. Selectperson Hardekopf is a 34-year military spouse.

Article 19, proposed by petitioned warrant article by Selectperson Bailey, would increase the credit to the maximum allowed by the State of New Hampshire of \$4,000, to be chosen by each municipality. Selectperson Bailey clarified that 35 veterans, himself included, would be impacted by this change in the credit.

Article 16 allows voters another opportunity to allow or deny Keno in Barrington.

Matthew Towne of Stillwater Way asked if there is an “all-in” number for the cost of the Town Hall. Administrator MacIver clarified that all costs for design and construction are included in the \$1.9 million budget, and there will be no budget impact due to the bond repayment being covered by the current cost of renting the building the Town Hall has used for eight years. The items in the budget are to remedy deterioration of the current building and to allow voters to see the true costs.

*There were no additional public comments. Public comment closed at 7:14pm.*

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### **Budget and Warrant Finalization**

**7:15pm.**

#### **Article 3 – Library and Community Center Bond - \$4,239,877**

***Roll Call Vote: Ayer – Present, Bailey – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. This article was recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0.***

#### **Article 4 – Stormwater Asset Management Grant - \$30,000**

***Roll Call Vote: Ayer – Present, Bailey – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. This article was recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0.***

#### **Article 5 – Operating Budget - \$7,300,847**

***Roll Call Vote: Ayer – Present, Bailey – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. This article was recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0.***

#### **Article 6 – Greenhill Road Bridge Replacement \$400,000/\$2,000,000**

***Roll Call Vote: Ayer – Present, Bailey – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. This article was recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0.***

#### **Article 7 – Highway Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve - \$100,000**

*Roll Call Vote: Ayer – Present, Bailey – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. **This article was recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0.***

**Article 8 – Bridge and Culvert Capital Reserve - \$75,000**

*Roll Call Vote: Ayer – Present, Bailey – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. **This article was recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0.***

**Article 9 – Fire Truck Capital Reserve - \$55,000**

*Roll Call Vote: Ayer – Present, Bailey – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. **This article was recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0.***

**Article 10 – Emergency Communications Upgrades Capital Reserve - \$50,000**

*Roll Call Vote: Ayer – Present, Bailey – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. **This article was recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0.***

**Article 11 – Fire and Rescue Equipment Capital Reserve - \$10,000**

*Roll Call Vote: Ayer – Present, Bailey – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. **This article was recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0.***

**Article 12 – Tricentennial Celebration Expendable Trust - \$5,000**

*Roll Call Vote: Ayer – Present, Bailey – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. **This article was recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0.***

**Article 13 – Cemetery Capital Reserve - \$5,000**

*Roll Call Vote: Ayer – Present, Bailey – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. **This article was recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0.***

**Article 14 – Library Technology Capital Reserve - \$3,000**

*Roll Call Vote: Ayer – Present, Bailey – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. **This article was recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0.***

**Article 15 – Solar Energy Exemption – 100% of Value**

*Roll Call Vote: Ayer – Present, Bailey – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. **This article was recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0.***

#### **Article 16 – Elderly Exemption – Limit of \$36,000**

This article was considered by the board in order to bring the single elderly exemption in line with the married elderly exemption. Selectperson Bailey raised his concern that the individuals this would affect have received a raise from Social Security.

*Roll Call Vote: Ayer – Present, Bailey – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. **This article was recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0.***

#### **Article 17 – Service-Connected Total Disability Credit**

The Board discussed concerns about two similar articles being on the warrant, and options to minimize confusion. The last adopted warrant typically stands, which, as numbered at the start of the meeting, would mean if both were passed, the petitioned warrant article would stand.

Motion to move the numbering of Warrant Articles 17 and 19 so they are switched by Selectperson Hardekopf, seconded by Chairperson Knapp.

*Roll Call Vote: Ayer – Present, Bailey – Nay, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. **The numbering of Article 17 and Article 19 (petitioned article) will be switched by a vote of 2-1.***

#### **Article 17 – Petition Service-Connected Total Disability Credit - \$4,000**

*Roll Call Vote: Ayer – Present, Bailey – Aye, Hardekopf – Nay, Knapp – Nay. **This article was not recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 2-1.***

#### **Article 18 – Allow Keno in Barrington**

*Roll Call Vote: Ayer – Present, Bailey – Aye, Hardekopf – Nay, Knapp – Aye. **This article was recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 2-1.***

#### **Article 19 – Service-Connected Total Disability Credit - \$2,550**

*Roll Call Vote: Ayer – Present, Bailey – Nay, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. **This article was recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 2-1.***

Selectperson Bailey explained that the funds from Keno are shared through all municipalities, regardless of where the game is held.

*There were no additional comments from the Board.*

**Operating Budget - \$7,300,847, default budget \$7,167,887**

Chairperson Knapp commended all Department Heads, Administrator MacIver, as well as all who helped in minimizing costs and keeping tax impact low, increasing property values and decreasing the property tax rate.

*Roll Call Vote: Ayer – Present, Bailey – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. **This article was recommended by the Select Board by a vote of 3-0.***

Administrator MacIver explained the increases and decreases within the [Default Budget](#) have to do with contractual obligations and union collective bargaining agreements, and the final page of the document explains

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**7:37pm.** Chairperson Knapp shared a letter sent by a resident family regarding bail reform and [New Hampshire's Drug Court Policy](#). After reading the letter, Chairperson Knapp explained he encouraged the family to reach out to Barrington's State Representatives, Cassandra Levesque and Matthew Towne.

Representative Matthew Towne spoke to share that he had reached out to the family, and there are hearings going before committee at the State level to address bail reform and other issues that are stressors to the system.

Police Chief George Joy spoke and shared this has been a subject of great conversation, he also offered to speak with the family.

*There were no additional public comments. Public comment closed at 7:52pm.*

**REVIEW OF MINUTES – December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**7:52pm.** The minutes were updated to include the script as provided and read by Donna Lane.

Motion to approve minutes as amended for the December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting by Selectperson Bailey, seconded by Selectperson Hardekopf. Ayer – Present, Bailey – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. **The motion passed.**

## STAFF REPORTS

### UNH Hockey Game – Eversource Networking Event

**7:53pm.** Administrator MacIver was invited to a networking event to be followed by a hockey game at UNH. The Select Board raised no objections.

### Richardson Pond Dam Engineering Services Awarded

**7:53pm.** Milone & MacBroom was selected by the Conservation Commission to provide engineering services for the Richardson Pond Dam. A conversation regarding the funding source will be forthcoming with the Conservation Commission.

### Transfer Station and Recycling Center Review Committee

**7:58pm.** An in-depth review of the Recycling Center is necessary. The Town will be requesting applications for appointment shortly. All applications will come before the Select Board for consideration, and the Board will decide the structure of the committee, how many members, etc.

### Phone System Cutover (Not on Agenda)

**8pm.** The phone system in the majority of Town buildings will be changed tomorrow, January 7<sup>th</sup>. There will be an alert on the Town's website. The Public Safety building will have priority and will be only minutes, but some phones may be down for a few minutes to a few hours. The savings on the phone system will be approximately \$24,000 per year.

### Encumbered Funds for Generators (Not on Agenda)

**8:01pm.** After review, the Town is not interested in purchasing the generators. The encumbrance has been cancelled. Thank you to the folks at Generator Connection for their assistance!

## STAFF REPORTS

### Municipal Office Administrator Caudle requested signatures for:

**8:02pm.**

- Payroll manifests for check date 12/26/2019, 1/02/2020
- A/P Summary check register for check date 01/06/2020
- One administrative tax abatement in the amount of \$561 for taxes that were paid at the time of a repurchase but due to timing, did not clear the system



## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Barrington Library Foundation Sign Permit**

**8:03pm.** The 4'x8' sign for the proposed Library and Community Center was recently moved to the Route 9 side of the lot. The proposed location meets all zoning requirements, and the proposed duration is the calendar year of 2020.

Chairperson Knapp sought a consensus from the Board to authorize the sign permit application; by roll call vote: Ayer – Present, Bailey – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. ***Consensus verified.***

Selectperson Hardekopf noted the Library Foundation is running a red ribbon support campaign for the library, tying a red ribbon up in a viewable location on your property shows support for the new library.

### **Goodwill Expansion Project**

**8:05pm.** This is an ongoing effort to expand the Goodwill Conservation Area by means of property acquisition and conservation easements. The Select Board has voted on this expansion multiple times.

### **Haley Acquisition**

**8:07pm.** The grant to purchase this property would require the Town Treasurer to write a check for approximately \$222,000 from the Conservation Fund to be reimbursed. \$190,000 will be received from the NH Drinking Water Fund, with \$40,000 possibly being paid by the Conservation Commission. The grant funds should cover all costs, but the Conservation Commission has agreed to cover up to \$40,000.

Motion to allow the purchase of the Haley property with an amount not to exceed \$230,000 with the expectation the entire amount would be reimbursed through grant funds, by Chairperson Knapp, seconded by Selectperson Bailey.

Selectperson Ayer noted that amount is the total number, minus \$40,000, with the remainder to be paid in 30-45 days. Per Administrator MacIver, due to the funds promised/received through grants, the Town may pay zero costs for the purchase.

Treasurer Peter Royce explained that to date, the total received from grants is \$10,000. The remainder must come from the Conservation Fund. The NHDES grant states it will be for *up to* \$190,000. The total granted will be decided after the



purchase. Further, he noted that per the Memorandum of Understanding the Conservation Commission must hold a public hearing and receive Select Board approval prior to expenditure of funds. The Town Treasurer must also be notified in a reasonable timeframe of any requests.

John Wallace, Project Lead and member of the Conservation Commission,

Chairperson Knapp amended the previous motion to allow expenditure of up to \$230,000 from the Conservation Fund to acquire the Haley property with the intention that the Town will receive \$230,000, seconded by Selectperson Hardekopf. Roll call vote: Ayer – Present, Bailey – No, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. ***The motion passed.***

#### **Goodwill Conservation Easement Deed Amendment Finalization**

**8:20pm.** The Town's lawyer has reviewed this document and given its approval; the Board was asked to enter into the amended agreement.

Motion to accept the Goodwill Trust Conservation Easement Deed as amended by Selectperson Hardekopf, seconded by Chairperson Knapp. Roll call vote: Ayer – Present, Bailey – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. ***The motion passed.***

#### **Goodwill Trust Conservation Easement 2019 Amendment – Interim Baseline Documentation Report**

**8:21pm.** The Interim Baseline report is intended to set a baseline for the conditions of the property at the start of the easement agreement. The Select Board was asked to review and approve the interim report with the full report to be reviewed and approved when it is completed in the spring of 2020.

Conservation Commission member John Wallace explained that due to early snowfall, all the photographic documentation was unable to be completed. He raised his concern that any additional changes to the wording of the report would further delay the finalization of the sale.

Selectperson Bailey raised a concern regarding four acres that do not hold a clear title; the current deed will not be insured for that parcel. However, the Town's attorney stated there is little risk to the Town regarding this plot.

Motion to accept with the following changes on page 3 of 11: That the Town of Barrington, at the Town's discretion, may direct the Conservation Commission to connect some or all of the trails on the property to make them part of the formerly mapped and designated trail system on the 2007 easement by Selectperson Hardekopf, seconded by Chairperson Knapp. Roll call vote: Ayer – Present, Bailey – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. ***The motion passed.***

### **New Town Hall Design Contract**

**8:44pm.** The Town Hall Building Committee selected Careno Construction. The Select Board was asked to consider approving the design contract, a total of 7.3% or \$140,150 to be spent from the Town Hall Capital Reserve and to authorize the Town Administrator to sign any necessary documents. Chairperson Knapp requested a breakdown be provided of where the money is being allocated.

Motion to approve the design contract as proposed, and to authorize Administrator MacIver to sign any necessary documents by Selectperson Hardekopf, seconded by Selectperson Bailey. Roll call vote: Ayer – Present, Bailey – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. ***The motion passed.***

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Close Unused Subaccounts**

**8:49pm.** The Select Board was asked to consider directing the Town Treasurer to close three unused subaccounts.

#### **Community Playground**

**8:49pm.** This account holds a balance of \$31.73. The balance at the close of the account may be pennies higher.

Motion to direct the Town Treasurer to close the Community Playground subaccount and deposit the balance in the Recreation Revolving Fund by Chairperson Knapp, seconded by Selectperson Hardekopf. Ayer – Present, Bailey – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. ***The motion passed.***

#### **Town Seal**

**8:50pm.** This account holds a balance of \$179.59. The balance at the close of the account may be pennies higher.

Motion to direct the Town Treasurer to close the Town Seal subaccount and deposit the balance in the General Fund by Selectperson Hardekopf, seconded by Chairperson Knapp. Ayer – Present, Bailey – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. ***The motion passed.***

#### Tamposi Stewardship

**8:50pm.** This account holds a balance of \$2,650.83. The balance at the close of the account may be higher.

Motion to direct the Town Treasurer to close the Town Seal subaccount and deposit the balance in the Conservation Commission subaccount with the purpose that the funds be used towards developing a forestry management plan by Chairperson Knapp, seconded by Selectperson Hardekopf. Ayer – Present, Bailey – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. ***The motion passed.***

#### Legal Services

**8:51pm.** Stephen Whitley, formerly of Mitchell Municipal Group, has moved to Drummond Woodsum. The Town received notice and the Select Board has been asked if they would like to consider transferring the Town's legal services to Drummond Woodsum. The rate will remain the same. An RFQ was completed in 2017 which could be reviewed for other options.

Administrator MacIver will review RFQ information from 2017, speak with staff in regards to experiences working with Stephen Whitley, and bring additional information to the Board at a later meeting.

#### Financial Consultant Renewal – 2020

**8:58pm.** The Board was asked to consider renewing the contract for financial consulting by Stone Hill Municipal Services.

Motion to approve the contract for financial consulting by Stone Hill Municipal Services by Selectperson Hardekopf, seconded by Selectperson Bailey. Roll Call Vote: Ayer – Present, Bailey – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. ***The motion passed.***

#### Assessing Services Contract – 2020

**8:59pm.** The Town went out to bid for assessing services in 2012; Corchoran has been supporting the Town since. This firm performed the revaluation, all

abatements will come through in 2020, so it would not be in the Town's best interest to change providers in 2020.

Motion to approve the 2020 contract with Corchoran by Selectperson Hardekopf, seconded by Selectperson Bailey. Roll Call Vote: Ayer – Present, Bailey – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. ***The motion passed.***

The contract for assessing services will go out to bid in 2021, to allow for due diligence and so the Town can review other services.

#### **Police Detail – Fire on Ross Road (Not on Agenda)**

**9:04pm.** During the recent fire on Ross Road, a police detail from a neighboring Town was required to secure the area overnight.

Motion to direct the Treasurer to utilize the Police Revolving Fund to pay for the overnight detail for the Ross Road fire by Selectperson Hardekopf, seconded by Chairperson Knapp. Roll Call Vote: Ayer – Present, Bailey – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. ***The motion passed.***

#### **January Work Anniversaries**

**9:04pm.** Amy Doherty, Finance Officer & Wellness Coordinator has been with the Town for 1 year! Thank you, Amy!

#### **SELECT PERSONS REPORT**

**9:05pm.**

***Selectperson Ayer had no new information.***

***Selectperson Bailey shared that the Zoning Board meeting was cancelled due to weather.***

***Selectperson Hardekopf stated the Recreation Meeting overlapped with the Select Board meeting, so she was unable to attend.***

***Chairperson Knapp will attend the Planning Board meeting tomorrow.***

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**9:06pm.** There were no public comments. Public comment closed at 9:06pm.

**NONPUBLIC**

**9:06pm.** Motion to enter nonpublic session for reasons of personnel, reputation, and legal by Chairperson Knapp Ayer – Present, Bailey – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. ***The motion passed.***

**10:48pm.** Motion to close non-public by Chairperson Knapp, seconded by Selectperson Hardekopf. Roll Call Vote: Ayer – Aye, Bailey – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. ***The motion passed.***

**10:48pm.** Motion to seal non-public minutes indefinitely by Selectperson Hardekopf, seconded by Chairperson Knapp. Roll Call Vote: Ayer – Aye, Bailey – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. ***The motion passed.***

**ADJOURNMENT**

**10:49pm.** Motion to adjourn by Chairperson Knapp, seconded by Selectperson Bailey. Roll Call Vote: Ayer – Aye, Bailey – Aye, Hardekopf – Aye, Knapp – Aye. ***The motion passed.***

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Chairperson A. Knapp

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Selectperson G. Bailey

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Vice-Chairperson T. Hardekopf

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Selectperson D. Ayer

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NOT PRESENT

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Selectperson D. Hatch

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Date Minutes Were Approved

*The meeting minutes for January 6th, 2020 were approved by the Select Board by a vote of 4-0 at the January 27th, 2020 Select Board Meeting. A signed copy is available for viewing at the Town Hall.*