

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

July 5, 2022

MINUTES

Present: Jason Somero (Acting Chair), Lou Alvarez and Debbie Deaton (Town Administrator)

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

5:05 Fire Chief-Meredith Lund

Meredith distributed a draft of potential hourly rates that she would like approved by the Board. She explained the Firefighters have been paid a stipend for years. She would like to change the pay to an hourly rate. She stated she did a lot of research to come up with the hourly rates proposed. She got permission from the State Labor Board to pay firefighters monthly. There is a Commander for each call that goes out and this person will be responsible for signing off on the hours submitted by each firefighter in order to have a system of checks and balances.

Jason asked how the hourly rate would affect the Fire Department budget. Meredith replied it should be fine through the end of the year. Meredith will do a calculation based on the first 6 months of the year (stipend vs. hourly) and email it to Debbie.

Meredith stated there are 28 firefighters and 14-15 of them do the bulk of the calls. There are 4 or 5 that don't do any calls and don't participate in any trainings or meetings. If they keep the stipend, they would have to pay those 4 or 5 their stipend even though they don't participate.

Jason asked if the firefighters were on board with hourly versus stipend and Meredith replied they were. Mitchell Gluck asked if there is a particular time of year where there are more calls. Meredith stated usually in the winter due to auto accidents. Mitchell suggested doing an evaluation of a 3 month period of time.

Lou asked if they could do a 6 month trial of hourly to see how it calculates out and switch back to stipend if it proves too costly. Joe Woodworth replied you could potentially lose a lot of firefighters if you went back to stipend pay.

No decision was made on the hourly rate.

5:35 Finance Advisory Committee:

Present: Mitchell Gluck, Dennis Howe, Nancy Clark, Mike Dean, John Severino, Joe Woodworth and Luke Moran
The attendees introduced themselves, explained why they would like to volunteer for the Finance Advisory Committee and gave their background. The Board will decide on appointments to the committee next week.

7:00 Jeff Muhonen-Police Department lease discussion:

Jason stated there were 2 options for the lease:

1. A step agreement which would consist of a 3% increase per year
2. CPI lease that would be subject to adjustment every 3 years for the base lease and adjustment yearly for the maintenance, landscaping, plowing, taxes, etc.

It was decided after some discussion, it would be easier to budget for option 1. There are too many variables with option 2.

Jeff stated he would like to see a minimum of a 10 year lease but would be ok with a 5 year lease if that is all the Town is willing to commit to. Lou suggested a 7 year lease agreement.

Jason stated the renovations they are looking at (presented previously) would be approximately \$50,000. There was some discussion regarding Jeff fronting the project and incorporating the payback with interest into the monthly lease agreement. He prefers not to do that but would if he had to. Jason also mentioned the possibility of a municipal loan. Debbie stated Shawn had mentioned previously he didn't want to "throw money away" by paying interest. The Board can try to find the money somewhere in the current budget or possibly ARPA funds (Debbie will look into that possibility).

Debbie asked Jeff what he would charge the Town to take over the existing space leased by the insurance company. Jeff replied \$800/month which is what he is currently receiving. Our current payment is \$2,270, plus the \$800 for the additional space for a total of \$3,070 per month.

There was also discussion regarding the pricing for the project (hard to get firm numbers at the moment). Lou said we shouldn't use volunteers for the project. Jeff and Jason agreed. Matt Wardwell is working on the renovation drawings for the upcoming Public Hearing on July 26, 2022 at 7:00pm.

Old/New Business:

- Lou mentioned he would like to discuss the possibility of using ARPA funds versus Capital Reserve for the purchase of the fit up portion of the new F550.
- Lou said the new quote for the CAT backhoe was received and there is a \$12,000 increase
- Jason made a motion to authorize the purchase of the CAT backhoe, up to \$151,900 from the Capital Reserve. Lou seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**
- Debbie updated the Board on the complaint regarding Silver Scone Teas on River Road. A letter was sent to the owner requesting she stop operating until approval from the ZBA. Debbie also sent a copy of the letter to the complainants.

8:05 Non-public RSA 91-A:3, II (b) Interview-Interim Building Inspector

Jason made a motion to go into non-public session at 8:05. It was seconded by Lou and passed unanimously. At 8:30, Jason made a motion to return to public session. It was seconded by Lou and passed unanimously. Jason made a motion to seal the minutes. Lou seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Debbie will email the candidates who were not chosen for the position and call the candidate who was chosen.

8:30 Non-public RSA 91-A:3, II (c) Finance Advisory candidate discussion


Jason made a motion to go into non-public session at 8:30. It was seconded by Lou and passed unanimously. At 8:55, Jason made a motion to return to public session. It was seconded by Lou and passed unanimously. The minutes were not sealed.

At 9:00, Jason made a motion to adjourn. Lou seconded the motion and it passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Deaton
Town Administrator

Minutes approved by BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Shawn Talbot, Chairman:

 (watched on YouTube is)

Jason Somero:



Lou Alvarez:

