

**Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, October 2, 2023**

These minutes were transcribed by Angela Eldridge, Secretary. Selectman Martha B. Eldridge was in attendance, Selectman Jonathan H. Smith was in attendance and Susan J. Simpson was in attendance. Matthew Sawyer Jr., Town Administrator, and T.J. Eldridge, Public Works Director, were also in attendance. The meeting was held in the Bub Avery Gymnasium at Town Hall.

Call to Order/Roll Call: Completed in the Work Session.

M. Eldridge reconvened the meeting at 4:17 PM.

M. Eldridge opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Input:

None Presented.

Budget Review:

Jen Spofford, Library Director, presented the Library Budget to the Board. She mentioned that it would increase about 10%, bringing it to \$268,841.10. The increase is for payroll and a slight increase to the expense budget, which is mainly due to the increase of insurance. They will also need migration software so they can join the Carroll County Library Consortium, which will give them access to Tamworth, Madison, Conway and Jackson libraries. They will also have the opportunity to join the book mobile program. Smith asked for clarification that a Consortium enables other libraries in what way. Jen advised that they could easily book exchange, catalogs and the ability to borrow amongst other libraries. Smith asked if they would share a database. Jen said yes. Smith said he thought they already did that. Jen advised that they do something similar through the State of NH. Smith also asked if Jen had been in contact with T.J. Eldridge to discuss the updates to the heating system. She said they got an estimate to update the boiler and it looks reasonable. She thought T.J. was going to write the Warrant Article but Matt Sawyer Jr. advised that he would be writing that up. He needs to know how much to write it for. Jen advised \$39,947.00. Smith asked if the mini splits units in there now will put out heat. She advised no. They are concerned about the lining of the chimney and want to make sure that is ok as well so they would like confirmation from T.J. on that before writing the warrant article. Matt also mentioned that the final draft of the Warrant Article doesn't get done until January, so there is time to get it figured out. He will do it for \$40,000 to come from taxation. Robert Roakes mentioned the fuel savings once this job is complete. Discussion ensued.

Smith mentioned that the Board voted to move forward to accept the contract for the Community Choice Aggregation from Colonial Power Group. Stuart Ormsbee of CPG advised that the next steps would be for the committee to prepare and review a plan to be presented to the voters at Town Meeting. According to the Statutes, there needs to be 2 public hearings before Town Meeting regarding this and they should be done by December. Then the Board will finalize the plan. The plan then goes to a Warrant Article. They have a template that they have used that has been vetted because it has already gone through the Utility Commission process. Smith said the hearings are to rehash the presentation at the previous meeting. Stuart advised yes so that more of the public can hear about it. Discussion ensued.

Meeting Minutes:

M. Eldridge made a motion to approve the Work-Session Minutes for 9/25/2023. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

M. Eldridge made a motion to approve the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for 9/25/2023. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Accounts Payable & Payroll Manifest:

The Payroll Check Voucher total was submitted for the week ending 10/03/2023 in the amount of \$44,738.31. The General Fund is \$19,867.29. The water accounts payable are in the amount of \$411.75. The sewer accounts payable is \$179.94. Grant donation and unanticipated revenue fund was \$2,469.18. The total was \$67,666.47. M. Eldridge made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Review of Red Folder:

The Board received a Water & Sewer Warrant for \$160.00. Simpson made a motion to approve. Smith seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board received the review for the 2023 Institutional Exemptions from the DRA. The DRA conducted an administrative review, which includes reviewing the paperwork and an on-site review. The report is from Phillip Bodwell, District Supervisor of the Municipal Property Division of the Department of Revenue Administration. Smith read them into record. The Board votes are as follows.

The First Congregational Church of Ossipee, Map 093, Lot 027, Map 093, Lot 025, Sub lot 001 are the church, parish center, office, Sunday school, and youth ministry building. Map 093, Lot 025, Map 093, Lot 020 and Map 093, Lot 020, Sub lot 001 are not used for religious purposes. DRA recommends granting exemption to Map 093, Lot 027 and Map 093, Lot 025, Sub lot 001. The other 3 lots are taxable. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Water Village Community Church, Map 137, Lot 009 and Map 137, Lot 008. DRA recommends granting exemption. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Abundant Harvest Family Church, Map 266, Lot 003 and Map 266, Lot 003T which is backland. DRA recommends granting exemption only for Map 266, Lot 003. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Moultonville United Methodist Church, Map 091, Lot 039 and Map 091, Lot 042. DRA recommends granting exemption for Map 091, Lot 039 but Map 091, Lot 042 is taxable. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Kagyu Osal Chodzong (Buddist Meditation Center), Map 078, Lot 005. DRA recommends granting exemption. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Crossroads Church, Map 018, Lot 010. DRA recommends granting exemption. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The New England Forestry Foundation, Map 029, Lot 004, Map 037, Lot 002, Map 038, Lot 022, Map 115, Lot 001, Map 115, Lot 016 and Map 233, Lot 003. DRA recommends denying exemption as they are vacant land not used for charitable purposes. Smith made a motion to deny. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Lakes Region Conservation Trust, Map 255, Lot 002 DRA recommends denying exemption as they are vacant land not used for charitable purposes. Smith made a motion to deny. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Ossipee Valley Masonic Temple Association, Map 047, Lot 001. DRA recommends denying exemption as they do not meet the definition of charitable. Smith made a motion to deny. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Ossipee Historical Society, Map 093, Lot 026, Map 264, Lot 030, Map 264, Lot 001, Map 066, Lot 030. DRA recommends granting exemption for Map 093, Lot 026, Map 264, Lot 030, Map 264, Lot 001. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken. DRA recommends denying exemption for Map 066, Lot 030. Smith made a motion to deny. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Cornerstone Christian Academy, Map 268, Lot 009. DRA recommends granting exemption for 2.7 acres for the building, soccer fields and playground. The remaining 8.16 acres should be taxable. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Lakes Region Humane Society, Map 127, Lot 009. DRA recommends granting exemption. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Roman Catholic Bishop of NH, Map 092, Lot 052 and Map 092, Lot 052T which is 30.43 acres of backland. DRA recommends granting exemption for Map 092, Lot 052 and Map 092, Lot 052T should be taxable. No motion was taken.

The 2nd Congregational Church, Map 132, Lot 013. DRA recommends granting exemption. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Went back to The Roman Catholic Bishop of NH, Map 092, Lot 052 and Map 092, Lot 052T which is 30.43 acres of backland. Smith made a motion to deny Map 092, Lot 052T as it should be taxable. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Ossipee Mountain Baptist Church, Map 057, Lot 003. DRA recommends granting exemption. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The First Free Will Baptist Church, Map 263, Lot 003. DRA recommends granting exemption. Smith made a motion to approve. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Old Business:

None Presented.

New Business:

None Presented.

Second Public Input:

Dallas Emery asked if someone was doing work at the Valley Road water tower. Smith said that he would have to ask T.J. about that. M. Eldridge mentioned that Jimmy could answer that as well. Discussion ensued.

The next Budget Meeting is October 4, 2023, at 6:30PM at the Freight House.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 10, 2023.

Adjournment:

Being no further input, M. Eldridge made a motion to adjourn. Simpson seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Adjourned at 4:52 PM.

Martha B. Eldridge, Chairman

Susan J. Simpson

Jonathan H. Smith

To be approved 10/10/2023