

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

**September 27, 2022**

### **MINUTES**

**Present:** Shawn Talbot (Chair), Jason Somero, Lou Alvarez and Debbie Deaton (Town Administrator)

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

**5:02 Meredith Lund, Fire Chief:**

Present: Meredith Lund, Matt Hatcher, Cody Vaillancourt

- Meredith stated she had originally submitted her "wish list" for the ARPA funds requesting a new base station and several other items. She had also applied for a grant for the base station and new radios. She stated they had not heard if they had received the grant (final grants will be distributed by the end of October). They ordered the base station thinking it wouldn't be in until next year but they have been told it would be in next week. They need the new base station because the current one is on loan and they are expanding the calls they respond to include medical issues which requires a second tone. She is requesting the Board set aside the \$7,761.28 from the ARPA funds to purchase the base station in the event the FD doesn't receive the grant. If they receive the grant, they will be able to purchase the base station and all of the radios they need. Shawn informed Meredith the Board decided to put a freeze on allocating any of the remaining ARPA funds to see what the next year or so brings financially. That is not to say they would not allocate the funds if they don't receive the grant. Chief Lund will inform the Board as soon as she hears about the grant and if it isn't received, she will come back before Board requesting the funds.
- Matt stated the communications budget has been really low and the radios they have now are unable to be fixed so they will be short radios if any of them break.
- Meredith stated she also needs a generator because if they lose power, they are unable to perform their jobs because all communication would be shut down. She got estimates for generators ranging anywhere from \$25,000 to \$38,000. The Board agreed Chief Lund should get quotes for a generator.
- There was also discussion regarding the repair of the 2 Fire Department buildings. There was a list generated at the beginning of the year for repairs and maintenance of the buildings. The pricing needs to be updated on the list. It was agreed to add \$15,000-\$20,000 to the Building Maintenance budget for these repairs.

**5:30 Public Hearing- DES Grant for PFAS Remediation:**

Shawn opened the duly noticed Public Hearing for acceptance of the DES Grant for PFAS remediation. Shawn opened the floor for public response and there was none. He asked if the other Board members had any comments and there were none.

Shawn made a motion to accept the DES Grant for PFAS Remediation in the amount of \$200,000. Lou seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Shawn closed the Public Hearing.

**5:35 Emergency Expenditure:**

Debbie informed the Board the DRA has granted the Emergency Expenditure request in the amount of \$131,550 to be used for the Landfill PFAS additional testing. The grant does not cover all expenses regarding the testing and remediation.

**5:40 LED Lighting Discussion:**

There was discussion regarding the cost of the LED lighting through Affinity versus hiring an electrician to install new LED lighting. The Board asked Debbie to contact Affinity to confirm the expiration date of the Eversource Incentive because the contract states it expires on October 1, 2022. Lou suggested if that is the case, we should call an emergency meeting to make a decision. The Board considered putting out an RFP for the installation of the same amount of LED fixtures as quoted by Affinity and decided to get the information requested from Affinity before making a final decision. The final discussion on this matter will be discussed on October 4, 2022.

**6:25 Unreserved Fund Balance Discussion:**

Debbie informed the Board the Unreserved Fund Balance as of 12/31/2021 was \$1,881,454 according to the auditor. Shawn stated the Board kept 11.55% of the UFB in the account in 2021 and would like to consider to the same this year. Shawn made a motion to retain 11.55% in the Unreserved Fund Balance and use the remaining monies toward lower the tax rate. Jason seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**6:40 Budget Hearing & Deliberative Session Dates:**

The Board agreed to hold the Budget Hearing on Tuesday, 1/10/2023 at 7:00pm at the Town Office with a snow date of Saturday 1/14/2023 at 10:00am.

The Board agreed to hold the Deliberative Session on Tuesday, 2/7/2023 at 7:00pm at Mascenic High School with a snow date of Saturday, 2/11/2023 at 10:00am pending confirmation from Mascenic.

Debbie will email Craig Reynolds to confirm.

The Board will vote on the Deliberative dates on October 5, 2022 after confirming there is no conflict with Mascenic.

**7:00 Old/New Business:**

- Shawn stated the Video Committee is updating their equipment to HD technology and they are looking to purchase a component rack for approximately \$1,500 if they need it. The Board agreed.

- Jason stated the Asbestos Testing at the Police Department had been completed and the results were negative so there will be no delays with the renovation. He also acknowledged and appreciated the effort made by Pat O'Malley to get this done.

- Jason said there have been 4 walk-throughs for the PD renovation. He will call all of them to remind them of the October 3<sup>rd</sup> due date.

- Lou mentioned the lift at the DPW is in poor shape and feels it needs to be replaced. There are quotes for 3 different sized lifts and he and Peter agree the 50,000 pound lift would best suit the department. Lou will find out where Peter would like the funds to come from to pay for the lift.

- Jason commented the employee appreciation breakfast on Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup> went very well and the Board appreciated the attendance. Debbie added the employees and board members were very grateful for the acknowledgment.

**7:40 Non-Public Session RSA 91:A 3, II (a)-Personnel**

At 7:40 Shawn made a motion to go into non-public session under RSA 91:A 3, II (a), Jason seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. At 8:05, Shawn made a motion to return to public session. Lou seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The minutes were not sealed.

**8:06 Non-Public Session RSA 91:A 3, II (I)-Legal**

At 8:06 Shawn made a motion to go into non-public session under RSA 91:A 3, II (a), Jason seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. At 8:53, Shawn made a motion to return to public session. Jason seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Shawn made a motion to seal the minutes. Jason seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**8:54 Non-Public Session RSA 91:A 3, II (I)-Legal**

At 8:54 Shawn made a motion to go into non-public session under RSA 91:A 3, II (I), Lou seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. At 9:30, Shawn made a motion to return to public session. Jason seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Shawn made a motion to seal the minutes. Jason seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

At 9:35 Shawn made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Jason and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Debbie Deaton  
Town Administrator

**Minutes approved by BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Shawn Talbot, Chairman:

A blue ink signature of Shawn Talbot, consisting of a stylized 'S' and 'T', written over a horizontal line.

Jason Somero:

A blue ink signature of Jason Somero, appearing as a stylized 'J' and 'S', written over a horizontal line.

Lou Alvarez:

A blue ink signature of Lou Alvarez, written in a cursive style, over a horizontal line.