

TOWN OF TAMWORTH

SELECT BOARD OFFICE

Select Board Meeting: 5:30 PM

Thursday, November 3rd, 2022

Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: 5:31 those present Select person Goodson, Doucette, Behr, Prentice, Ed Comeau, Keats Myer.

Goodson motioned to go into Nonpublic RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Session #1 and Nonpublic RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Session #2, Prentice seconded, roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Prentice yes, Goodson yes. Goodson motioned to come out of nonpublic at 6:11, seconded by Behr, roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Prentice yes, Goodson yes.

Joining: Chief Littlefield, Emily Verny, Bruno Siniscalchi, Charlie Townsend, John Wheeler, Carl Dearborn, Nelson O'Bryan, Sheldon Perry, Ian Haskell. By Zoom, Maureen and Jim Diamond, Linda Cook.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: None

PUBLIC INPUT: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Budget
 - Update from Town Administrator
 - Tax Rate Setting Update – Myer reported the MS 1 was just filed after a long wait for the Utility Valuations, which was a hold up from the Department of Revenue.
 - Department Head Budget Discussions: Treasurer, Annie Burke presenting. The major change was to change her stipend from \$5,000 to \$6,200. Annie described her job, which is about 6 hours a week. She has a “Hands-on” money job, which is an elected position, and she been doing it for 4 years. Amy Berrier is the Deputy Treasurer. This will be the first raise for the treasurer in some time. The Select Board thanked Ms. Burke for coming in.
 - Police Department Update, Chief Littlefield reporting. The new team is doing great, all very positive. Littlefield discussed making Halloween one big main street festivity, and closing the street next year.
 - The Chief presented his budget, noting that he added back in the prosecutor stipend - which will alleviate some work from the police chief and reassign to another officer. Prentice brought up the custodial services line item, which is on the 2023 budget for \$1,500. The Chief explained that when they use an outside cleaner, they are required to have an officer present, which is really tough to schedule. Currently Linda does it to avoid this security concern. Prentice asked if there is a line item for the Police Academy, Chief explained that we only pay the salaries of the attendee, not the cost of the academy – this is covered by a fee placed on certain court fines. Goodson asked about health care costs being so down, and it was noted that the two new employees are not taking coverage. Additional discussion on the cost of electricity and vehicle repair. Chief felt comfortable with the numbers he has included.
 - Animal Control, nothing new on this budget – no real changes. Keats will send out mileage increase to all department heads, \$0.625 per mile. The Select Board thanked Chief Littlefield for coming in.
 - Conservation Commission, Charlie Townsend presenting. The budget is decreasing slightly – due to reduced professional fees. The only line item that has increased is the Green

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Mountain Conservation Group has increased the water monitoring costs by 10%. They will leave the raise for the Recording Secretaries to the SB when it decides the COLA increase. The Select Board thanked Mr. Townsend for coming in.

- Cemetery, John Wheeler presenting. The maintenance contract needs to increase by 5%. Survey dollars were not spent this past year, but hoping for next year, and so it is included again. There are 28 burial grounds in the town and 6 that still have lots for sale. Pease Hill still has a section that has lots for sale. The select board thanked Mr. Wheeler for coming in.
- Planning Board – Ian Haskell presented. Mr. Haskell noted that we will see a substantial increase from last year, and that \$20K is for a Build-Out Analysis. The SB asked about this increase for a Build-Out Analysis, and Mr. Perry and Mr. Haskell shared that it depends on several factors, partly what the town is looking for. The Build-Out Analysis has been on the docket for 5 years or more, but conditions were not right, now, with subdivision regulations review and more information on tax maps, the time is right for this work. Doucette asked for more clarity on what the BOA is, and Perry said that in essence, it's a planning to look forward to the next 20 years. Prentice asked why engineering costs went up, and Mr. Haskell explained that those are pass through costs – meaning they are a wash financially. Mr. Wheeler noted that the Department of Revenue requires that we include this particular pass through cost in the budget. The SB also asked what's in the equipment line, and it is to upgrade the TV screen in the conference room to make it easier to read maps on the screen.
- Re-adopt the *Veteran's Tax Credit*, Emily VERNY shared that the town will need to readopt our Veteran's Tax Credit – she shared that the town can choose what level of credit to give, and that the RSA governing this credit says it could be up to \$750 – Tamworth now allows for \$500. In 2021 there is 116 veterans totaling \$58,000. That did not include active duty. The new law will include active duty members of the armed forces. A discussion ensued about the meaning of the language. Prentice asked how people know if they have an exemption. VERNY is working on making it more public. Prentice's gut is that we would adopt the new expanded language but keep at \$500. And increase our outreach and see what that does to the total, as she is in favor of making exemptions more widely known. All agreed to wait to adopt until next week after VERNY has had time to do more research.
- Review of new *Limitation of Liability for Erection of a Building or Driveway on a Class VI Road*, which has been reviewed by the town attorney: Goodson motioned to adopt the new form, Behr seconded, roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Prentice yes, Goodson yes.
- Supporting Alternative Fuel Corridors with CMAQ – Selectperson Doucette spoke to this and pointed out that other states are a little faster getting fed money to flow to local communities. Localities are to submit a grant request to improve air quality and will provide 80% federal funding, so the town would need a 20% match. Richard looked at the cost, and it is \$15K to install, and you would have the end users pay for it via a credit card or some such mechanism. The Letter of Interest is due tomorrow, 11/4/22. Doucette will get the LOI written and at this moment is seeking approval to send the letter of Interest on behalf of Tamworth. He also proposes that the 20% come from some other source than the taxpayers. Goodson motioned approve the letter of intent to the CMAQ. Prentice second, roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Prentice yes, Goodson yes.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Timeline - Tax Deeded Properties, Myer shared that she is arranging to have the auction house, JSJ Auctions come to see the three properties the town now owns – we are working on scheduling for next week. Myer invited any select board member who would like to join is welcome. Once we determine the best sales strategy, we will then need to give previous owners 90 days' notice before auctioning the houses. Myer mentioned that she will be attending a hearing regarding the town owned property on Turkey Street.

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- Town House Fire Escape Proposal: Update Myer explained that the first bid we have received is \$44K plus footing, and demo. She shared that Rick, our new Maintenance person will be looking at additional bids, and alternative solutions. In the meanwhile, to get through the winter, Behr suggested taking out the risers, in addition to the repairs that Rick is planning, which would make it safer for the coming winter. Prentice requested that Rick come to the Select Board Meeting next week and give a department head update.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- Account Balance: \$ 2,401,872
- Fireworks: The cost of fireworks for 2023 will be up 50% from last year, and will be \$15,000. The only dates offered are June 31st and July 1st. Myer will research cost and alternatives, and revenue side of equation.
- Catherine Graham has accepted the position of Interim Town Welfare Administrator as approved in last week's nonpublic meeting.
- RFP's for the Sewer Feasibility study have all been sent out.
- Reminder that there is a public hearing next week for the CCCPDC
- Verny and Myer will be attending the NHMA conference on 11/16 & 11/17, and so the Select Board office will be closed. We will send out notices. Myer will have the agenda prepared on Tuesday. The SB will have to take minutes.

SIGNATURE FILE:

- Goodson motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting Minutes, Thursday October 20th, 2022, Prentice seconded, Doucette yes, Behr yes, Prentice Yes, Goodson Yes.
- Goodson motioned to approve Select Board Meeting Minutes, Thursday October 27th, 2022 Prentice seconded, Doucette yes, Behr yes, Prentice Yes, Goodson Yes.
- Goodson motioned to approve Nonpublic Meeting Minutes RSA 91-A:3 II (b), Session #1, Thursday October 27th, 2022, and Nonpublic Meeting Minutes RSA 91-A:3 II (b), Session #2, Thursday October 27th, 2022, Prentice seconded, Doucette yes, Behr abstain, Prentice Yes, Goodson Yes.
- Goodson motioned to approve Intent to Cut Map 414, Lot 57 and 58, Doucette seconded, Doucette yes, Behr yes, Prentice Yes, Goodson Yes.
- Goodson motioned to approve Accounts Payable Manifest: \$383,003.19, Behr seconded, Doucette yes, Behr yes, Prentice Yes, Goodson Yes.
- Year to Date: \$7,719,068.40

SELECT BOARD UPDATE:

Doucette: Researched septic designers to send septic RFP also helped install the mural at the Transfer Station.

Behr: Met with the contractor for the bathrooms at the rec building - he reports he should be done early next week. Karl will schedule a punch list review. There will be baseboard heat in the bathrooms.

Prentice: working on personnel policy homework and solicited Richard Doucette, Andy Fisher and Pat Farley to work with Myer and Verny to get geo referencing contract nailed down. Added more elements to the veteran's day ceremony...need a trumpeter for Taps. Verny knows a trumpeter.

Goodson: nothing to report.

PUBLIC INPUT: Wheeler announced that the next cemetery meeting is at 12/14 at the library. Wheeler asked what happened to the solar farm project that was to be located at the landfill. Goodson explained that the public pushed back against plan as it was expanding into the rec fields.. Doucette said it would be worth revisiting to find a company that wouldn't need to infringe on the rec field. Sandwich might be an interesting model. All agreed it is worth revisiting, particularly with the high electricity costs.

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Jim Diamond thanked Richard for being on top of the EV charging station grant and felt it would be a great addition to the town.

NON-PUBLIC: none

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn at 7:37 made by Goodson.