

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Sept 21, 2021
MINUTES

PRESENT: Jason Somero and Bert Hamill Selectmen
Jim Coffey, Town Administrator; Susan Mallett; Chief Abel

Open Meeting in the Town Office with the Pledge of Allegiance at 5:00

Police Chief swearing in ceremony:

Selectman Somero thanked everyone for their attendance and gave Mr Abel well wishes. Town Clerk, Debbie Deaton gave the swearing in for new Police Chief Mike Abel. A short meet and greet reception break took place, until 5:30pm

Proposed purchase of one ton pickup diesel:

Peter Goewey discussed the proposed purchase of 1 ton truck for \$49,702 for a F350 with plow. This is a replacement for the current vehicle that is on its last leg. The cost would come out of capital expense. Selectman Hamill MOTIONED to purchase, Selectman Somero SECONDED, all were in favor.

OLD NEW BUSINESS

Administrators Updates:

MS-535:

Mr. Coffey has copies of the MS-535 (Financial Report of the Budget) from the auditors. This is due on April 1st of each year. The Board reviewed the form and funds that show up separate.

Property Auction:

Mr. Coffey shared the agreement with St Jean Auctioneers for the 6 town owned properties. No cost to us, all expenses are paid by the buyer. The benefit is they do all the leg work and are familiar and experienced with all the legalities in the sale, such as getting the deeds.

Selectman Hamill made a MOTION to authorize Jim Coffey to sign the agreement, Selectman Somero SECONDED, all were in agreement.

Fuel Agreement:

Ciardelli Fuel agreement is completed, price is \$1.779

Board of Assessors Vote:

Jim Coffey shared communication from the BOA meeting. They voted to merge existing assessing data from Avitar Assessing System to out tax maps. Funds would come from existing budget. Selectman Hamill would like legal review to be sure BOA can spend funds from their existing funds. After much discussion, back and forth, Selectman Somero MOTIONED to have Jim Coffey check with legal counsel, Selectman Somero SECONDED, all were in agreement.

Doug Waitt Recommendations:

Doug Waitt Recommendations For town office project was presented to the BOS by Jim. Project was \$113K, and we have that in the budget. In the Town offices, 2 Oil burners to be serviced for the fall, add heat pumps. The DPW and Fire station won't be serviced, because they are being replaced.

Selectman Hamill made a MOTION to Award contract to KPMB Enterprises and accept Mr. Waitts recommendations @\$113,000 cost, and allow Jim Coffey to sign on behalf of the Board of Selectman, Selectman Somero SECONDED the motion, all were in agreement.

Mr Coffey shared the email with Fire Chief Lund's request for ARPA funds for consideration. As a reminder, her requests were for a gear dryer, replacement gear, and replacement of portable radios.

Selectman Hamill mentioned his attendance at the ARPA class and that no list has been created of items allowed. He also feels if we don't spend we won't have to report in October.

Road Surface Management System (RSMS) Delay:

SWRPC got back to us and noted there is a procedural delay of the start of the RSMS, they will get back to us with the new start date. Selectman Hamill noted it will be useful when road committee is started back up. Suggested to give Peter input on how to approach new road development. Right now we ground up new roads, but not just an overlay when that is the appropriate approach. So when we do the warrant, write it up to give him that choice.

Drought Info:

The water table continues to recover, here in New Ipswich we are out of drought status, but it remains in effect up north. We should still be cognizant of our water use as it will take more time to fully recover our aquifers.

Child Care licensing for Municipalities:

No license is needed for municipalities. So this is good news for Parks & Rec

Hiring Practices:

Selectman Hamill asked about hiring practicing in town. Who has final approval and where is approval needed, i.e. does BOS have final say? He feels BOS should have overview of the department heads. Would like to discuss further on Saturday 9/25 when the BOS works on the employee handbook. Selectman Somero asked do we want to be involved if the position already exists in the budget do we really want to have final review. Selectman Hamill feels we need to codify the hiring and firing of employees and get it in writing.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION 1:

Motion at 7:30 pm to go into non 91-A:3 II(e&l) by Selectman Somero, seconded by Selectman Hamill, all in favor. **Motion** to come out of non-public was made by Selectman Somero and seconded by Selectman Hamill, all were in favor. **Return from non-public session at 8:10 pm:** Minutes are sealed

Motion at 8:10 pm to go into non 91-A:3 II(a&b) by Selectman Somero, seconded by Selectman Hamill, all in favor. **Motion** to come out of non-public was made by Selectman Hamill and seconded by Selectman Somero, all were in favor. **Return from non-public session at 8:35 pm:** Minutes are sealed

Respectfully submitted, Susan Mallett, Land Admin

Shawn Talbot, Chairman:

Wasn't at the meeting


