

## Trustees of the Trust Funds

Meeting Location: New Ipswich Town Office, 661 Turnpike Road, New Ipswich

Meeting Date: December 5, 2023

Attendees: Bentti Hoiska, Jim Coffey, and Robert Zinsmeister

Meeting was called to order at 1:12 p.m.

### Old Business:

The minutes of the October 24, 2023 meeting were read and approved.

### New Business:

Bob reported on the meeting he had with cemetery trustee Bill Seppala on November 15, 2023 where he presented information on the Cemetery and B Smith cemetery trusts and the 186 perpetual care trusts and how to access them. He presented notes from that meeting where he offered to support these efforts and do most of the work related the perpetual care trusts.

Jim presented his input to our funds manual for the Revaluation CRF. Created in 1994 by warrant article 22 wherein the selectmen were named to administer the fund. This is contrary to the authority of the board of assessors. Jim will work to prepare a warrant article to authorize the board of assessors as agents to expend and give the fund a name.

Bentti went over the highlights of the municipal meetings he and Jim attended in mid-November. One of the takeaways was a valuable listing of statutes which he made copies of for Bob and Jim. One meeting discussed the problem with the constitutionality of "ministerial" funds and the Keene decision that has led to the need to dissolve them. We still question the authority of the Charitable Trust Unit over our efforts to terminate a fund that was created with taxpayer money and the sale of town property.

We received a request from the Mascenic school district for funds from the maintenance fund to pay for a pellet stoker for the boiler. Jim determined this was to be a standby unit for the existing stoker should it fail. In this case the stoker is a new capital item and funding cannot be taken from the maintenance fund. Jim will discuss this with the SAU.

We received a check from Cournoyer Funeral Home in the amount of \$2,000 for deposit into the N I Cemetery trust. Of this, \$1,500 is for the purchase of a cemetery lot for Robert Aho. The remaining \$500 is listed as "Sunday Overtime Fee for R. Aho Service". Deposits to the fund include payments for lot purchases to be deposited as principal and burial costs as income. It is unclear what the Sunday overtime money represents. Bob will contact them for clarification.

Each year we transfer money from the Spalding and electric light funds to the school and town for the intended purpose of offsetting taxes. We believe we need to verify that this money actually achieves those offsets.

Items on our to-do list include organizing our files and perhaps giving our funds “legal” names.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m.