

TOWN OF TAMWORTH SELECT BOARD

Select Board Meeting 5:00

Thursday, November 2nd, 2023

Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: Roberts called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm, those present are Select Board members Richard Doucette, Karl Behr, Steve Schaeffer, Lianne Prentice, Emery Roberts, Town Administrator Keats Myer, Ed Comeau, Government Oversight.com, Rick Moreau Maintenance Manager

At 5:01. Roberts motioned to go into nonpublic RSA 91-A: 3, II (a), Behr second, roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes. Roberts motioned to come out of nonpublic at 5:30 pm, Behr second, roll call vote Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: Postponement 2024 Credits & Exemptions, Revaluation, Emily Verny

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Tax Rate Setting:** Looking at the tax rate setting, and how much of the Unassigned fund balance would be used to offset taxes. For 2022, the municipal portion of the tax rate was 7.07, in 2023, it would be \$7.61 if no action is taken. All other portions of the tax rate have also gone up – local school, state education, and county budget are all up. The total tax rate is up \$1.88 per thousand. A 7.81% increase. The only portion we can control is the municipal rate. To reduce the rate by \$.10 per thousand costs \$40,250.
- **Budget Setting:** A discussion about the budget and tax rate ensued. Myer shared that expenses are up and certain revenues are down, creating a large gap in the 2024 budget. The SB should look at budget cuts, the use of the Unassigned Fund Balance, and deferring certain large capital expenses. The board discussed splitting the Fire Truck and the Transfer Station's Compactor over two-year warrant articles, and delaying the purchase of the new voting machine (Trammell will check on this) and reducing the requested operating budget for police, fire, and highway, and working with all other budgets to reduce by 5%. The Select Board agreed that Myer will update the budget with suggested changes, share with the board, and have the board speak with their department liaisons.
- **Tax rate setting:** The initial municipal rate is at \$7.61: Roberts suggested using \$125,250 of the Unassigned Fund balance to offset the tax rate, Behr was in favor of adding an additional \$40,250. A discussion ensued, the Board settled on using \$166,000 of the Unassigned Fund Balance to reduce the municipal tax rate to \$7.19, and \$.12 increase over 2023. This would make the overall property tax rate \$25.33, up from \$23.77 in 2023. (please see below for historical reference)
- **Prentice motioned to use \$166,000 from the Unassigned Fund balance to offset the net required tax effort for a total effort of \$2,895,327, resulting in a tax rate of \$25.23 Roberts seconded, roll call vote, Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.**

	2022	2023	Variance 2023 over 2022
Town	\$7.07	\$7.19	\$ 0.12
County	\$1.21	\$1.38	\$ 0.17
School	\$14.18	\$14.63	\$ 0.45
State	\$1.31	\$2.03	\$ 0.72
Total	\$23.77	\$25.23	\$1.46

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- Bank Balance: \$2,389,901

SIGNATURE FILE:

- Roberts motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes, October 26th, 2023, Schaeffer seconded, roll call vote, Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- Annual Assessing Services, 1/1/24-12/31/28, Rod Wood & Associates, LLC, and the 2024 Cyclical Update for 1/1/24-12/31/24, Rod Wood & Associates, LLC.
- Appointment form for Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Hilary Mangan
- The Green Mountain Conservation Group, Letter of Support
- Roberts motioned to approve the Accounts Payable: \$335,641.44, Schaeffer seconded, roll call vote, Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- Cash Used: \$9,664,096.68

SELECT BOARD UPDATE:

Doucette: Met with Friends of the Town House, and is working on code enforcement manual.

Behr: Nothing to report.

Schaeffer: Nothing to report.

Prentice – in communication with Anna Cole on the Personnel Policy

Roberts: Nothing to report, and wanted the board to know he is on vacation next week.

PUBLIC INPUT: Ed Comeau reported that the Carroll County Commissioners voted on a budget of \$39M, and encourages us to watch the video tape he sent to Keats, there are some costs they can't real back – but there are some costs that could be cut.

ADJOURNMENT: Roberts motioned to adjourn at 7:23.

Emery Roberts

Karl Behr

Richard Doucette

Lianne Prentice

Steve Scaheffer