

TOWN OF TAMWORTH

SELECT BOARD OFFICE

Select Board Meeting: 6:00 PM

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: Selectperson Goodson called the meeting to order at 6:01. Those present include Select members Roberts (via Zoom), Doucette, Behr, Goodson, Prentice, Town Administrator Myer, Ed Comeau of Government Oversight, Willie Farnum, Richard Whiting, Kate Thompson, Pam Heard, Bruno Siniscalchi, Madeline Siniscalchi, Linda Cook, Emily Verny, David Little, By Zoom, Maureen & Jim Diamond, Emery Roberts.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

- Finish the Employee Recognition discussion.
- Select Board Meeting Minutes for December 1, 2022
- Select Board Work Session Minutes for December 6, 2022
- Nonpublic minutes RSA 91-A:3,II(c) Session #1 and RSA 91-A:3,II(b) Session #2
- Junk Yard Letter – Request for Site visit, Map 415, lot 19, subplot 1
- Certification of Timber Yield, Map 410, Lot 124, \$1,138.89
- Trustee of the Trust Fund Voucher Request \$6,750, TSIC Project, Engineering
- Trustee of the Trust Fund Voucher Request \$15,000 , Fire Chief Vehicle
- Letter of Intent for FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER: EPA-I-OLEM-ORCR-23-03

NEW BUSINESS:

- EPA Solid Waste Grant – Letter of Intent, TSIC Committee. Doucette started the discussion with stating the funding he would discuss is from the bipartisan infrastructure law, which is the first of a couple of large infrastructure legislation. The EPA is using most of this money for drinking and waste water programs, and for solid waste infrastructure management, known as the SWIFR Program. This is a brand new program, and is 100% federal money with no local match. They need a letter of intent by 12/15/22. Doucette shared the drafted letter of the intent. Applications are due in January. Discussion ensued. Prentice motioned to support the letter of intent for the SWIFR program as proposed by TSIC. Goodson seconded, roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes (via Zoom). Goodson will sign the letter.
- Transfer Station Improvements, Project Management Discussion. Doucette discussed that Sanborn Head & Associates was selected as the Engineering company at last week's meeting. We have a meeting scheduled on the 13th at 11:00 to negotiate a contract. Doucette proposed a group effort to manage the project, acting as a project management team. Roberts asked could it be the select board? Farnum noted that the select board would still have the final say on any actions taken, and as an FYI, TSIC voted today to have Willie, Maude, and Gabrielle be the reps for the project from the TSIC committee. Roberts agreed with having select members at the meetings. Doucette volunteered to be one of them. Goodson motioned that we have a SB rep, Keats as Town Administrator, and a member from TSIC to meet with the engineers. Prentice seconded. Cook asked if there would be a select board-member who is not on the TSIC committee. Farnum noted the board will have to understand the project as it moves forward. At the moment the only task on the table is the contract negotiations. Roberts thinks all of the project discussions should be in public at a select board meetings, even if they are started early so the discussions are always in public. Doucette will report back after Tuesday meeting. Roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes (via Zoom) . Mr. Siniscalchi enquired about the financing of

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the project, and a brief discussion of the grant money was reviewed. Farnum noted that writing this grant will be a very heavy lift and wants assurance that if written it will be submitted. Goodson assured that if one votes for an intent to apply that the intent is to submit.

- **Veteran's Tax Credit**, Emily Verny. Sununu has passed a house bill that makes us need to revote on our veteran's tax credit. Verny then defined what a veteran is, and explained the options to be voted on. Tamworth currently has the Optional Tax Credit. But now eligibility has changed, and we are required to readopt one of the options. Prentice asked several questions 1) can we merge some of the options, 2) how many veterans currently get the credit? Verny answered that 116 do, and she has no idea how many new one there would be. Richard Whiting commented that the town should know how many veteran's there are. He also noted he doesn't get it. Feels that all veterans should get it. Discussion ensued. Goodson noted that it seems sense to include all veterans. Emily will research a graduated credit to next week's meeting.
- **Employee Recognition discussion:** Roberts took time to think on this question, and is supportive of the lunch, but not the bonuses, he explained that by working for a municipality, your benefits are good with holidays, health insurance. Feels it isn't necessary. Goodson preferred that the ARPA funds be used for the benefit of all taxpayers, and so does not support a bonus. Doucette expressed the view that our town employees aren't overpaid as some have suggested– he is conflicted about the bonuses, but summarized that \$500 seems like a lot right now. Prentice has also been thinking about it. Feels it is important that employees feel recognized, and perhaps it isn't time for this budget-wise. Karl is not in favor the bonuses. Mrs. Siniscalchi stated that the employees know what they are getting when they sign on. The bonus should be squashed. Farnum pointed out they already were. Thought that we should consider a 6% rather than a 7% salary increase. Expressed that she is upset with this Board.
- Chairman Roberts announced that the Town has hired Shannon Heath to be the next Recreation Coordinator. Heath will begin in mid-January.

OLD BUSINESS

- GIS Mapping Update, Emily Verny – CAI does our Tax Maps – the actual tax maps aren't lining up with the aerial photography. In 2021 the town approved \$50K in the budget on this work , the work didn't get done, and a contract didn't get signed. So do we want to pursue this project or not? Emily, as a voter wondered if this was really necessary. And her conclusion is that it might be – we have 90% of a great tool, but if the maps aren't lined up correctly, it doesn't work. Emily discussed that it could be broken up over a few years. Verny will reach out to the towns of Gorham and Lisbon to see how it went for them. We will get that feedback and speak again next week.
- Review of Rt. 25 Speed Limit Draft Letter to DOT. Doucette led the discussion by sharing the draft letter to the commissioner of DOT. Doucette asked what does the board want to do – how far do we want to go in pressing the Commissioner? Prentice wanted more cost information. Doucette felt this letter does not commit us to a cost. Pam Heard mentioned that the blinking light at Mill rd. doesn't warn anyone because it's at a curve, not enough time to slow down. Cook noted the state doesn't pay for the light or the maintenance, and is very expensive. Kate Thompson, reminded that people expressed that they wanted the speed reduced. She encourages the SB to ask for a reduction in speed. Doucette suggested that people contact the post office move their mailboxes so they don't have to cross the street. Ed Comeau asked if anyone had spoken with the LRPC. Goodson will be reaching out to do that. Verny asked if we could increase enforcement. Staffing is an issue.

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Prentice noted it's not about the signage, but about the road conditions. If you want people to slow down, signs won't do it. Doucette offered to revise the letter. Revisit next week with.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- Account Balance: \$1,682,417
- Myer reported that she continues to work on the draft budget, junky yards, and tax deeded properties.

SIGNATURE FILE:

- Goodson motioned to approve Select Board Meeting Minutes for December 1, 2022, Behr seconded. Roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- Goodson motioned to approve Select Board Work Session Minutes for December 6, 2022, Behr seconded. Roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson abstains, Roberts yes.
- Goodson motioned to approve Nonpublic minutes RSA 91-A: 3,II(c) Session #1 and RSA 91-A:3,II (b) Session #2, Behr seconded. Roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson abstain, prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- motioned to approve Junk Yard Letter – Request for Site visit, Map 415, lot 19, sub lot 1, Behr seconded. Roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Roberts yes.
- Roberts motioned to approve Certification of Timber Yield, Map 410, Lot 124, \$1,138.89, Behr seconded. Roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- Roberts motioned to approve Trustee of the Trust Fund Voucher Request \$6,750, TSIC Project, Engineering, Behr seconded. Roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- Goodson motioned to approve Trustee of the Trust Fund Voucher Request \$15,000, Fire Chief Vehicle, Behr seconded. Roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- Goodson motioned to approve Payroll \$44,533.86, Behr seconded. Roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- Goodson motioned to approve Accounts Payable: \$42,222.29, Behr seconded. Roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.

SELECT BOARD UPDATE:

Roberts: Attended Tuesday evening budget works session.

Doucette: TSIC Meeting today, and also attended the CAI mapping project

Behr: Nothing to report

Goodson: Attended the TSIC meeting, and attend the Broad band meeting, well attended. The meeting is recorded and will be available on library and EDC website. Also federal money. Some of the offerings are also what you can currently get.

Prentice: At Tuesday's budget and board meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT:

- Bruno was not pleased by the changes in the agenda, Myer agreed to include changes in original draft.
- Maureen Diamond thanked the EDC for their presentation last night. And thanked Emily Verny for her work on the veteran's tax credit and likes that Emily is asking newcomers if they are veterans. This is Maureen's 6th year in Tamworth, and from her experience, we all should know that the budget it is not solid until it goes to public hearing in February, so there is a lot of time to comment and make suggestions. It is still a working document.

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- Verny noted that it is her first municipal job, and she is part time, and feels the luncheon is a really nice gesture. Really supports the luncheon.
- Mrs. Siniscalchi has no qualms about a holiday party but noted that no one came. Mrs. Siniscalchi also made a 91A request would like the budget emailed to her end of day Tuesday. Noted the \$1.63 change in the tax rate, and that there is another possible increase for next year. Also noted that where she lives would love to know what the taxes these two developments raise, suggested succession.
- Maureen: follow up on mailbox conversation, does she really have the right to move the mailbox, asked that someone research this.
- Ed Comeau: On Tuesday it was mentioned that the legal expense line was overspent; where does the money come from? Myer shared her understanding that the Contingency would cover this, and Mr. Little stated that legally we are ok as we are held to the bottom line number.
- Cook: Asked if Infidum was at the Broadband meeting. Goodson reviewed all who were there. Mrs. Siniscalchi The tree at the veteran's did a great job.

NON-PUBLIC:

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn 7:51.

Emery Roberts, Chair

Karl Behr, Member

Richard Doucette, Member

Kelly Goodson, Member

Lianne Prentice, Member