

TOWN OF TAMWORTH
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
88 MAIN STREET
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Public Hearing per RSA 41:11 6:00pm
Selectmen's Non-Public Meeting 5:00pm
Town Office

February 6, 2020

MINUTES

Present: Chairman Poirier, Selectmen Farnum, Mason and Streeter, Fire Chief Colcord, Asst Fire Chief Bowles, Police Chief Littlefield, Road Agent Roberts, Recreation Director Parker, EDC Chairman Farley, Advisory Budget Committee members Cook, Siniscalchi, Mason, Friends of the Town House Cook, David Little, Kelly Goodson, Asst Town Administrator Frost, Secretary Poirier, governmentoversite.com and several members of the public.

- > CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Poirier opened the meeting at 5:00 pm.
- > NON-PUBLIC PER RSA 91-A:3 II (c)
 - > Motion made by Chairman Poirier at 5:01 to enter a non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II ©. Motion seconded by Selectman Mason and passed by roll call vote. Poirier Y, Farnum Y, Mason Y, and Streeter Y.
 - > Motion made by Chairman Poirier to reopen the regular session at 5:22pm.
 - > Motion seconded by Selectman Mason and passed unanimously.
 - > Chairman Poirier made a motion to seal the minutes of the previous non-public meeting session #2 and session #3 as it could affect a reputation. The motion was seconded by Selectman Mason and passed unanimously.

>REVIEW:

- > Discuss changes to the Traffic and Road Regulations and Policies - tabled until the work session on February 13, 2020 so that further research can be done.
- > Selectman Mason made a motion and seconded by Chairman Poirier to accept the PILOT from the Chocorua Lake Conservancy. Motion passed (4-0).
- > Town Administrator McWhirter will continue to work with Attorney Fillmore regarding the pending right to know requests.

- > DEPARTMENTS & COMMITTEES:
 - > Police Department

> Chairman Poirier asked Chief Littlefield if he had seen a letter that was written to the Board of Selectmen challenging a ticket. Chief Littlefield said he is aware of the ticket. A new No Parking sign was put up in Tamworth Village and the complainant was challenging the ticket saying that she just didn't notice the new sign. The Board of Selectmen will make a decision regarding the ticket. Chairman Poirier made a motion to table the matter until more information is obtained. Selectman Mason seconded the motion and passed (3-0-1 Farnum).

> SIGNATURE FILE:

> Chairman Poirier made a motion to approve the amended minutes for January Minutes for January 23, 2020 and minutes from January 29, 2020. The motion was seconded by Selectman Mason and passed (4-0).

> Chairman Poirier made a motion to approve and sign the Selectmen's (2) sets of non-public minutes dated January 23, 2020 and January 29, 2020. One set from January 23 was sealed and one was not. The minutes from January 29, 2020 were sealed. The motion was seconded by Selectman Mason and passed (4-0).

> Chairman Poirier made a motion to approve and sign the (2) Accounts payable manifest dated January 7, 2020 in the amount of \$333,494.04, check voided in the amount of \$604.50 and a check for \$1541.95. The motion was seconded by Selectman Mason and passed (4-0).

> Chairman Poirier made a motion to approve and sign the payroll manifest dated February 13, 2020 in the amount of \$35,355. The motion was seconded by Selectman Mason and passed (4-0).

> Chairman Poirier made a motion to approve and sign the following items. The motion was seconded by Selectman Mason and passed (4-0).

> Current Use Stewardship Plan - Map 414-53, 78 and 80

> Current Use Stewardship Plan - Map 414-78.1, 79 & 81

> Chairman Poirier made a motion to approve the Boston Post Cane Proclamation for Mrs. Ulitz. The motion was seconded by Selectman Streeter and passed (4-0).

> Chairman Poirier made a motion to approve and Intent to Cut Map 420, Lot 50:49. Motion seconded by Selectman Mason and passed (4-0).

> Chairman Poirier made a motion to sign a letter to Parker Roberts reinstating him. The motion was seconded by Selectman Mason and passed (4-0).

PROPOSED REVENUE 2020:

> Selectman Farnum explained the proposed revenue for 2020 and a handout with all the figures was provided to everyone present. The revenue is anticipated because there is no way of having exact numbers. He discussed how grants and capital reserves affect the bottom line.

SELECTMEN UPDATES:

> Selectman Mason updated on a Septic Management Commissioners meeting. Rates need to be set, they are looking at new wireless alarms and getting a new board

member up to speed. She will also be attending a Carroll County Broadband Meeting 2/13/2020.

- > Selectman Farnum will be attending a Transfer Station meeting.

- > Selectman Streeter had no new updates.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- > Mr Little brought up a concern about the integrity of the ballot counting machines. He had a concern two years ago that the results didn't appear to be accurate with more ballots reported than voters who voted. It seems that it is difficult to audit the machine. Kim Trammell said that the ballot counting machine is calibrated and may have a ballot that cannot be read for some reason but it is a less than 1% chance of error.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: Chairman Poirier opened the public hearing at 6:00

The hearing addressed the 2020 budget.

- > Road Agent: Total budget is \$1,564,042 and was broken down by Selectman Farnum:

- Employee Expenses: \$359,092
- Operating Expenses: \$293,550
- Road Reconstruction: \$200,000
- Bridge: \$650,000
- Pick Up: \$50,000
- Street Lights: \$11,400

Road Agent Roberts said that there are six potential bids coming in by 2.10 for the bridge.

Mr Mason asked about a generator at the town garage. Road Agent Robert said that they have a little portable one but Chief Littlefield has offered to look into a grant to get one. Chief Littlefield stated that he will be looking into it.

- > Fire Department: Total budget is \$998,147 and was broken down by Selectmen Farnum:

- Employee Expenses: \$166,102
- Operating Expenses: \$141,077
- Ambulance Contract: \$208,587
- New Equipment: \$332,381
- New Building Architectural Plans: \$150,000

Mr Little asked why there are things in the budget that were not in the CIP. It was explained that sometimes a grant opportunity comes up and is applied for and it might be for a necessary item but it wasn't in the CIP.

At this point in the Public Hearing Selectman Streeter noticed that both the Selectmen's Meeting and the Public Hearing had been listed for 6:00 rather than 5:00 for the Selectmen's

Meeting. Ed Comeau, Government Oversight, stated that the signature file will have to be ratified to approve the votes that had been taken.

> Police Department: Total budget is: \$522,766 and was broken down by Selectman Farnum:

Employee Expenses: \$442,739

Operating Expenses: \$45,027

Vehicle Purchase: \$35,000

Mr. Mason wanted to know where the need was for another patrolman. Where are the statistics to show what the increase to crime is? The town needs to know the facts in order to vote. Asked how many hours a day a police officer is at the school and Chief Littlefield said that on most days it's two hours. Madelain Siniscalchi said that she had requested the data from the Sheriff's Department which showed that from 2018 - 2019 calls for service were only up about 50 per month. A call for service can be anything from asking for directions to an actual crime. Whipple Roberts stated that police have been called to his house at night and it's always been a State Trooper or a Sheriff. Chief Littlefield said that he's been there to which Whipple responded that it was only to follow someone to his house. There continued to be public comments asking about crime statistics and hours/shifts worked to which the Board of Selectmen responded that Chief Littlefield has not provided the Board with any of that information.

> Library: Total budget is: \$189,100 with revenue of \$18,831 for a total of \$170,269.

> Planning Board: Total budget is: \$8,015

> Recreation Department: Total budget is: \$122,002 and was broken down by Selectman Farnum:

Operating Expenses: \$107,118

Mower: \$4,000

Swim Program: \$7,284

4th of July: \$7,700

There was some discussion about Tamworth residents paying Sandwich for use of Bear Camp Pond.

Mr. Mason asked if there could be some programs for older people in town, could we combine with other towns, and maybe have some listening sessions so the people in town could gather and create some new ideas. Mr. Parker was very willing to do that.

> Conservation Commission: Total budget is: \$6,881. They use a different server for their website but when their contract is up they will switch to the town website.

> Economic Development: Total budget is: \$3,950. They also use a different website but are not able to switch to the town website because they use too much detail.

> Sewer: Total budget is \$24,221 and this is money raised by the users.

> Transfer Station: Total budget is: \$301,489 and was broken down by Selectman Farnum:

Employee Expenses: \$134,812
Operating Expenses: \$127,677
Upgrade to the Pad Surface: \$25,000
Testing on the old landfill: \$14,000

The warrants were then read by Selectman Poirier in an abbreviated form starting with #8.

Total budget: \$4,791,785

Known Income: \$2,116,610

To be raised by taxes: \$2,675,175

At this point in the year there is no way to know what the tax rate will be but it will go up.

The petitioned warrants were reviewed with a total budget: \$150,944

> CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING: Chairman Poirier closed the public hearing at 8:10pm.

> Selectmen's meeting resumed. All the warrants with money attached were read by Robin Frost and voted on with following results:

- > Article #04 - (4 Yes-0 No)
- > Article #07 - (0 Yes-4 No)
- > Articles #8 - #30 - (4 Yes-0 No)
- > Article #31 - (3 Yes-1 No)
- > Articles #32 - #35 - (4 Yes-0 No)
- > Article #36 - (3 Yes-1 No)
- > Article #37 - (4-0)
- > Article #38 - (3 Yes-1 No)

It should be noted that 8:42 - 8:47 a break was taken.

> Chairmen Poirier asked if there were any final comments. Peggy Poirier stated that she'd like to address the Tamworth Police Department Facebook page. There was a posting by the Police Department about a Warrant by Petition to add a full time officer. That posting led to many rude, inappropriate and unprofessional comments. Several other members of the public stated that they also had seen the posting and considered it inappropriate for a Town of Tamworth Facebook page to be used in such a manner. There

was a discussion about the need to write a Social Media policy. Town's legal attorney will be asked if the page can be shut down or the comments removed. Robin Frost will obtain a legal opinion.

> Chairman Poirier thanked the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen for their hard work and dedication to the Budget.

> There will be a Board of Selectmen work session at 5:00, February 13, 2020

> Selectman Mason made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Selectman Streeter. The motion was passed (4-0) and Chairman Poirier adjourned the meeting at 9:24.

Submitted respectfully,

Peggy Poirier

Approved by the Board of Selectmen

Daniel J Poirier

Rebecca Mason

Aaron Ricker

Melanie Streeter

William W. Farnum

