

Selectmen's Work Session Monday, September 27, 2021

The following meeting was held in the upstairs conference room at Town Hall. Present were Selectmen Martha Eldridge, Susan Simpson and Jonathan Smith. Matt Sawyer Jr., Town Administrator was also present, and recorded the minutes.

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM

Discussion:

Smith made a motion to enter a nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3, II(c) for reputational risk. Eldridge seconded and a roll call vote was taken: Smith – YES, Simpson – YES, Eldridge – YES. At 2:45 PM Smith made a motion to reenter the public meeting. Eldridge seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

At 2:46 PM the group discussed a letter from the BTLA concerning the Masonic Lodge Tax Exemption. Sawyer was instructed to respond in writing acknowledging the exception and a brief rationale of the vote regarding the charitable work of the Masons and the history of this exception being granted.

At 2:55 PM the Selectmen discussed the staffing model in the TC/TC office and agreed that 2 full-timers and one part timer in that office should be sufficient, and the order was given for Matt to relay this decision to Kellie regarding her 2022 budget request, which would be forthcoming.

Public Works Director TJ Eldridge joined the meeting around 3:00 PM. There was a discussion regarding the Transfer Station and the expectation of the scale house being consistently manned. TJ was reminded to hold the Transfer Station staff accountable to this expectation. They reviewed the expenditure report for the Transfer Station, and it was discussed that there was only around \$2,600 left in the Part Time Wages line for the remainder of the year. TJ was told to ensure the department did not go over on that line, and would have to use the part-timer minimally to stay within budget.

The group looked over the MSW bids from North Conway Incinerator and Waste Management and the clear consensus was that the North Conway Incinerator bid was lower. Smith made a motion to accept the NCI bid and go with them as the vendor. Simpson seconded, and the vote passed 3-0.

At 3:27 PM Sawyer presented several department budgets requests for the 2022 budget cycle. Eldridge made a motion to recommend the Cemetery budget at \$43,045. Smith seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Sawyer presented a partially completed Conservation Commission sheet to show that the Ossipee Lake Dam Authority and the Timber Monitor's wages were now in this "Department" for the budget planning process. This was done by MRI/MTS to make the best fit with the DRA financial forms. There was no vote, but Sawyer said he would send this to the CC and will present a completed one in the next meeting.

Smith made a motion to accept the BOS budget request presented at \$19,920. Simpson seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Sawyer presented the Legal budget request at \$40,000. Eldridge made a motion to accept and recommend the budget as presented. Simpson seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Smith made a motion to accept the Patriotic Purposes budget request as presented for \$2,000. Simpson seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Eldridge made a motion to accept the Treasury budget request of \$8,230. Smith seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Eldridge made a motion to accept the Welfare budget request of \$40,000. Smith seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

At 3:40 there was a brief conversation regarding some social media posts containing a lot of false information about the Water system. TJ said that he started a new Ossipee Water & Sewer Facebook page to distribute information and dispel misinformation that can be prevalent on social media. He said that he had spoken to the person who had posted the negative narrative and after a robust conversation where TJ educated the person, he removed the post willingly.

At 4:00 PM Eldridge made a motion to recess. Simpson seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Being no further input, the work session recessed until 4:15 in the gym.

Jonathan H. Smith, Chairman

Susan J. Simpson, Selectman

Martha B. Eldridge, Selectman