

Trustees of the Trust Funds
Stearns-Burton Committee

Joint Meeting

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

Meeting Date: October 5, 2023

Attendees: Bentti Hoiska, Jim Coffey, and Robert Zinsmeister

Meetings were called to order at 1:07 p.m.

Stearns-Burton Committee

New Business:

Reviewed and approved two requests for the Autumn Fest from the Recreation department; Kosmic Kelly for \$399 and Mike Ordway for \$500.

Trustees of the Trust Funds

Old Business:

The minutes of the September 21 and September 28, 2023 meetings were read and approved.

New Business:

We decided to review our budget request for next year in greater detail than previously and again concluded it was appropriate to submit the same entries as last year. We voted to so approve and submit the request.

Jim was briefed on the September 28th meeting with TBFA that he was unable to attend. This included an implication by Linda Lambert that the cemetery trustees are not the sole agents to request distributions from the Cemetery Trust. RSAs 289:2-a and 31:19-a were referenced. This will require further investigation. While on the subject of cemeteries, the question of what can we do with the 186 perpetual care accounts that the town has? Bob will contact the CTU for guidance on this.

Again, the topic of the used fire truck donation to the town came up. Jim believes the parties involved in its acquisition have been successful. This leaves the question of the costs to repair/refurbish/equip the apparatus. Can they be taken from the Fire Department CRF? The intent of the fund when created was to purchase a replacement truck. Fit up and repair were

not addressed. However, the agents to expend from this fund are the legislative body so a warrant article would be the path forward.

The Ministerial Fund was discussed since we learned from TBFA that these types of funds have constitutional illegalities and must be terminated. The easiest and least expensive (?) way is by Nonjudicial Settlement Agreement. We were given a copy of such a document used by the town of Newington. We might be able to use this as a template to create one for our purposes. Benti suggested that we could direct the proceeds through the Congregational Church to the library. That would be of benefit to the entire town. Bob will talk to Linda to get a contact at the CTU we can use for guidance.

The two Autumn Fest Stearns and Burton funds requests along with one from the library (Monadnock Falconry for \$350) were formally approved. Requests for distribution from the two funds will be created at the next meeting.

Meetings were adjourned at 3:04 p.m.