

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Oct, 19 2021

MINUTES

PRESENT: Shawn Talbot, Chair; Jason Somero and Bert Hamill Selectmen
Jim Coffey, Town Administrator; Susan Mallett

Also attending in audience: Ron Stanley, Bentti Hoiska, Bob Zinsmeister, Dee Dailey, Bob Boynton, Yutka Varhegi, Becky Doyle, Alan Doyle, Debbie Deaton

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

Video expenditure: Ron Stanley wants authorization to pay for video equipment. Shawn MOTIONS for Ron to spend \$23,445 from his budget. Jason SECONDS the motion, all were in favor.
Bert asked if Ron can make the HDMI wireless, Ron will look into it.

Trustees Budget: Bentti Hoiska and Bob Zinsmeister were in the audience to the Trustees budget. Bentti explained that generally they don't spend the whole budget, but need to have the extra in case they need to reach out to counsel. They also did not use the training/conferences in full due to the COVID restrictions. The stipend was discussed as well, not all of them take the stipend, however that could change so they include it still. Selectman Hamill MOTIONS to tentatively accept the budget for the Trustees of the Trust, Jason SECONDED, all were in favor.

Bentti went on to advise some funds occasionally require attention when situations change. On the MS-9 Lists all the funds and asset reconciliation. Bentti asks for warrant to put MS-9 in summary form in the annual report, as the full is about 9 pages, and the summary is 2 pages. Five pages alone are for the perpetual cemetery trusts, and the amounts in capital can be made available. Part of the Trustees projects is to discover how to use these funds correctly.

Common Trusts includes EM Barrett Fund, can be used any way the Board of Selectmen decide, the only requirement is it to "best serve and promote the best interest of the Town of New Ipswich" according to Ms. Barrett. Bentti suggests using it for the annual Fishing Derby.

Ministerial Fund: This is from the 1820's this was believed to be the first fund in New Ipswich. Believed to be public money and not private donation. This probably is not allowed to be used for religious purpose anymore, this fund to be discontinued by warrant article, and they are asking for support to discontinue. Bert MOTIONED to draft warrant article to dissolve this trust, Jason SECONDED, all were in favor. This money would go to the Town fund balance.

Spalding Fund: Donated to Town for the purposes of educational expenses authorized or otherwise required by law. Jim has worked out a procedure to send the income to the school with the caveat that it is for the benefit of New Ipswich only. Jim confirmed with the school that they have a form they can show to offset New Ipswich costs only. This fund has not been touched in about a half century.

New Ipswich General Trust: This is also known as the Electric company trust. Funded by the sale of the Town electric company years ago. Jim feels the right place for this is the General Fund.

Capital Reserves: Jim feels that the Town needs to discontinue the Landfill Capital Reserve and the Expendable Landfill. These were put in place before the landfill closed. Right now the landfill mowing and well testing included in the Public Works operating budget. Bert asked that before this is closed he would like to see what prior tests are showing to be sure no issues are brewing. All of the Selectmen were in favor of discontinuance.

Resident with Right of Way issue: Yutka Varhegi has a right of way on her property that is meant for neighbors to use to access their property. The issue is that people on OHRVs are using her property without permission. She has tried posting her land as no trespassing allowed to no avail. She is asking if the town can write a letter that it is a private road. Dee Dailey wants to work with Bob Boynton to determine how to proceed. Yutka will also ask the neighbors on the private road if they are ok if she puts up a gate on her property to keep trespassing vehicles out.

Conservation Budget: Bob Boynton was in attendance to speak to his budget. He is submitting the same as last year. The Selectmen ask if he can reduce it to \$1,000. Bob says he may use the monies for things like water testing that are unforeseen. Bert noted that he is uncomfortable with the overage as it's not for expected expenses only and the Conservation Commission has not spent over \$1000 in years.

Planning Board: Dee Dailey covered the changes in the Planning Boards budget and also discussed the Town's Master Plan. She would like to go for the 'kit & caboodle' warrant or she they do some of the smaller tasks. Jason asked what would the \$5K be spent on, Dee replied they are not prioritized yet but one example is Energy/Solar (a new chapter) or Population/Housing (existing chapter). Bert asked if they are using SWRPC and Dee replied there is another group on the coast and they are looking good as an option and have others that like them as well. Bert felt a lot of money without town input and that the survey in the past took about 3 months to do. Bob Boynton noted that it can be done online and we can reach residents quicker that way. Jason noted that doing it online would be nearly no cost, and Dee mentioned that it is important to word the questions carefully. Dee wants to be sure the Planning Board is not just reacting and asked how we move forward and create roads in a planned fashion and not just offshoots off other roads in a random fashion. Bert feels the Master Plan is 'fluffy' and more of a guide.

Board of Assessors: Jim walked through the budget for the Assessors. He noted they expected more abatement requests, and they didn't get what they expected. The line item for maps is just regular maintenance updates and not anything new. Merging Avitar data with existing GIS systems is a one-time effort. Have a warrant article for property revaluation. Bert questioned why the stipend is a line item and the discussion turned to why some boards get stipends and others do not. Shawn would like to look at this in the future.

Tax Maps: Jim explained how the GIS and Assessors maps work together. Base is one set of tax maps and Bob had created overlays that work with the maps. Tax maps now on CAI and accessible to all. The

goal is to get the tax maps more accurate and then put the overlays with them. Jim feels it should be budgeted and appropriated on a plan. Further discussion on how and when to pay for them, along with which options to go for was had and who pays for it. Jim to get the price for the lower priced "chevette" option.

Legal Budget: \$45k has been budgeted, other years have been higher, but Jim feels nothing major is in play and this should be sufficient. Higher cost years had multiple suits and this resulted in high amounts. This covers ZBA, Planning Board and Board of Selectmen.

Alan Doyle asks if he can submit a legal bill, as he was rejected by prior BOS, and this budget should have covered him. He will resubmit and the BOS will review it.

Other preliminary budgets were shared by Jim to the Selectmen for their reference, no decisions to be made.

OLD NEW BUSINESS

Administrators Update: Jim suggested the road warrants could be reduced from \$350K to \$250k. Before decision is made, review the paving program.

He also shared SWRPC / NHDOT memo the BOS will review and come back to it next week after digesting it along with any strings or obligations that come with it.

Selectman Hamill Updates: Bert noted he got canned responses from Hassan and Shaheen from his email, and no responses to phone calls.

Selectman Somero Updates: Jason got a questions from resident about strings attached to funding. He feels, from what he read, a significant string. Bert also shared docs from Treasury relating to this. Jason also discussed franchise fees, 100% to the Video Committee. He asks what is involved and the answer was that a Warrant Article to change the percentage. People that pay for it will benefit, not the general population. Jim thinks it would be good to include Planning Board and Zoning Board meetings.

A MOTION to adjourn was made by Selectman Hamill, Selectman Somero **SECONDED**. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Mallett, Land Admin

Minutes approved by BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Shawn Talbot, Chairman:



Jason Somero:



Bert Hamill:

