

TOWN OF TAMWORTH BOARD OF
SELECTMEN 84 MAIN STREET
TAMWORTH, NH 03886
TELEPHONE: (603) 323-7525 FAX: (603) 323-2349
WWW.TAMWORTHNH.ORG

Selectmen's Meeting 5 :30pm
Town House

Thursday January 13, 2022

Minutes

- CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Selectman Mason. Present are: Rebecca Mason, Melanie Streeter, Kelly Goodson, Aaron Ricker, Emery Roberts
- Non-Public RSA 91-A:3 II (c) - Motion to go into Non-Public by Selectmen Mason seconded by Selectmen Goodson at 5:32 pm. Roll call vote - Streeter -yes, Ricker - Yes, Roberts - Yes, Goodson -Yes, Mason Yes
- Motion to come out of Non-public meeting at 5:51 Pm made by Selectmen Mason seconded by Selectmen Goodson. . Roll call vote - Streeter -yes, Ricker - Yes, Roberts - Yes, Goodson -Yes, Mason Yes. Minutes were not sealed.
- Motion by Selectmen Mason and seconded by Selectmen Goodson to recess meeting until 6:00 pm. . Roll call vote - Streeter -yes, Ricker - Yes, Roberts - Yes, Goodson -Yes, Mason Yes
- The regular meeting was resumed at 6 pm by Selectman Mason.
- Public Hearing to present the 2022 budget and warrant articles in accordance with RSA 32:5-I – A motion to open the hearing was made by Selectman Mason, seconded by Selectman Goodson. . Roll call vote - Streeter -yes, Ricker - Yes, Roberts - Yes, Goodson -Yes, Mason Yes

Selectman Mason led the review of the budget. Another budget hearing will be held on February 3. Selectmen Postage is reduced to \$3000. Willie Farnum asked if the Town Clerk wage should be in the budget rather than on a warrant article. The Supervisor Salary was questioned by John Wheeler. An option for new software was presented. Sheldon Perry spoke about the Planning Board budget. He would like the clerk salary line changed to \$2400 plus a 6% increase in pay. The ZBA has not been active. Government Building category shows multiple changes. The Town telephones are now in this budget. A \$50,000 warrant article will be going in this year for office improvements. The heating system is an issue. We will attempt to get this in under ARPA funds in the amount of \$25,000. The doors need to be replaced, and the quote is around \$22,000. Corrections are needed on the requests from the Department, into the Selectmen's request. The overtime line did not get moved over.

Daymond Steer asked about the potential for an alternative to the Police Department. No further information has been obtained.

David Ciampetro – spoke about the Town having used COLA previously, but has not been applied this year. What is the reason? All Department heads researched what other towns are paying their employees, and the salaries were adjusted accordingly.

Donna Ulitz – asked for clarification about the Select board changing the current structure of the Police Department. Nothing has come in yet. It would have to be presented to the town at Town Meeting if it comes in late.

Dan Poirier – asked if it was safe to say that if the information received shows a better price for

more service that the Selectmen would go in that direction.

The ambulance number will be set each year depending on the amount of calls from the previous year.

Jim Boles spoke about the increase of the Fire Department line for volunteers. You cannot have volunteers being paid on a point system if you have part time employees, everyone would have to be paid hourly.

Daymond Steer asked about staffing levels at the Fire Department. How many firefighters do they have, and how many would they like? Per diem people would be hired to fill the gaps. The Fire Department went up approximately 13%.

Dan Poirier requested the percentage increase for the Police Department, but that is not available tonight.

Salt and sand bids have increased 33% over last year. John Wheeler asked about the CIP having \$250,000 for the road construction. This is on the CIP as well as in the budget. This budget went up 14.84%.

Streetlights show a decrease in cost.

The old landfill testing currently showed FLBs and increased arsenic. This should be moved to the Selectmen's Request.

Transfer Station – salaries were adjusted. Storm water runoff survey at the present transfer station was done by HEB.

Under Animal Control, the Humane Society is now sending a bill for \$500 for the year.

Due to the changes in the regulations, the Health Officer position is currently vacant. We are pursuing the possibility of contracting this service with another town. Willie Farnum feels that the salary number that is shown is inadequate regarding what is required from this position. We have a contract for a welfare person, which is \$200 per month.

The Rec Department has requested money for a website, which would be used for online registrations. It would also be used for a calendar of programs, etc. Under grounds keeping, he would like to add in \$4400 for a fence for the rec field (divide parking lot and soccer field). He is trying to get a grant for this. Totals are shown as zeroes, and need to be corrected. This was pointed out by John Wheeler. Willie Farnum gave some numbers about the swim program. White Lake charges people to attend, but does not have life guards. Guards are required for a swim program. Life Guard training costs have increased dramatically. The cost of the fireworks display will be \$10,000. It is scheduled for July 4.

Evan Henderson is here on behalf of the Library. \$192,687 is their budget number for the Town portion. This is a 16.87% increase. This reflects wage increases for some employees to bring them to competitive wages. \$259,623 is the total budget number.

Debt Service – 2023 is the last year of the transfer station bond payment. The School bond ends this year.

Warrant articles will be updated for the February 3 meeting. Willie Farnum spoke regarding the Transfer Station Improvement Committee. The total project will cost \$1.4 million. The USDA has been sent a grant application for a portion of that. They will be pursuing other grant opportunities. The taxpayers would be left with just over \$500,000 as their portion. This item will be on the warrant, at the total price. An informational meeting will be held at Runnells Hall on February 8 at 6 pm. Willie expects that this would have a good lifespan. Peg Poirier asked how long this would take. Willie expects that it will be 3 years. It will be added into the budget as a warrant article.

The Rescue Vehicle cost has been increased to \$65000, but will be removed from the CIP and be replaced as a warrant article to be placed in a Capital Reserve. The Fire Truck at \$175,000 is not

going in this year. They would like to add \$70,000 to the Rescue Vehicle Capital Reserve. Those will be done by Warrant Article.

CIP – Fire Rescue breathing apparatus – there is a grant again this year. \$240,000.

Selectman Mason would like the contingency fund increased back to \$200,000. This comes from the unexpended fund balance, not taxation.

The encumbered expenses were explained.

Willie Farnum commended the Board for assembling this budget without the assistance of the office staff. Once there is an actual budget number, please post it on the town website.

Dan Poirier asked for the approximate increase over last year. Selectman Mason feels that it may be around 4%.

Daymond Steer – when will the budget be finalized? It has to be done by February 13. February 3 is the drop dead day for the Selectmen. That date includes warrant articles. Petitioned Article submission deadline is February 1. Electronic signature delivery is not being accepted by the State.

Gear Washer line can go away, a grant was received. That will be removed.

- Selectman Mason made a motion to close the public hearing at 7:43 pm, Selectman Goodson seconded. . Roll call vote - Streeter -yes, Ricker - Yes, Roberts - Yes, Goodson -Yes, Mason Yes

- PUBLIC INPUT:

Donna Ulitz – concerned about communication with Department heads and open doors. To not have a Tamworth Police Department, looking forward, what does coverage mean? All surrounding towns have police departments. If using the Sheriffs is a good thing, why are other towns not doing this. Why were we not aware that this was being looked into?

Lindy Gray – the paper said the Sheriff had given financial figures. They numbers were not discussed, the meeting was abruptly ended.

Nancy Sheridan – what prompted the Selectmen to do a cost analysis. It was brought up in a CIP committee meeting. Has the Select board been receiving feedback in appreciation of the Chief? 2 letters have been received.

Dan Poirier – Was Chief Littlefield at the meeting with the Sheriff Department? The Board verified that he was there. Chief Littlefield spoke about nonpublic meetings from July. August 12 there was a nonpublic meeting with the Board and the Sheriff. November 22 there was a proposal by the Sheriff. In December he was able to meet with the Board, but has not been given a copy of the proposal prior to that.

Peg Poirier – the Town has got to realize that it is getting harder and harder for small towns to find qualified police officers. We have to at least consider other options moving forward or we could possibly end up with nothing.

Daymond Steer – needs clarification regarding the County and numbers from the Sheriff's Department. Has the County gotten back to this Board recently with any information about the numbers. Becky is not aware of any numbers.

Lindy Gray – we have a very good police department and very qualified members on that department. That is a treasure. We should be encouraging that department, not discouraging it. If there are personnel issues, they need to be handled without the threat of disbanding that department.

Linda Eldridge – found out from a patron at the Department that they were being closed, back in August. It is disheartening to not have the Select board backing them.

Police Chief Bob King from Madison – Yes, it is getting very hard to retain officers. The Sheriff's Department is having a difficult time hiring deputies. They are down two positions right now. If you are not happy with your Police Department, manage it. He encourages a better relationship with the Police Department. He encourages an honest and open

Ann Borges – wants to know how many hours of police coverage we have. Currently we have approximately 50 hours a week of coverage.

- CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

- SIGNATURE FILE:

- Selectmen's minutes for January 6, 2022 – Motion to approve was made by Selectman Mason, seconded by Selectman Goodson. . Roll call vote - Streeter -yes, Ricker - Yes, Roberts - Yes, Goodson -Yes, Mason Yes
- Non-public meeting minutes for January 6, 2022
RSA 91-A:3 II (c) – session 1, minutes are unsealed - Motion to approve was made by Selectman Mason, seconded by Selectman Goodson. Roll call vote - Streeter -yes, Ricker - Yes, Roberts - Yes, Goodson -Yes, Mason Yes
- Accounts Payable Manifest in the amount of \$331385.99, \$250,000 of which goes to the school . Motion to approve was made by Selectman Mason, seconded by Selectman Goodson. Roll call vote - Streeter -yes, Ricker - Yes, Roberts - Yes, Goodson -Yes, Mason Yes
- Abatement for Map 415 Lot 67 Sublot 163 \$544.00 - Motion to approve was made by Selectman Mason, seconded by Selectman Goodson. Applied as a credit. Roll call vote - Streeter -yes, Ricker - Yes, Roberts - Yes, Goodson -Yes, Mason Yes
- Abatement for Map 415 Lot 90 Sublot 30 \$540.00 - Motion to approve was made by Selectman, seconded by Selectman Goodson. Applied as a credit. Roll call vote - Streeter - yes, Ricker - Yes, Roberts - Yes, Goodson -Yes, Mason Yes
- Abatement for Map 207 Lot 3 \$86.00 - Motion to approve was made by Selectman Mason, seconded by Selectman Goodson. Issued as a refund. Roll call vote - Streeter -yes, Ricker - Yes, Roberts - Yes, Goodson -Yes, Mason Yes
- Supplemental Property Tax Warrant \$23.00 - Motion to approve was made by Selectman Mason, seconded by Selectman Goodson. Roll call vote - Streeter -yes, Ricker - Yes, Roberts - Yes, Goodson -Yes, Mason Yes
- Veteran's Exemption – motion to approve by Selectman Mason, seconded by Selectman Goodson. Roll call vote - Streeter -yes, Ricker - Yes, Roberts - Yes, Goodson -Yes, Mason Yes
- Solar Exemption – motion to approve by Selectman Mason, seconded by Selectman Goodson. Roll call vote - Streeter -yes, Ricker - Yes, Roberts - Yes, Goodson -Yes, Mason Yes
- Appointments to Conservation Commission – Eileen Shelly, member, Chele Miller, Alternate, Stephanie Doyle, Alternate – a motion to appoint Eileen Shelly, Chele Miller and Stephanie Doyle to the conservation Commission was made by Selectman Mason, seconded by Selectman Goodson. Roll call vote - Streeter -yes, Ricker - Yes, Roberts - Yes, Goodson -Yes, Mason Yes
- Adoption of CDC Guidelines for Covid-19 Quarantine – a motion to adopt was made by Selectman Mason, seconded by Selectman Goodson. Selectman Mason explained the current guidelines. Roll call vote - Streeter -yes, Ricker - Yes, Roberts - Yes, Goodson -Yes, Mason Yes

- **SELECTMEN'S UPDATE:**

Kelly Goodson – attended the Library meeting. Anne Chant is working on advertising the positions that will be open on Tamworth boards and on the ballot. Kelly has volunteered to be the contact person for the Selectboard.

Aaron Ricker – apologies for missing last week

Emery Ricker – just got back to town, no update this week

Melanie Streeter – the Board needs to look at HB 108. All public meeting minutes have to have a log that show what Board or Committee, date/time, when the minutes are available to the public. The phone service that was looked into (Granitenet) – we received more information, and the Town signed up for it. There are huge costs if there are issues. This needs to be looked at. **Selectman Mason made a motion to end the contract, Selectman Goodson seconded.** Roll call vote - Streeter -yes, Ricker - Yes, Roberts - Yes, Goodson -Yes, Mason Yes

Dates for interviews for the Finance and Administrator – week of the 27th? Begin at 4 pm. Employee evals should be done that day as well.

Rebecca Mason – has been working on getting the budget together. Sewer Commissioner reports and budgets are being worked on. There are three new sewer commissioners starting.

- **PUBLIC INPUT:** Daymond Steer – what is happening with the sled dog race this year? Ask the Tamworth Outing Club, the Selectmen have not heard.
Dana Littlefield – will be letters send to the Selectmen be attached to the public minutes?
We have accepted the resignation of our Sergeant Sheehy.

- **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Nuisance Ordinance -
- Job descriptions/Personnel Policies/Earned Time

- **NON-PUBLIC:** Selectman Mason made a motion to enter nonpublic under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) at 8:21 pm, Selectman Goodson seconded. Roll call vote - Streeter -yes, Ricker - Yes, Roberts - Yes, Goodson -Yes, Mason Yes

Motion to come out of non-public at 8:45 pm made by Selectmen Mason, seconded by Selectmen Goodson. Roll call vote - Streeter -yes, Ricker - Yes, Roberts - Yes, Goodson -Yes, Mason Yes. The minutes were not sealed.

- **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn made by Selectmen Goodson at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Donaldson
Recording Secretary

Rebecca Mason – Chairman

Aaron Ricker

Melanie Streeter

Emery Roberts

Kelly Goodson