

Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, February 5, 2018

These minutes were recorded by Ellen White, Town Administrator. The meeting was held in the Bub Avery Memorial Gymnasium at Town Hall.

Call to Order:

Chairman Morgan called the meeting to order at 4:15 PM.

Morgan opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance by Roll Call:

Present were Selectmen Richard Morgan and Sandra Martin. Selectman Robert Freeman was absent due to a death in the family.

Public Input:

Ed Comeau, State Representative, reviewed the House Calendar that can be found on the website which includes topic information from the consent calendar and regular calendar. He then reported on the status of HB1452 using the minority report with the result being 19-0 that it should not go through. Comeau stated he will be submitting a 91-A request to retrieve Ossipee's agreement with the School District and noted that if it has been in place since prior to 1963, it can be reviewed.

Dallas Emery stated that he attended the Deliberative Session at the school and reported there was not a lot of attendance. Brief discussion took place on the budget and the increase in local education tax rate that will take place this year. Additional discussion took place on the formation of the School District and other towns that have successfully pulled out of the District including Moultonboro and Prospect Mountain (Alton). Morgan stated that history shows that local education has always been the most expensive.

Meeting Minutes:

Morgan made a motion to accept the minutes from the Selectmen's Meeting held on 1/29/2018. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Morgan made a motion to accept the minutes from the Selectmen's Work Session held on 1/29/2018. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Accounts Payable & Payroll Manifests:

The Payroll Voucher was submitted for the week ending 2/3/2018 in the amount of \$158,799.67. The Accounts Payable Voucher was submitted for the week ending 1/27/2018 in the amount of \$12,777.12. The Water & Sewer Accounts Payable Voucher submitted for the week ending 1/27/2018 was in the amount of \$4,513.53. Morgan made a motion to approve and sign the check vouchers. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken. Morgan stated that the Board reviews each invoice before it is approved in the weekly manifest totals.

Review of Red Folder:

The Board received an email from Executive Councilor Joe Kenney acknowledging \$10 million in funding that has been approved of which Governor Wentworth Regional School District will receive \$256,000 to address security.

The Board received a copy of a check from Planet Aid in the amount of \$164.70 for fourth quarter recycling.

An Application for a Veteran's Credit was presented for review. The Assessor has determined that the applicant meets all requirements for the Service Connected Total & Permanent Disability Credit and recommends its approval. Morgan made a motion to approve the application. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

An Application for Elderly Exemption was presented for review. The Assessor has determined that the applicant meets all requirements for the exemption and recommends its approval. Morgan made a motion to approve the application. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Request for a Clerical Abatement was received for the property located on Map 104, Lot 14003, Sub Lot 33. The refund in the amount of \$152.00 is due because the property transferred and the incorrect owner was billed. Morgan made a motion to grant the abatement. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Supplemental Warrant in the amount of \$152.00 was presented for signatures. Morgan made a motion to approve and sign the warrant. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a letter from Mellisa Seamans discussing the recent fatality that took place on Route 16 where a box truck crossed the centerline and collided head-on with a tractor trailer. Seamans questioned why the rumble strips were not put back in after the repaving of Route 16 and discussed how resourceful they have been in avoiding such tragedies. Morgan commented that the noise of the rumble strips has been an issue in other locations but given their effectiveness along Route 16 in Ossipee, Wakefield and Milton, he is uncertain why they were removed. He further agrees that the Selectmen should lobby the State to bring them back. Morgan made a motion to draft a letter to the NH DOT questioning when and if they will be put back in. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Highway Department Work Log was received for the week ending 2/3/2018.

The Recycling Center Daily Cash Log was received for the month of January. The total collected was in the amount of \$1,493.45.

Minutes from the meeting of the Economic Development Council held on 1/22/2018 were presented for review.

The Delegation of Deposit Authority pursuant to RSA 41:29, IV, granting deposit authority to the Town Clerk/Tax Collector, was presented for signatures. Morgan made a motion to approve and sign the delegation. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received a letter with several attachments from Molly Messenger of Ossipee Listens providing information and results on the Candidates Night held in 2017 that was hosted by Ossipee Listens. Alison Hayford was present and stated that there was a lot of positive feedback received from the Candidate's Night and they hope to be able to work together with the Selectmen again. She then provided statistics. Morgan commented that there was no problem with Ossipee Listens hosting the event but stated there was concern expressed with the inability to hear the other candidate's responses and discussed how that is an important part of the traditional process. Martin stated that she felt she was in a disadvantageous position and that all questions and answers should be heard by others. Hayford presented the idea of incorporating a Q & A forum in the middle part of the evening using Ossipee Listens proposed format. Morgan discussed a potential date for Candidate's Night as Monday, 3/5/2018.

Water & Sewer Red Folder:

A Payroll Reimbursement Request for the week ending 2/3/2018 in the amount of \$2,719.79 was presented for signatures. Morgan made a motion to approve the request. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Water & Sewer Warrant in the amount of \$1,020.00 for hauler fees was presented for signatures. Morgan made a motion to approve and sign the warrant. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Request for an Abatement was received from Andrew Catino, Map 92, Lot 82, in the amount of \$350.00 due to an issue with a meter reading. Morgan made a motion to grant the abatement. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

A Water & Sewer Warrant in the amount of \$1,800.00 for backflows was presented for signatures. Morgan made a motion to approve and sign the warrant. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Public Input #2:

Zebudah Eaton approached the Board seeking permission to install giving boxes, to be known as blessing boxes, throughout the Town to supplement households in need when the food pantries are not open. He gave an overview of items that would be contained within the boxes and how they will be stocked and utilized. Morgan stated that the Board has no issues with this project and it is a very good idea.

Ash Fischbein stated that he thinks the blessing boxes are an awesome idea and added that zoning changes being proposed in March may require any sheds or similar structures to go through the Planning Board if passed.

Morgan commented that he met earlier with the Zoning Enforcement Officer to discuss the proposed zoning changes and a statement will be prepared in the near future related to the changes. He noted they will be on the ballot for all day voting.

Matt Trahan questioned how many candidates are signed up for the open positions. Morgan stated that he was unsure but the list is posted in the hallway.

Old Business:

Sidewalks – Morgan stated that a joint meeting held earlier with Alan Hanscomb, District 3 Engineer for NH DOT, confirmed that the Town can construct sidewalks. They will be taking the steps to construct and will be adding to the existing Capital Reserve Fund to fund this and future projects.

Whittier Covered Bridge – Brad Harriman, Public Works Director, stated that the Wetlands Permit Application is under its 75-day review with approximately 45-days to go. Morgan questioned if there is any indication of mitigation being required. Harriman responded that there is not.

Intersection of Routes 171 & 28 –Harriman reported that the NH DOT is in the process of procuring easements and right-of-way acquisition to begin advertising the project in 2019 for construction in 2020.

Town Beach – Morgan stated there is still nothing new to report and due to the timing and posting requirements, the Board is moving forward with recommendations for the Town Beach Warrant Articles until they are told otherwise.

New Business:

HB316 - Morgan discussed HB316 relative to the statewide exemption on commercial and industrial properties. He then read the proposed Warrant Article. Fischbein stated this to be a win-win for the Town and suggested an exemption level at a flat percentage over five years rather than a staggering percentage.

Ossipee Listens – Meet the Candidate’s Night - Joy Gagnon asked for an update on Ossipee Listen’s proposal for Candidate’s Night. Martin stated that they would like Selectman Freeman to be present as a candidate to hear his thoughts on the matter. Rich Fahy disagreed stating that an incumbent should not have any bearing on the decision. Discussion ensued.

Fischbein questioned if permits should be acquired for parking and access for the Whittier Covered Bridge. Morgan responded that State permits are not required since this is a Town project only utilizing the State for federal funding. He further stated that once the bridge has been reopened for travel, the ordinances can be revisited to make any necessary provisions for parking/access.

2018 Budget: Warrant Articles and Revenues – Morgan announced the beginning of the Warrant Article review:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000) for the purpose of repair and improvements of Town roads. Majority vote required. Morgan made a motion to recommend this article. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Majority vote required. Morgan made a motion to recommend this article. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for the purpose of Town building improvements (Town Hall, Freight House, Highway Garage, Library, Police Station). Majority vote required. Morgan made a motion to recommend this article. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be added to the Bridge Repair and/or Replacement Expendable Trust Fund previously established. Majority vote required. Morgan made a motion to recommend this article. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the Ossipee Sidewalk Expendable Trust Fund previously established. Majority vote required. Morgan made a motion to recommend this article. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be added to the Solid Waste Improvements Expendable Trust Fund previously established. Majority vote required. Morgan made a motion to recommend this article. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty-eight thousand five hundred eighty dollars (\$58,580) for the purpose of paying the Ossipee Water System's bond payment for one (1) year. Majority vote required. Morgan made a motion to recommend this article. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eighty-seven thousand eight hundred sixty-two dollars (\$87,862) for the purpose of purchasing two new police cruisers and equipment. The sum to come from the Town's unreserved fund balance (surplus) no amount of such \$87,862 to be raised from taxation. Majority vote required. Morgan made a motion to recommend this article. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for the purpose of purchasing a Vault Shelving System with Carriages and Tracks for improvements to the Town Clerk's current vault. Majority vote required. Morgan made a motion to recommend this article. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of nine thousand nine hundred ninety-five dollars (\$9,995) for the purpose of restoring three (3) books entitled Ossipee 1887-1929 Town Minutes. The sum is to be paid for by a grant from the Conservation License Plate Grant Program and no amount is to be raised by taxation. Majority vote required. Morgan made a motion to recommend this article. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the Revaluation Capital Reserve Account previously established for the purpose of a complete revaluation of the Town in the year 2020. Majority vote required. Morgan made a motion to recommend this article. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the Benefit Pay Expendable Trust Fund previously established. Majority vote required. Morgan made a motion to recommend this article. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be added to the Invasive Species Control Fund previously established for the purpose of preventing and treating milfoil in Ossipee Lake. Majority vote required. Morgan made a motion to recommend this article. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Town and AFSCME Local #534 which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase
2018	\$40,502.00 (53 pay periods)
2019	\$ 2,458.00 (52 pay periods)
2020	\$21,996.00 (52 pay periods)

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of forty thousand five hundred two dollars (\$40,502) for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and

benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. Majority vote required. Morgan made a motion to recommend this article. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Shall the Town, if article is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address article cost items only? Majority vote required. Morgan made a motion to recommend this article. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Water Department Major Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 and to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to be placed in this fund and to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend. Majority vote required. Morgan made a motion to recommend this article. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Sewer Department Major Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 and to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to be placed in this fund and to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend. Majority vote required. Morgan made a motion to recommend this article. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million two hundred thousand dollars (\$1,200,000) for the purpose of acquiring the land and buildings at 130 Gretchen Road located on Ossipee Lake for use as a town beach and recreation area; five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) of such sum to come from the Town's unreserved fund balance (surplus) and the balance of seven hundred thousand dollars (\$700,000) to be raised from taxation. Majority vote required. Morgan made a motion to recommend this article. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Morgan stated that the bond issue is the most prudent approach to make the purchase but is offering two options for the voters.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,200,000 for the purpose of acquiring the land and buildings at 130 Gretchen Road located on Ossipee Lake for use as a town beach and recreation area; \$1,000,000 of such sum to be raised by the issuance of serial bonds or notes not to exceed \$1,000,000 under and in compliance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (NHRSA 33:1 et seq., as amended) and to authorize the selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and to take such other actions as may be necessary to effect the issuance, negotiation, sale and delivery of such bonds or notes as shall be in the best interests of the Town of Ossipee. The remaining \$200,000 to come from fund balance (surplus) and no amount of such \$200,000 to be raised from taxation. The selectmen and the budget committee [recommend/do not recommend] this appropriation. A two-thirds (2/3) ballot vote is required. Morgan made a motion to recommend this article. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:81 Commercial and Industrial Construction Exemption to allow a new construction property tax exemption for commercial and industrial uses. The exemption shall apply only to municipal and local school property taxes assessed by the municipality and shall exclude state education property taxes and county taxes. The exemption shall be as follows: 50% of the

increase in assessed value attributable to construction of new structures, and additions, renovations, or improvements to existing structures for five years. This exemption will be applied to all projects submitting a proper application each year during the exemption period, which will remain in effect for a period of five years from adoption. Majority vote required. Morgan made a motion to recommend this article. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

(Submitted by Petition) To see if the Town of Ossipee will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000.00 for the Family Resource Center at Children Unlimited, Inc. Majority vote required. No recommendation was made on this article.

(Submitted by Petition) By petition of 25 or more registered voters of this town, to see if the town would approve the following petitioned warrant article at the 2018 Town Meeting Ballot Vote. Petitioned Warrant Language, per Senate Bill 191 from the 2017 State of New Hampshire Legislative Session: "Shall we allow the operation of Keno games within the Town?" Majority vote required. No recommendation was made on this article.

Emery questioned what the cost of the bond will be. Morgan answered that it would have been less than \$300,000 based on the rates in November for the original requested amount of \$1 million.

White requested permission to proceed with application process for the bond. Morgan made a motion to begin the application process on the bond. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

This concluded the business portion of the meeting and Morgan re-opened the meeting to Public Input.

Public Input #3:

Emery questioned the legality of having the beach warrant articles on the Town Warrant. Morgan responded that it is legal and has been advised by the Town Attorney.

Kim Whitefeather asked if the vote for the bond issue would be by secret ballot. Morgan confirmed.

Morgan announced that petitioned warrant articles are due tomorrow (2/7/2018). He also announced the Budget Public Hearing is scheduled for 2/14/2018 at 6:30 PM in the Bub Avery Memorial Gymnasium and the Budget Committee will be meeting before the Public Hearing at 6:00 PM.

Katy Meserve, Moderator, and Kellie Skehan, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, were present to discuss the venue for Town Meeting. It was determined that there is no venue in Town sufficient to accommodate 500+ people who attended the November Special Town Meeting. Discussion took place on relocating the meeting to the school gymnasium and providing overflow in the cafeteria with an audio and video feed. Further discussion took place on hosting the meeting on a weekend rather than weeknight if the school was the venue to host the meeting. Meserve posed many questions including the status of the beach warrant articles, in particular the bond which requires voting to be opened for one hour following Town Meeting. Meserve questioned if the meeting can be molded like the School District voting. Morgan stated that the issue is that the bond is not allowed to be on the ballot for all day voting. Matt Trahan questioned if there will be absentee ballots. The response was that no provisions have been made. Morgan thanked Meserve and Skehan for their time on short notice.

Non-Public Session:

Not applicable.

The next meeting will take place on Monday, February 12, 2018 at 4:15 PM.

Adjournment:

Being no further input, Morgan made a motion to adjourn. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Adjourned at 6:03 PM.

Richard H. Morgan, Chairman

ABSENT
Robert C. Freeman

Sandra P. Martin

To be approved 2/26/2018