

## TOWN OF TAMWORTH SELECT BOARD

Select Board Meeting 5:00

Thursday, January 4, 2024

### Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: Roberts called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm. Those present are Select Board members Doucette, Behr, Schaeffer, Prentice, and Roberts, Town Administrator, Keats Myer, Ed Comeau of Government Oversight.com, Jim Bowles, and Fire Chief Colcord. Gabrielle Watson entered the room at

#### CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

- Payroll: \$46,310.02
- Fourth of July Dates
- Intent to Cut, Map 410, Lot 50, Gardner Hill Road
- Intent to Cut, Map 410, Lot 51, Gardner Hill Road
- Removal of Yield Tax on Timber Cut, Map 211, Lot 57, \$16,714.48

#### NEW BUSINESS:

**Department Head Report**, Chief Colcord & Jim Bowles – Chief Colcord reported on the last month's activities, all in the range of normal. Shared that the new SCBA equipment is now in use, and it is a great improvement, the new technology is very helpful. Schaeffer wondered if Fire Department needs more volunteers - Chief said were in good shape, and the state is doing a good job of recruiting. Bowles stated that the towns balance each other out over time from a staffing perspective.

**Fourth of July:** Board confirmed the July 5<sup>th</sup> date would work for the town.

**Tamworth Electric Aggregation Plan review**, Gabrielle Watson shared the Tamworth Electric Aggregation Plan which was written for Tamworth with input from the public hearings. This is a plan to save customers money by engaging in bulk buying. She reminded us that the Select Board voted to join the Community Power Coalition in July of 2023. Since then they have been preparing to present this to the town for a vote at the town meeting. Watson is here to review the plan with the Select Board. Goals and objective: Saving money, and offering flexible options in terms of renewable energy (at different levels) - in sum - fiscal responsibility and resilience are key to this plan. The plan includes an inventory of electric suppliers available to the town. The town has about 2600 accounts, a third of which are businesses, and it uses about 17,200 megawatt hours annually (this is small). Because there are many towns in the Coalition, this solves the buying power issue.

Two things the plan does: Demonstrates the rates that would be on offer, and what is the default rate the town should start at. Cheapest vs some part-renewables. In the public sessions it became clear the base rate should be offered as it is the cheapest (rather than a mix with renewables), as affordability is a priority within the community. Recently the energy market has rebounded, and supply chains have cleared up, so there are now lower rates offered, including by Eversource. About 50% of NH State's customers are now going with the Community Power Coalition. Watson requested the SB review prior to January 11<sup>th</sup>, so that she can submit by to the Coalition by the 11<sup>th</sup>, they then have 60 days to review it. Lianne committed to reading in the next day or two. Doucette made a motion to submit the aggregation plan to the Community Power Coalition for their review by the 11<sup>th</sup>, unless opposition rises from the Select Board, Prentice second, roll call vote, Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice Yes, Roberts yes. The board thanked Watson for her efforts.

Watson then asked the select board if they would support both new insulation and an air exchange system in the Town Office, with a total cost of 14,400 ,funded in part (\$2,500) by a grant. The Board supported having this building improvement included in the 2024 municipal budget.

**Holiday Schedule:** Roberts motioned to approve the 2024 Holiday Schedule as presented, Behr seconded, roll call vote, Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice Yes, Roberts yes.

**Town report:** Reviewed photos and agreed they do not want one of Chocorua Mountain, would prefer an image of Chocorua Village, Myer will see if there are historic photos available. The board agreed on a honoree for the report, which shall remain secret until the book is published.

**Budget:** Myer shared the most recent budget with the Select Board. The Board discussed options to finalize the budget, Doucette motioned to use the remaining ARPA funds to fund the new Fire truck, Behr seconded, roll call vote, Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice Yes, Roberts yes.

**ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:**

- Bank Balance: \$5,017,527, Meeting Schedule 2024 – all agreed that every two-week meeting schedule should begin on 1/4/24 and be every other week thereafter. Myer will send out the new schedule along with the Holiday Schedule. Myer thanks Elaine Sherman for her heroic end of year work related to all things financial. She also thanked Emily Verny and Susan Leonard for helping out while Myer was out.

**SIGNATURE FILE:**

- Roberts motioned to approve Meeting Minutes, December 21<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and Meeting Minutes, December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Schaeffer seconded, roll call vote, Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice Yes, Roberts yes.
- Roberts motioned to approve Nonpublic meeting minutes, RSA 91-A:3, II (b) session #1, December 21st, 2023, and Nonpublic meeting minutes, RSA 91-A:3, II (d) session #2, December 21st, 2023, Schaeffer seconded, roll call vote, Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice Yes, Roberts yes.
- Roberts motioned to approve Abatement, Map 218 Lot 96, \$1,288, Schaeffer seconded, roll call vote, Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice Yes, Roberts yes.
- Roberts motioned to approve Intent to Cut, Map 410, Lot 50, Gardner Hill Road, and Intent to Cut, Map 410, Lot 51, Gardner Hill Road, Schaeffer seconded, roll call vote, Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice Yes, Roberts yes.
- Roberts motioned to approve Yield Tax on Timber Cut, Map 420 Lot 10, and Map 421 Lots 1 & 2, \$1,502.68, Schaeffer seconded, roll call vote, Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice Yes, Roberts yes.
- Holiday Schedule 2024
- Roberts motioned to approve Payroll: \$46,310.02, Schaeffer seconded, roll call vote, Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice Yes, Roberts yes.

**SELECT BOARD UPDATE:**

Doucette: The Planning Board meeting adopted the subdivision regulations. They have been posted. It still has to go through the hearing process. Doucette spoke with the realtor at North Country Recycling, it was short and pleasant, we are waiting to hear back.

Behr: Nothing to report.

Schaeffer: Invited those that can, to join the Economic Development Committee as they need new members. Schaeffer now understands why new businesses would be important to the tax base. Meeting at 6:00 pm on January 9<sup>th</sup>.

Prentice: At the January 18<sup>th</sup> Select Board meeting Prentice will report on the personnel policy. Need to work out final logistics on this and is meeting with Sherman and Myer on Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup>. Prentice will be meeting with the planning board on subdivision work and how to get compliance.

Emery Roberts: no update.

PUBLIC INPUT: Mr. Comeau raised a question regarding the Community Power Coalition and the use of renewables. Doucette will follow up with Watson.

NONPUBLIC: At 6:15 Roberts motioned to go into nonpublic RSA 91-A:3 (a) Session #1, Schaeffer seconded, roll call vote, Doucette yes, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice Yes, Roberts yes. Roberts motioned to come out of Nonpublic session at 6:41 pm.

ADJOURNMENT: Roberts adjourned the meeting at 6:42 pm.

Emery Roberts, Chair

Karl Behr

Richard Doucette

Lianne Prentice

Steve Schaeffer