

Selectmen's Work Session Monday, March 6, 2023

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

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM

Discussion:

At 3:00 PM Smith motioned to enter a nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3, II(a). Simpson seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Smith – YES

Eldridge – YES

Simpson – YES

At 3:45 PM Smith motioned to reenter the public session. Simpson seconded and the vote passed 3-0. Smith motioned to seal the minutes to the nonpublic session. Simpson seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Smith presented a contract between the Town of Ossipee and State Police that LT Ripley had brought to them. This will allow OPD to receive additional coverage help from the State Police as needed for schedule gaps due to the current staffing shortage. Smith motioned to sign and approve the contract. Eldridge seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Smith announced that the Town had been approved by the BTLA to reduce the holdback of the final payment to an assessment revaluation to 25%. Smith presented the two proposals, one from Vincent Consulting for \$100,3000 and one from CCAG for \$140,000. Smith motioned to award to the work to Vincent Consulting. Eldridge seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Smith referenced some materials he had provided everyone with. He said that someone has reached out to him expressing interest in building an indoor soccer arena at Constitution Park, not at the Town's expense. Smith motioned to give himself permission on behalf of the Board to meet with the interested party along with Sawyer, TJ Eldridge and Rec Director Justin Chaffee. Eldridge seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

TJ discussed the upcoming project to add a metal handrail for the right-hand section of the steps (as you go up them) in front of Town Hall. He said that he has been trying to get three quotes but two of the three companies declined to bid on the work. TJ recommended the Town go with GoshAnge LLC citing that they are the specialists in railing who only do this kind of work, and are known to have the best product and that they are affordable because they do this all day every day. He said they will do the whole project including the hot dipped galvanized coating which ensure the railings last. Smith reminded the group that this need was identified because of an older gentleman who had attempted to walk onto the steps/walkway from the grass hill and tripped last fall. He said that if we had this railing in place, that risk would be eliminated. Smith motioned to award the work to GoshAnge LLC for \$8,800. Eldridge seconded and the motion passed 3-0.

TJ said that he has talked to the Library people and the chimney liner they need will be \$3,000, and that there is an agreement in place to split it between the Library budget and Government Buildings. Smith said “it’s all taxpayer money either way, so it’s fine.”

TJ presented job duties for Government Buildings Maintenance employees, and advocated for the need of an additional part time employee, referring to the length of the list of duties for the one existing employee who also works for the Highway Dept. Smith said he doesn’t have a problem with it and agreed we need help for the preventative and routine maintenance but reiterated that there is no guarantee that this position will be converted to full time. There was a discussion regarding how many tasks and man hours the Highway Dept personnel contribute to park/field maintenance. Smith motioned to hire a Part Time Government Buildings Maintenance employee, for \$25/hour with a maximum of 32 hours per week but no minimum amount of hours, depending on work load. Eldridge seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

TJ informed the group that he has signed on with Morton Salt as a secondary vendor for salt so that he has options vs just being tied to Eastern Materials alone.

There was a discussion regarding the “Community House” in West Ossipee which appears to be Town-owned in the assessing system. Smith said that the structure is in complete disrepair and will need to be removed. The Board instructed Sawyer to send a letter to a citizen who has known to say that he believes he actually owns the building, not the Town, and to ask him for proof or permission to treat it as Town-owned.

Smith presented a quote for a comprehensive security system for the Whittier Covered Bridge to be paid largely out of bridge aid/grant funds. Smith acknowledged that it is a lot of money for cameras but “it is a \$2 million historic bridge and it is our duty to protect the investment.” The group also said the systems not limited to just cameras, but that it employes other methods of security. Smith motioned to approve the purchase order of \$42,145.80 to Cybercom for the security system at Whittier Covered Bridge. Simpson seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Smith presented a Request for Website Link Application for Ossipee Owl. Smith motioned to approve it. Simpson seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Smith motioned to approve the Selectmen’s work session minutes from February 13. Simpson seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Smith motioned to approve the Selectmen’s meeting minutes from February 13. Simpson seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Smith presented an Elderly Exemption application that was recommended for approval by the Assessor. Smith motioned to approve it. Simpson seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Smith presented a Veterans Credit application that was recommended for approval by the Assessor. Smith motioned to approve it. Simpson seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Smith motioned to recess until 4:15 PM in the gm. Eldridge seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Jonathan H. Smith, Chairman

Susan J. Simpson, Selectman

Martha B. Eldridge, Selectman