

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

December 12, 2023

MINUTES

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

Also present: Dennis Howe, Mitch Gluck, Mindy Buxton

5:00 Open Meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance

5:08 Non-public RSA 91-A:3, II (c)- Shawn made a motion to go into Non-Public under RSA 91-A:3, II (c). Lou seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. At 6:06, 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. Jason seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

6:10 Warrant Articles-Fire Department:

Present: Gary Somero (Fire Chief), Ben Hatcher (Lieutenant), Cody Vaillancourt (Lieutenant)

Gary said the Town has to accept the donation of the new fire truck. Shawn said the Trustees of the Trust Funds have to approve the spending of funds for this purpose before the donation of the truck can be accepted. He added the Selectmen can accept the donation pending the approval of the warrant article.

Gary submitted three draft warrant articles for consideration (see attached). One was for spending \$227,000 from the Fire Department Capital Reserve for the refurbishment of the Fire Truck donated to the Town. Gary also submitted estimates for the purchase of a new fire truck which can be \$800,000 or more. Ben added the goal of this is to refurbish the donated truck and get at least 10-15 years out of it which in the long run will save the taxpayers a lot of money. Ben added a lot of testing has been done to the truck (oil, etc.)

Shawn made a motion to accept the donation of the 2007 Spartan Fire Truck from anonymous donors pending the legislative approval of the expenditure of the \$227,000 to refurbish the truck. Jason seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. If the town does not approve this, the truck will go back to the donors.

The second warrant article is for the combined full-time position of Fire Chief/Building Inspector/Code Enforcement officer. The article will ask if the voters will approve the position and raise & appropriate \$52,000 to cover the additional salary (over and above what the position's stipends would cover) from July to December. If approved, the position would be included in the budget in 2025 and forward.

The third article, if approved, would delegate the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend for the Fire Department Capital Reserve.

Debbie will work with Gary on all of the warrant articles to ensure they meet DRA standards.

Shawn asked if Gary knew the status on the cell tower. Gary replied the concrete pad will be poured tomorrow.

6:58 Warrant Articles continuation:

Article 5: The Board agreed to add the word maintain.

Article 6: Debbie will change the order so departments are grouped together. The Board discussed increasing the GGB Maintenance fund t and the Parks and Rec Capital Reserve Fund.

Article 6 (cont.): Mindy stated she had been working on Capital Improvement. The play sets are in bad shape and don't comply with State regulations. They are over 20 years old. She said she was looking at similar sets and they range from \$200,000 to \$275,000. They go on sale & you can get them for \$78,000 and the small ones for \$16,000.

There are a lot of improvements that need to be made at the park. Some of which will come out of General Government Buildings.

She added they should do \$15,000 for 2 or 3 years to the Parks & Rec Capital Reserve and could add to that with fund raising.

Article 7: The amount for the library request was changed to \$45,000

Article 8: The ambulance number is correct at \$121,200

Article 9: Donations: The Board will discuss this at the next meeting. Shawn said he doesn't want to go through each donation and decide which charity to donate to because it isn't fair to decide which charity is more important than another. He can also see leaving the warrant article in. Jason added he doesn't feel the Town should donate tax dollars to charities.

Article 10: Revaluation: Debbie said she had spoken to Jim Coffey and the auditor regarding this. Originally this was to expend funds from Capital Reserve but it says "raise & appropriate". She will advise the Board after more discussion with Jim Coffey. It will probably be removed.

Article 11: Keene Hazardous Waste- Not many people use it. The cost to the Town will be approximately \$7,000. There is a question as to the value to this if only 50 people use it a year. This will also be discussed at the Deliberative Session.

7:50 Budget Discussion:

Parks & Rec:

Mindy stated the Director wages should be a salary based on 10 hours per week for the year no matter how many hours are worked. It's very hard to track the hours during the week so a straight amount would be a lot easier to track.

All of the coordinators are budgeted for 2024. In the coming years, the hope is to have the coordinator positions self-funded through the revolving funds. The event coordinator and summer coordinator are priority 1.

Adult rec was increased to \$1,000.

Vital Statistics:

Debbie will look into why the health insurance expenditure is so low. It was probably charged to the wrong account.

Joe asked about retirement for the Town Clerk. Debbie said the requirement is 35 hours per week to be eligible.

There are old records that need to be preserved. \$2,100 was added to records management.

BOS:

The hours for the 2 full time land use positions will be increased from 35 hours to 40 hours each. The accounting position hours will be increased from 20 to 25 hours. The other part time position will remain at 20 hours. There was some discussion regarding the need for another full time position. This will be looked at again next year.

The Public notices line was increased to \$1,125 due to increased public hearings.

Computer support was increased due to the increased costs for having .gov. All of the email addresses will be townofnewipswich.gov beginning in April. We had to pay a whole year for BMSI in order to have access to our data and records. They would not negotiate for a 3 month subscription.

Equipment Leasing went up partially because of all of the copies that had to be made for the Certified Public Record for the ongoing court case. There will be more certified records for the 2 more cases we know of at this time.

We will be ordering fewer Town Reports this year. We have had boxes left over for the past couple of years. Dues and fees have also increased for 2024.

Supplies went up due to inflation.

Legal will be going to individual budgets (Planning and Zoning).

9:57 Round Table Discussion:

- The Board reviewed a warrant article to discontinue the Green Center Revolving Fund and create an expendable trust. This will be added to the warrant.
- Jason said there are records of formation for the Green Center Recycling Committee. He will talk to Tina about having a meeting.
- Jason said he is thinking about a warrant article to form an official budget committee. Shawn doesn't think we are ready for that this year.

11:10 Non-public RSA 91-A:3, II (I)- Jason made a motion to go into Non-Public under RSA 91-A:3, II (I). Lou seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. At 11:21, 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.

At 11:22pm, Lou made a motion to adjourn. Jason 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:  _____



Town of New Ipswich, N.H.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Gary Somero
Deputy Chief Ben hatcher
Deputy Chief Cody
Vaillancourt

FIRE CHIEF'S OFFICE

Physical: 490 Turnpike Road
Mailing: 661 Turnpike Road
New Ipswich, New Hampshire 03071
Tel: (603) 878-1364
Fax: (603) 878-1552

Article 1

To see if the town will appropriate the sum of two hundred twenty seven thousand dollars

(\$ 227,000.00) from the fire department's capital reserve account for the purpose of refurbishing a donated 2007 Spartan fire truck. Into a rescue pumper. to replace the existing 2002 international rescue . From the previously established capital reserve fund For such purpose.

(This will allow the town to place enough funds in the capital reserve account that in ten years for the replacement of the 2004 international pumper.)

Article 2

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty two thousand dollars ^ (52,000.00) for the first six months' salary for a full time fire chief, building inspector, code enforcement officer. (? The full cost for 2025 year will need to added?) * WILL NEED TO CALCULATE TOWN BENEFIT PACKAGE FOR ACTUAL COST.

Article 3

To change the fire department capital reserve account fund for apparatus to an expendable trust fund and to name the selectman as agents of such fund.

REMEMBER SMOKE DETECTORS & SPRINKLERS SAVE LIVES



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Deputy Chief Ben hatcher
Deputy Chief Cody
Vallencourt

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To office of town of new Ipswich selectman

Request to remove funds from capital reserve Warrant article intended for the purchase and replacement of fire apparatus. For the Repair / refurbish of 2007 Spartan fire engine. This will replace the 2002 international rescue truck. This will allow the town to place funds in the capital reserve fund for such purchases. This will give the town ten years to place enough funds in capital reserve to offset the cost to replace the current 2004 international engine as it ages out without borrowing money or bonding. For a replacement engine.

To see if the town will appropriate the sum from the existing capital reserve account not to exceeded \$ 227,000.00 for the refurbishment of used 2007 Spartan fire engine to replace the 2002 current rescue truck this is a no cost warrant article using existing funds

Chief
Gary Somero

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Cip budget replacement trucks

Based on current pricing and stock built trucks without customizing and 12 % increase in cost every year

2018 engine one Spartan purchase price 408,000 current price 800,000 2 year wait

2004 engine one international commercial cab purchase price 265,000 current pricing 500,000. 4 year wait.

2002 rescue one international commercial cab rescue purchase 175,000.00 current pricing 500,000. 4 year wait

2007 tanker one 2007 freight liner commercial cab purchase 200,000 replacement cost 400,000. 3 year wait

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