

TOWN OF TAMWORTH

SELECT BOARD OFFICE

Select Board Meeting: 5:30 PM

Thursday, January 5, 2023

Approved Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: Select Person Goodson called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm and made a motion to go into Nonpublic RSA 91-A:3 II (a), Doucette seconded, roll call vote Doucette yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Behr (over telephone) yes. Chair Roberts joined the nonpublic at 5:45. Roberts made a motion to come out of nonpublic at 5:55, Goodson seconded, roll call vote Doucette yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Behr yes, Roberts yes. Roberts called the meeting to order at 5:57 pm. Those present are Select people Doucette, Goodson, Prentice, Behr (via Zoom), Roberts, Town Administrator Myer, Ed Comeau, Zach Remick, Bruno Siniscalchi, Kelly Rines, Linda Cook, Ellen Farnum, Richard Roberts, Gabrielle Watson. On Zoom: Brad Cintier, Maureen and Jim Diamond, Linda Eldridge.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

- Yield Tax on Timber Cut, Map 408 Lot 69, \$736.07
- A/P 2022 \$40,223.36
- A/P 2023 \$85,201.10

NEW BUSINESS:

- Road Agent Report: Lots of tough storms in recent weeks, and the team is keeping up with it, and everything is going well. Expressed concern about lack of snow making for a messy spring. Excellent coordination from Eversource. Road agent thanks the support from the towns people during the storm. Members of the public applauded the Road Agent for his excellent work.
- Energy Commission, Ellen Farnum, Gabrielle Watson: Ellen Farnum thanked the Select Board for the lovely holiday luncheon that was held for staff and volunteers. Gabrielle Watson noted that there used to be an Energy Committee in Tamworth. With energy prices being so high and volatile she suggests creating a committee to research reducing costs and tax dollars. Work would include research, conducting energy audits, provide options on how to reduce energy use and costs. Ellen Farnum added that working with the recycling project has been an eye-opener on how big a job it is to write public grants. Prentice asked: is anyone looking at what are other towns doing to reduce costs? Discussion ensued about whether to appoint a committee, there are pros and cons. Doucette motioned for the town to establish an Energy Committee and post to get volunteers to staff it with five members, Goodson seconded, roll call vote Doucette yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Behr (over telephone) yes, Roberts yes.
- Emergency Planning & Processes, Zach Remick presenting. Handed out an emergency management staffing plan, from the 2021 manual. Here to discuss policy. In the last storm there were requests for shelter from the public, and a town policy on when to open a warming shelter, or an emergency shelter would have been helpful. There is also the issue of the generator which is not reliable. Zach met with the State this week to see if there is a grant for a generator: as the first one was state funded it is not clear if we can get a second grant, the state representatives are looking into it. Prentice asked why our generator is such a lemon. Short answer: Bad design. Mr. Remick requested there be a select board member he can work with in an emergency. Select Chair Roberts suggested he would be the point of contact. Remick will draft a policy that the select board can work on. Comeau asked if we had identified ham radio operators. The communication challenges are significant. Remick confirmed we do not need to update the emergency disaster plan.

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- Health Insurance and FSA Calculations: Myer explained that she and the Finance Manager has discovered inconsistencies between the Personnel Policy and the implementation of the Dental Plan. Myer stated she would do more research. Myer then shared that the town has been unintentionally overfunding the FSA, according to Health Trust contact Andrew Struth. We will have to correct, and could potentially offer an Health Reimbursement account as an option to the employees. SB opted to defer decision until next week.
- Groundwater Protection Ordinance, Enforcement Research Memo: Doucette reviewed the purpose of sending a memo, and that we need to know what enforcement would involve. So he has drafted a memo to the Planning Board. Goodson motioned that we send the memo as drafted to the Planning Board, Doucette seconded, roll call vote Doucette yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Behr (over telephone) yes, Roberts yes.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Encumbrance Update – Contracts are in place for all encumbrances. Cook and Prentice requested a copy of the contract for the Town House.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- Account Balance: \$3,657,462.
- Myer reported that she has been working on the Warrant Article, FSA issues, Open Enrollment, budgeting, and continues to work on tax deeding and junk yards.

SIGNATURE FILE:

- Roberts motioned to approve the Select Board Meeting Minutes, December 29, 2022, seconded by Goodson, roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- Roberts motioned to approve the Yield Tax on Timber Cut, Map 408 Lot 69, \$736.07 Goodson seconded roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- Roberts motioned to approve the A/P 2022 for \$40,223.36 and the A/P 2023 for \$85,201.10, Goodson seconded, roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- Roberts motioned to approve the payroll: \$42,354.15 Goodson seconded, roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.

SELECT BOARD UPDATE:

Doucette:

Worked on the planning board memo, and planning a tour with Shannon Heath, the incoming Recreation Coordinator and Behr for Monday afternoon. Doucette noted that there was a lively discussion on the exchange about what constitutes a public meeting of the Select Board. A conversation ensued. All agreed best to try to avoid chance quorums. Ed Comeau emphasized that precedence must be careful so that future boards don't engage in unscheduled meetings.

- Goodson, scheduling some meet and greets for Shannon Heath on Tuesday.
- Prentice: Meeting with Shannon Heath on Wednesday to discuss swim program and other sports programs in town.
- Roberts will be attending a junk yard inspection on Friday.
- Behr will go on a tour with Shannon Heath on Monday.

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PUBLIC INPUT:

- Cook asked about the Budget hearing. Myer shared that it would be February 9th, at 5:00 pm. Cook informed Myer that it is usually at the Town House, Myer will reserve. the Select Board meeting agenda for that date will be the Budget Hearing, with signature file being the other agenda item.
- Maureen Diamond thanked everyone for their hard work over a Zoom message
- In a discussion about sewer meetings and the like, Cook suggested that all meetings have zoom. Comeau noted to be careful about creating a quorum in that manner.

NON-PUBLIC:

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn 7:23 by Roberts.