

Select Board Meeting: 4:00 PM

Monday, February 13, 2023

Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: Goodson called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. Those present were Select Members Goodson, Doucette, Behr, Prentice, and Town Administrator Myer. Chairman Roberts was unable to attend. On Zoom, Maureen & Jim Diamond

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: Addition of a non-public, RSA 31-A:3 II (a)

NEW BUSINESS:

Myer opened the meeting by discussing two issues that she recognized after the Budget Hearing on 2/9/23: The first is when Mr. Seston asked if the \$124,460 in the budget for the Transfer Station project should rightly be \$174,460 - Myer acknowledged that yes, a sum certain number is correct, and so changed this to \$174,460, but neglected to take out the \$50,000 assigned to this project in the Voter Fund Balance line. The second issue arose when Myer second guessed her placing the \$225,000 instead of \$275,000 in the budget for a Fire Truck Capital Reserve fund – she changed it to \$275,000 (to apply the same sum-certain logic) without removing the \$50,000 assigned to the Fire truck Capital Reserve Fund in the Voter Fund Balance line. This resulted in an erroneous \$100,000 additional dollars in the budget. Myer conferred with Town Counsel and was informed that the Select Board may vote to remove items from the budget even after the Budget Hearing. Behr motioned to remove the \$100,000 erroneously placed in the Voted Fund Balance, creating a final budget of \$5,397,085 rather than \$5,497,085. Prentice seconded, roll call vote, Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

Review and vote on Town Warrant Articles: Prior to reading the Warrant, Prentice opened a discussion on how to handle the warrants when her role as select member overlaps with her role as citizen, specifically in her work with the Bearcamp Sustainability Center. Legal counsel has advices that in any situation when there is a discussion, vote, or questions about the Center, she physically remove herself from the seat on the Select board and sit in the section with the Public, so as to make it clear that she is not speaking as a select board member in those moments. All agreed this was a good practice. Reading and voting on the articles, beginning with article #3 commenced:

Doucette read ARTICLE #3 Adopt the **All Veterans' Tax Credit**: Shall the town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28-b, All Veterans' Tax Credit? If adopted, the credit will be available to any resident, or the spouse or surviving spouse of any resident, who (1) served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States and was honorably discharged or continues to serve or (2) or an officer honorably separated from services or who continues to serve and who is not eligible for or receiving a credit under RSA 72:28 or RSA 72:35. If adopted, the credit granted will be **\$500** the same amount as the standard or optional veterans' tax

credit voted by the town under RSA 72:28. (Majority vote required) Doucette motioned to recommend article, Prentice seconded, Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

Behr read ARTICLE #4 Re-adopt the Optional Veterans' Tax Credit: Shall the town vote readopt the Optional Veterans' Tax Credit in accordance with RSA 72:28, II, for an annual tax credit on residential property of \$500? (Majority vote required). Behr motioned to recommend article, Prentice seconded, Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

Goodson read ARTICLE #5 Shall the town adopt the provisions of RSA 72:69-72 inclusively, which provide for an optional property tax exemption from the property's assessed value, for property tax purposes, for persons owning real property, which is equipped with **wood heating energy** systems intended for use at the immediate site. Such property tax exemption shall be in the amount equal to **\$500** of the assessed value of qualifying wood-heating energy system equipment under these statutes? (Majority vote required) Goodson motioned to recommend article, a short discussion on the need for this article, Myer explained some residents were receiving the exemption, but there was no record with the DRA that it had been passed by the board. Prentice seconded, Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

Prentice read the ARTICLE #6 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$108,499 for salary and benefits for the current year for the position of Town Clerk/Tax Collector. NOTE: The amount requested under this article shall be used for an annual salary of \$72,800 to include 20 paid days off, FICA and Medicare in the amount of \$5,570, a health and dental insurance premium (the Town's health & dental insurance plan currently with a 90/10% split for a two-person policy) and to include a flexible spending account & HRA Account of \$1000 all totaled \$20,083 with contributions to the NH State Retirement System at the effective contribution rate of \$10,046. (The retirement funds shall be disbursed as long as the eligibility requirements are met in accordance with the NH Retirement System). Also, if a midterm appointment of a new Town Clerk/Tax Collector should be made a salary and benefit package will be determined by the Select Board at the time of the appointment. The proposed appropriation in this article does not include the budget for operational expenses for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector office, which is part of the General Government Operations in Article #5. (Majority Vote Required) Prentice motioned to recommend article, Goodson seconded, Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

Doucette read ARTICLE #7 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$912,376** for **General Government Operations** with **\$50,000** to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance to offset the Capital project (Transfer Station - Previously Approved).

Select Board	\$ 23,748
Town Administration	\$ 209,256
Town Clerk/Tax Collector (exclusive of salary and benefits)	\$ 46,537
Election & Registration	\$ 5,993

Treasurer's Expense	\$ 7,764
Data Processing	\$ 51,751
Revaluation of Property	\$ 34,991
Legal Expenses	\$ 40,000
Personnel Administration	\$ 1,342
Planning	\$ 30,846
Zoning	\$ 53
Town Government Bldgs.	\$ 127,990
Town House	\$ 11,780
Cemeteries	\$ 33,730
Property Liability Insurance	\$ 53,946
Advertising, Regional Assoc. & Economic Dev	\$ 3,150
Capital Project- Transfer Station	\$ 174,460
Debt Service Principal & Interest	\$ 55,039
(Majority vote required)	

Doucette motioned to recommend article, Goodson seconded, Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

Behr read ARTICLE #8 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$992,759** for **Public Safety**:

Police Department	\$ 413,784
Ambulance contract	
January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023	\$ 210,132
Fire/Rescue Department	\$ 355,031
Forest Fires	\$ 5,700
Emergency Management	\$ 4,430
Animal Control	\$ 3,683
(Majority vote required)	

Behr motioned to recommend article, Goodson seconded, Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

Goodson Read ARTICLE #9 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$352,914** for the purchase of new Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, along with the compressor, filtration system, and fill station for the Fire/Rescue Department, with **\$332,938** of the funding from a grant, and the remainder of **\$19,976** to be raised by taxation. If the grant is not received, this article will be null and void. (Majority vote required)

Goodson motioned to recommend article, Prentice seconded, Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

Prentice read ARTICLE #10 To see if the town will vote to discontinue the SUV Capital Reserve Fund created in 2022. Said fund, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal to be returned to the municipal general fund. (Majority vote required)

Prentice motioned to recommend article, Goodson seconded, Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr

yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

Doucette read ARTICLE #11 To see if the Town will vote to establish a Firetruck Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of purchasing firetrucks and to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$275,000**, with **\$50,000** to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance and to be placed in this fund. Furthermore, to name the Board of Firewards as agents to expend from the fund. (Majority vote required)

Doucette motioned to recommend article, Goodson seconded, Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

Behr read ARTICLE #12 To see if the Town will authorize the Fire/Rescue Department to participate in a regional grant with the Conway Village Fire District for the purposes of replacing fire/rescue department radios and to raise and appropriate the sum of seven thousand nine hundred seventy-two dollars (**\$7,972**) for Tamworth's share of the grant match. This article is contingent on Conway Village Fire District receiving the Assistance to Firefighters Grant on behalf of both departments. (Majority vote required) Behr motioned to recommend article, Prentice seconded, Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

Goodson read ARTICLE #13 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,432,447 for Public Works:**

Highway Department	\$1,052,431
Streetlights	\$8,524
Well Monitoring & Testing	\$11,300
Transfer Station Operations	\$360,192
(Majority vote required)	

Goodson motioned to recommend article, Prentice seconded, Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

Prentice read ARTICLE #14 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$389,910** for the repair to Scott Bridge, with **\$232,910** to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance as of 12/31/22, **\$107,189** to come from the State Bridge Grant, and **\$49,811** to come from taxation. (Majority vote required)

Prentice motioned to recommend article, Goodson seconded, Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

Doucette read ARTICLE #15 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$50,000** to be added to the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required)

Doucette motioned to recommend article, Goodson seconded, Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

Behr read ARTICLE #16 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$28,606** for **Health and Welfare:**

Health Officer	\$ 1,021
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General Assistance \$ 27,585
(Majority vote required)

Behr motioned to recommend article, Goodson seconded, Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

Goodson read ARTICLE #17 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$ 143,262** for:
Parks & Recreation \$111,595
Swim Program \$14,267
Patriotic Purposes/Family Day. \$17,400
(Majority vote required)

Goodson motioned to recommend article, Behr seconded, Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

Prentice read ARTICLE #18 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$6,162** for **Tamworth Conservation Commission** expenses. (Majority vote required)
Prentice motioned to recommend article, Goodson seconded, Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

Doucette read ARTICLE #19 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$273,011** for the **Cook Memorial Library** of which, **\$52,261 is to come from the Library Fund, \$9,384 to come from donations, \$1,200 from library fees, \$2250 to come from grants and \$207,916 to be raised through taxation** and such funds to be expended under the direction of the Board of Library Trustees. (Majority vote required)
Doucette motioned to recommend article, Goodson seconded, Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

Behr read ARTICLE #20 To see if the Town will vote to establish a contingency fund for the current year for unanticipated expenses that may arise and further to raise and appropriate **\$36,535** to put in the fund. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. Any appropriation left in the fund at the end of the year will lapse to the general fund. (Majority vote required)
Behr motioned to recommend article, Prentice seconded, Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

Goodson read ARTICLE #21 To see if the Town will vote to establish an Expendable Trust Fund under the provision of RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of Town infrastructure repair and maintenance and to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$50,000** to be placed in this fund, and to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance and which shall be called the *"Town Infrastructure Repair and Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund."* Furthermore, to name the Select Board as agents to expend from the fund. (Majority vote required)
Goodson motioned to recommend article, Prentice seconded, Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

Prentice read ARTICLE #22 To see if the Town will vote to establish an Expendable Trust Fund under the provision of RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of Town buildings repair and maintenance and to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$50,000** to be placed in this fund, and to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance which shall be called the *“Town Buildings Repair and Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund.”* Furthermore, to name the Select Board as agents to expend from the fund. (Majority vote required) Prentice motioned to recommend article, Goodson seconded, Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

Doucette read ARTICLE #23 To see if the Town will vote to establish an Expendable Trust Fund under the provision of RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of Town equipment repair and maintenance and to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$50,000** to be placed in this fund, and to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance, and which shall be called the *“Town Equipment Repair and Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund.”* Furthermore, to name the Select Board as agents to expend from the fund. (Majority vote required) Doucette motioned to recommend article, Goodson seconded, Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes. Behr read ARTICLE #24 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$28,000** for the Tamworth Sewer System. This appropriation will be completely funded from sewer user fees; and such funds to be expended under the direction of the Sewer Commissioners. (Majority vote required) Behr motioned to recommend article, Prentice seconded, Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

Goodson read ARTICLE #25 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$10,000.00** to be placed into the Tamworth Sewer Capital Reserve, to be paid for by the undesignated enterprise fund. (Majority vote required) Goodson motioned to recommend article, Behr seconded, Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

Prentice read ARTICLE #26 (By Petition) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$30,000** to provide meals for Tamworth **Meals on Wheels** recipients. Monies to be billed monthly to the Select Board at the rate of \$2.00 per meal served. (Majority vote required) Prentice motioned to recommend article, Goodson seconded, Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

Doucette read ARTICLE #27 (By Petition) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$80,000** to support the **Tamworth Community Nurse Association** for the purpose of continuing nursing services to the residents of Tamworth. (Majority vote required) Doucette motioned to recommend article, Goodson seconded, Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

Behr read ARTICLE #28 (By Petition) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$18,500** for support of the Tamworth children, ages 5 – 12, using the Out-of-School hours, School-Aged childcare services at **Bearcamp Valley School and Children’s Center** (Tamworth Preschool Inc.), a non-profit organization. These services include before and after school, vacation weeks and summer programs for Tamworth Children ages 5-12. This request does not include any preschool programming. (Majority vote required)

Behr motioned to recommend article, Goodson seconded, Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

Goodson read ARTICLE #29 (By Petition) To see if the Town of Tamworth will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,822** for the Family Resource Center at **Children Unlimited, Inc.** (Majority vote required) Goodson motioned to recommend article, Prentice seconded, Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

Prentice read ARTICLE #30 (By Petition) To see if the Town of Tamworth will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$5,960** for the support of **White Mountain Community Health Center** to help meet the healthcare needs of the uninsured and underinsured residents of the Town of Tamworth. (Majority vote required)
Prentice motioned to recommend article, Goodson seconded, Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

Doucette read ARTICLE #31 (By Petition) To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of **\$6,326** for the operation of **Tri-County Community Action Program, Inc.** service programs in Tamworth: Transportation, Energy Assistance, Weatherization, Guardianship, Head Start, Homeless Intervention and Prevention, RSVP, and Tamworth Dental Center. (Majority vote required)
Doucette motioned to recommend article, Goodson seconded, Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

Prentice moved from the Select Board table to the space where the public sits to add clarity to her role in this vote as she was representing the Bearcamp Center for Sustainability and not the select board.

Behr read ARTICLE #32 (By Petition) To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of **\$12,000** for the operation of **The Bearcamp Center for Sustainable Community** to support affordable childcare for Tamworth families in the form of an active, creative, and comprehensive 6-week summer day camp program offered at The Bearcamp Center for children in grades K-8. Camp will run Monday-Thursday each week of July and August, beginning at 8:00 am and ending at 3:00 pm. (Majority vote required)
Behr motioned to recommend article, Goodson seconded, Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes.

Goodson read ARTICLE #33 (By Petition) To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of **\$2,500** for the operation of **The Bearcamp Center for Sustainable Community** to create by-donation meals for Tamworth residents who want or need meals. Near 25,000 meals have been provided since March of 2020. (Majority vote required)
Goodson motioned to recommend article, Goodson seconded Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes.

Prentice read ARTICLE #34 (By Petition) To see if the Town of Tamworth will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$5,000** for **the Community Food Center** serving elderly, families, disabled, and all in need who qualify. (Majority vote required)

Prentice motioned to recommend article, Goodson seconded, Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

Doucette read ARTICLE #35 (By Petition) To respectfully request that the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$6,524** in support of **Starting Point** providing advocacy and support to victims of relationship and sexual violence and their children. (Majority vote required)

Doucette motioned to recommend article, Prentice seconded, Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

Behr read ARTICLE #36 (By petition) To see if the Town of Tamworth will raise and appropriate the sum of **\$29,000** for the **Tamworth Town House** for replacement of the fire escape and repair of the windows. (Majority vote required) Behr motioned to recommend article, Prentice seconded, Prentice asked if grants could still be used for the town house repair if any were awarded, Myer answered that yes they could be. Doucette has been reaching out to the Fire Chief to assess the stairs, and is hoping the repair can wait until the fall so that grant money can be used. If the repairs are needed sooner, then a grant will not be pursued. Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

Goodson read ARTICLE #37 To see if the town will vote, pursuant to NH RSA 35:9-a-II, to authorize the Trustees of Trust Funds to pay for Capital reserve fund investment management services, and any other expenses incurred , from capital reserve finds income. No vote by the town to rescind such authority shall occur within five years of the original adoption of this article. (Majority vote required) Goodson motioned to recommend article, Prentice seconded, Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

Prentice read ARTICLE #38 Shall the town of Tamworth accept the provisions of RSA 53-G:1 RSA 53-G:11 providing for the establishment of a communications district, together with the municipalities of Albany, Bartlett, Brookfield Chatham, Conway, Eaton, Effingham, Freedom, Hales Location, Harts Location, Jackson, Madison, Moultonborough, Ossipee, Tamworth and Tuftonboro in accordance with the provisions of the proposed agreement filed with the Tamworth Governing body. (Majority vote required) (Majority vote required)

Prentice motioned to recommend article, Goodson seconded, Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

Doucette read ARTICLE #39 To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting. Doucette motioned to recommend article, Prentice seconded, Roll call vote: Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

SIGNATURE FILE: None

SELECT BOARD UPDATE: None

PUBLIC INPUT: None

NON-PUBLIC: Goodson motioned to go into nonpublic RSA 31-A:3 II (a), Doucette seconded, roll call vote, Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

Prentice Motioned to come out of nonpublic at 5:25., Doucette seconded, roll call vote, Doucette yes, Behr yes, Goodson yes, Prentice yes.

ADJOURNMENT: Goodson motioned to adjourn at 5:25 pm

Karl Behr

Kelly Goodson

Richard Doucette

Lianne Prentice