

TOWN OF TAMWORTH SELECT BOARD

Select Board Meeting 5:00

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: Select Board member Behr called the meeting to order at 5:00. Those present are Karl Behr, Steve Schaeffer, Lianne Prentice, Richard Roberts, Keats Myer, Ed Comeau, June Aprille, Leslie Johnson, Willie Farnum, Eric and Devon Ames, Brenda Gange, Jim & Maureen Diamond, Dana Littlefield, Greg Morgan. Emery Roberts joined the meeting at 5:20.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

- Payroll: \$46,472.28
- RSA 91-A:3, II (e)
- RSA 91-A:3, II (a)

Behr motioned to go into nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3, II, (e) at 5:01 pm, Schaeffer second, roll call vote Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes. Behr motioned to come out of nonpublic at 5:14. Schaeffer seconded, Behr yes, Schaeffer yes Prentice yes .

NEW BUSINESS:

- Petition Article Presentations: Prentice read an opening statement from Roberts: ***I'm happy to welcome leadership staff from several of the nonprofits working with our community – as you all may know, any organization can have a Petition Article added to the Town Warrant, requesting support from the taxpayers. Over the years the list has grown, and we are now funding twelve nonprofits with a combined total of over \$179,000 annually. There is no question that the work is important – but this is a lot of money for the taxpayers to carry, and so we have invited you here this evening to help us understand how many Tamworth residents your organization is helping, and with what specific services. I ask that you keep your presentation short, under 3-5 minutes, so that the Select board will have time to ask questions if needed.***

Tri County Cap, Brenda Gagne presenting: Last year the agency provided services to 968 Tamworth residents, including dental, electric, Head Start, housing for homeless and displaced, transportation and more. They use a formula based on a census number for all surrounding towns. Prentice asked about issues with service provision, Gange explained there are staffing shortages due to lack of funding, and covid related management issues. If funding is not received TCCAP's matching dollars for federal funding will be in jeopardy.

- **Starting Point, Reatha Stoddard presenting:** Stoddard described the mission, which is to Ensure that quality services are provided to victims of relationship violence and sexual abuse; preventing future relationship violence; promoting social change ; and encouraging accountability and education for perpetrators and stalkers. For Tamworth 48 victims were served in 2023, and provided with over 1000 services – from counseling, housing assistance, and more.

- **Lakes Region VNA, Greg Morgon Presenting:** The \$15,000 request is a first-time request for this organization to be requesting funds. LRVNA is resident primarily serving over 65 years of age, and provides care at home, and end of life care. LRVNA provided over 900 home visits to 30 residents of Tamworth. Medicare does not fully cover the costs, so they provided about 15k in charity care to Tamworth residents. This request they hope will offset the gap in funding the charity care.
- **TCNA, June Aprille presenting:** Aprille started by clarifying that this request is about the operating budget, and completely separate from the capital budget. The annual operating budget is \$245,000 – 85 % of this is personnel. This money comes from 1) the two annual appeals, which raise about \$45,000, 2) \$90,000 from the endowment, 3) grants and other misc. sources, usually about \$30,000 – that leaves the need for \$80,000. The town has supported TCNA at least since 1933. Services are provided to 300-400 unique people (15% of census). 60-75 % is over 65. If funding was not received they would have to cut staff positions.
- **Department Head Update, Police Chief Littlefield Reporting:** On October 28th PD hosted the drug take back – 14 pounds of disposed medications were sent to Concord for incineration. Halloween Main Street event – Littlefield advocated for closing main street, and thought it was a great success. At the end of September our patrolman resigned, so we have a staffing deficit again. Dana is the one full-time officer, with Sargeant Perley as a part time officer. She is limited in her hours, which means Littlefield has more gaps to fill. There have been no qualified applicants. Heavy caseloads are an issue in recruiting. Discussed Page Hill traffic and ways to route cars off the road. Chief Littlefield wanted us to know that Candlepine Village creates a lot of nuisance calls. As the roads are all private roads there is little the department can do. He wants the Select Board to know it is time consuming, and that crux of job is to enforce criminal law, but they are often pulled into civil issues – which can become a criminal issue. Additionally, they become the last resort for mental illness, and they are seeing a huge increase in mental illness. There is a lack of mental health help. This all exacerbates the understaffing.
- **Appoint Paul Priestman as Welfare Officer:** Schaeffer motioned to appoint Paul Priestman as the Welfare Officer, Roberts second, roll call vote Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- **Conservation Commission Appointments:** Roberts motioned to appoint Dylan Alden, Ned Beecher, and Jeremy Philips as Conservation Commission Members, and Kelly Goodson, and Nelson O'Bryan as alternates to the Conservation Commission, Prentice second, roll call vote Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- **Rail Line – House Bill 1468-FN-A:** Ed Comeau explained that House Bill 1468-FN-A proposes to require that the NH Department of transportation write a Master Plan for the Rail Corridor running through, among other locations, Tamworth. Roberts made a motion to support House Bill 1468-FN-A, Schaeffer seconded, roll call vote Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes. Myer will write a letter of support for the Select Board to sign.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Budget, Town report, and Warrant Update:** Myer shared updates on the 2024 budget noting that the final number \$5,044,810, a 7% decrease from the 2023 budget, and a 1% decrease from the 2023 Tax Effort. The town report is almost complete, just needing the final budget

and warrant, and the report will go to print on the 9th of February. The Warrant is under review with the town attorney and the Department of Revenue. Prentice agreed to write the select board report for the annual report.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- Bank Balance: \$4,868,211

SIGNATURE FILE:

- Roberts motioned to approve Meeting Minutes, January 4th, 2024, Schaeffer seconded, roll call vote Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- Roberts motioned to approve Nonpublic Meeting Minutes, RSA 91-A:3 II (a), January 4th, 2024,
- Appointment for Welfare Officer, Paul Priestman, Schaeffer seconded, roll call vote Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- Appointments forms for Conservation Commission:
 - o Members
 - Dylan Alden
 - Ned Beecher
 - Jeremy Philips
 - o Alternates
 - Kelly Goodson
 - Nelson O'Bryan
- Roberts motioned to approve, Abatement, Map 407, Lot 26, \$1,699, Schaeffer seconded, roll call vote Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- Roberts motioned to approve Yield on Timber Cut, \$24,183.32 Schaeffer seconded, roll call vote Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- Roberts motioned to approve Accounts Payable: 2023 Final: \$39,846.19 and 2024: \$411,867.32, Schaeffer seconded, roll call vote Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- Roberts motioned to approve Payroll: \$46,472.28, Schaeffer seconded, roll call vote Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.

SELECT BOARD UPDATE:

- Karl: attended the library meeting: all is going well.
- Steve Schaeffer: Brief summary of TSC work, and noted that the Economic Development Commission voted to disband. Keats will reduce the EDC budget. Schaeffer motioned to accept the EDC's dissolution. Prentice seconded, roll call vote Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.
- Prentice: The personnel policy is near complete, the draft will be emailed to all the board members, and will be on 2/1/24 meeting. She is pleased with the improvements for the staff. LRPC Jeff Hayes is going to retire.
- Roberts: no update.

PUBLIC INPUT:

- Willie Farnum: Sad news – the owner of North Country Recycling passed away in a car accident this past weekend. We will now work with his brother who is handling his affairs.

Farnum discussed the transfer Station improvements and the challenges with doing what we want to do on Rt. 25, which would take a couple million dollars because the site is so challenging – this is more money than we have. So the lot doesn't fit our long-term needs. Farnum suggested the town become a regional permit structure rather than the more limited permit.

Four advantages to the new site:

- Wouldn't need temporary site.
- Lots of office space
- Could have a leased solar array on the land, which could guarantee some income.
- Sale funds to help pay for the project. f present site can bring in

Maureen Diamond applauded Willie Ellen and Maud on the Styrofoam event, and she is grateful to the volunteers who put it together.

NONPUBLIC: Roberts motioned to go into nonpublic session #2, RSA 91-A:3, II (e), and Session #3 RSA 91-A:3, II (a), Schaeffer second, roll call vote Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes. Roberts motioned to come out of nonpublic session at 7:10, Schaeffer second, roll call vote Behr yes, Schaeffer yes, Prentice yes, Roberts yes.

ADJOURNMENT: Roberts adjourned the meeting at 7:11 pm

Emery Roberts, Chair

Karl Behr

Lianne Prentice

Steve Schaeffer