

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

**January 10, 2023**

### **MINUTES**

**Present:** Shawn Talbot (Chair), Jason Somero, Lou Alvarez and Debbie Deaton (Town Administrator)  
Joe Woodworth, Mitch Gluck, Dean Swanson

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

**5:02 Dean Swanson:**

Mr. Swanson would like to cut trees on a "Class VI" road in order for a concrete truck to get to his property. Mr. Swanson submitted the deed to his property and a map. He stated the Town deeded the abutter a right of way easement which the abutter uses as a driveway.

Debbie stated the tax map shows the "road" is not on Mr. Swanson's property and he would have to get permission from the abutter to use the road & cut the trees. Debbie also asked if he had gotten a building permit to make sure the location of the garage will meet all of the setbacks, etc. Mr. Swanson replied he hadn't and doesn't want to go through that until he finds out if he can cut the trees. He stated he can put the garage anywhere on his 9 acres.

Shawn said we would take all of the information and get back to him.

**5:15 Budget Discussion:**

- Joe showed the Board tables he created to show the major expenditures sorted by dollars and percentages. The Board discussed the tables and decided it would be easier to understand the tables sorted by dollars and show all categories, not just the top 9.

Mitch said 97% of the budget increases are items the Town has no control over and 3% are things we have control over (COLA, etc.).

- Shawn stated he would rather give employees benefits for retention than have to spend the money on inflationary items but unfortunately, these are the times we're living in. It's very important to retain employees and have the history there when things come up.

**5:45 Warrant:**

- There was some discussion regarding warrant articles and creating Capital Reserve accounts. Shawn mentioned the Town is trying to plan for the future and be proactive rather than reacting when something needs to be replaced and is a big ticket item. Adding a little bit each year to these accounts will prevent having to put a large sum of money in the budget in the future.

- The Warrant was also discussed. The budget amount and default budget amounts need to be adjusted to reflect the correct amounts.

- Warrant Articles 14 and 15 will be reduced to \$5,000.

- Debbie informed the Board Meredith had requested increases in the 2 Fire Department Capital Reserve Funds. Shawn said because of the budget amount, he requests she ask for the increases at the Deliberative Session. Debbie will let Meredith know.

- Warrant Article 16 will be reduced to \$5,000. Debbie needs to find the RSA for creating a Capital Reserve account for the Fire Department.

- Warrant Article 10: Raise & appropriate for the revaluation and permission to expend the money from the Capital Reserve...does this article need to be in the warrant? It is only asking to withdraw the money but it looks like it's asking to raise it also. Debbie will look into this further.

- Jason mentioned we also need the anticipated revenue for 2023. Debbie will get these numbers on Wednesday.
- Shawn encouraged the residents to attend the Budget Hearing and Deliberative Session and get out and vote. Residents have a say in the budget before it's voted on. There is a lot of work put into creating the budget and would like input from the community.

**6:35 Old/New Business:**

- Shawn stated the Fire Department hired a grant writer who will be paid by the Fire Department Association. They will be applying for more grants. Most of the grants require a 5% match which would come from the budget.
- The Budget Hearing will be next Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at the Town Office.
- The auction will be held on Saturday promptly at 10:00am and registration begins at 9:00am.

**6:40 Non-Public Session RSA 91:A 3, II (I):**

Shawn made a motion to go into Non-Public Session under RSA 91:A 3, II (I). Jason seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. At 7:25, Shawn made a motion to return to public session. Jason seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**7:37 Non-Public Session RSA 91:A 3, II (d):**

At 7:37 Shawn made a motion to adjourn. Jason seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. At 8:00pm, Shawn made a motion to return to public session. Lou seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Shawn made a motion to seal the minutes. Lou seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**8:01 Non-Public Session RSA 91:A 3, II (a):**

At 8:01 Shawn made a motion to adjourn. Lou seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. At 8:45pm, Shawn made a motion to return to public session. Jason seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**8:45 Non-Public Session RSA 91:A 3, II (a):**

At 8:45 Shawn made a motion to adjourn. Jason seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. At 8:55pm, Shawn made a motion to return to public session. Jason seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Deaton  
Town Administrator

**Minutes approved by BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Shawn Talbot, Chairman:



Jason Somero:



Lou Alvarez:

