

MINUTES
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Friday, February 09, 2024

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Mark Avery (MA), Tim Burt (TB)

OTHERS: Eric Fiegenbaum (EF), Deb Ahlstrom (DA), and Matt Glode and Paul Kerringan from ORYA

CORRESPONDANCE

- On a letter from the PD regarding air quality concerns at the Safety Complex, EF will ask Primex about what kind of test and possible issues.
- An annual report from ReadyRides was noted.

Guests: Matt Glode, Director of ORYA, and Paul Kerringan, a Lee resident, came before the Selectmen to discuss a ORYA's proposal to build a concession stand at Tibbetts Field. They presented a plan which would include a bathroom and a food preparation area, which would need a septic system. The proposed size is 24 x 56 and they would remove one or both of the existing sheds. MA recommended that the proposal go through the Planning Board for a site plan review, and suggested a preliminary visit to that board. Other items under consideration included, no impacts to parking, the need for 220 electrical, solar panels, heat pumps for heat and air conditioning. TB moved and MA seconded a motion to allow ORYA dig test pits. There was mention of trash removal, who could use the facility, water testing, the current lease agreement and abutter considerations.

NEW BUSINESS

- At 9:00am, MA read the public hearing announcement for the budget and warrant continuing it from February 5, 2024. He explained that the Selectmen had asked departments to do a needs based assessment and cut lines were there had been no recent use. Overall the increase came in at about eight percent. Some cuts had been requested and at least one capital reserve had been reduced to zero. Overall, wages had been increased by five percent. Other increases included the road budget, the addition of cleaning services, and the impact of four elections this year. The warrant article on an expert highway agent was explained as giving the town flexibility to increase duties and appointment duration. The Hayes Rd capital reserve would be closed and there will be a request to start a major road maintenance capital reserve to be funded by *an equivalent amount* of the remainder in the Hayes Rd reserve. The article to adjust the elderly exemption would take into account inflation; it had not been adjusted since 2016. Article 20, Contingency Fund, does not raise taxes, but comes from fund balance and is for unexpected expenses. During the public comment period, EF pointed out that the new road capital reserve would be for major road work. Peggy Wolcott hoped that the town is paying its employees adequately and hears that encounters at town hall are always pleasant. The public comment was closed at 9:13am. The Selectmen are scheduled to vote on the warrant and budget on ~~January~~ *February 19, 2024. MA motion, TB second to close public hearing - pass.*
- The Selectmen went on to address backup plans if any one Selectmen could not attend the evening town meeting session. They noted that the Moderator runs the meeting and there should be an open line of communication with him. Testing of the ballot counting machine is on Tuesday, March 4, 2024.
- EF has spoken with DRA on an Intent to Cut, where an abutter is questioning the amount cut. DRA had visited the location and suggested a supplemental be filed.

OLD BUSINESS

- The draft letter to Gintovt was okayed for sending.
- EF reported on a conversation he had with the Barrington Road Agent about the Madbury job announcement and Madbury's potential planning on a DPW. He is available to answer questions and help if he can.

BOARD UPDATES

- Talco Enterprises has indicated that their mowing charges would be the same as the 2023 season and that they are shooting for a mid-August mowing. They will be invited in after town meeting to discuss mowing roadside shoulders, snow plowing and contract timing. Also considered is a visit with Fisk as a possible snow contractor.
- EF will discuss with the Moderator the need for a 2/3 vote on the property and easement capital reserve name change, voting cards, and his document offering the rules he would follow in running the meeting.
- TB reported that EF spoke about a Planning Board application that will require a conditional use permit with comments from the Water Resources Board and the Conservation Commission. It was mentioned that the PB has obligations to address the request within a certain time period. A waiver for above ground utilities may also be needed. The board continues to work on the master plan.

OTHER:

- The reply from the lawyer for the Martins at 3 Cherry Lane was reviewed. EF will offer that the Martins should go to the Planning Board for scheduling. TB will update the PB on the current status and a potential preliminary visit.
- The March visit with Portsmouth needs to be rescheduled. Topics should include enforcement of the Schwartz violation (*14 Huckins Rd*), concerns about easement monitoring and an abutter, snowmobile bridges, and an update on the Fernald conservation easement (*3 Nute Rd*).
- EF touched base on the use of Demeritt Park by the Moharimet PTO for viewing the upcoming solar eclipse.
- The Secretary of State's Office has indicated that an elected write-in candidate has to be a registered voter. They encouraged the Selectmen to get the word out.
- CMA has addressed the NH DOT comments on Freshet Rd bridge.

Meeting ended at 11:45am.

Submitted by: *Eric Fiegenbaum*

Approved: *4-11-2024*

On approved minutes, proof changes are noted through italics for additions and strikethroughs for deletions.