

## Selectmen's Work Session

### Monday, October 2, 2023

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

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

#### **Discussion:**

At 3:01 PM Smith motioned to enter a nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3, II(c). Simpson seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Martha – YES

Sue – YES

Jonathan – YES

At 3:15 PM Smith motioned to reenter the public session. Eldridge seconded and the vote passed 3-0. Smith motioned to seal the minutes to the nonpublic session. Eldridge seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Smith and Sawyer discussed the first budget sheet with the Interest on the Line of Credit budgeted at \$30,000 due to the high interest rate and the likelihood of late tax bills as a result of the revaluation. Eldridge motioned to approve as presented for \$30,000. Simpson seconded and the motion passed 3-0.

The group turned pages to the Trustee of Trust Funds budget sheet. Sawyer explained he is recommending a 5% increase to stipends for most elected officials. Smith motioned to approve the Trustee of Trust Funds budget at \$6,085. Eldridge seconded and the motion passed 3-0.

Smith motioned to approve the Fire Warden's proposed budget of \$22,070. Eldridge seconded and the motion passed 3-0.

Smith motioned to approve the Emergency Management proposed budget of \$6,700. Eldridge seconded and the motion passed 3-0.

Smith called attention to the Conservation Department's proposed budget and informed the other Selectmen that the full payroll costs for the Boards and Commissions' Secretary has been moved to the Selectmen's Office budget for simplicity and transparency. Smith motioned to approve the Conservation budget as proposed at \$10,350. Simpson seconded and the motion passed 3-0.

Smith motioned to approve the Planning Board's proposed budget of \$11,750 noting again the transfer of the Secretary's payroll costs. Eldridge seconded and the motion passed 3-0.

Smith motioned to approve the ZBA's proposed budget of \$3,400. Eldridge seconded and the motioned passed 3-0.

Smith motioned to approve the contract/proposal from Avitar Associates for a 5-year agreement of Assessing Services. Smith said the Town or Avitar Associates can terminate the agreement with 30 days' notice. \$100,404 is the cost per year for cyclical inspections and \$199,080 is the cost of the revaluation. Eldridge seconded and the motioned passed 3-0.

Smith presented a contract between the Town of Ossipee and Colonial power for Community Choice Aggregation consulting services. Colonial will receive \$.001 per kilowatt hour purchased through the program which is authorized by RSA 53-E. Smith noted that it will still need to be passed at Town Meeting. Smith motioned to approve the contract as presented. Eldridge seconded and the motion passed 3-0.

Eldridge asked if the Town had been notified of the new rates for health insurance. Sawyer said it was around 15% increase, but that in the previous 5 years they had only netted an increase of around 5%. Sawyer said that for Property/Liability and Unemployment through Primex a multiyear deal is in place to limit the increase to 3%. Sawyer said they are going through to see if there are any reductions in the number of family plans or two person plans budgeted for who now don't require it.

There was a discussion about a potential forthcoming warrant article for the heating system at the Library, but Sawyer said that the Library Trustees are in charge of doing the research and proposing the dollar amount etc.

Being no further conversation, Eldridge motioned to recess at 3:31 PM until 4:15 PM in the gym. Simpson seconded and the motion passed 3-0.

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Martha B. Eldridge, Chairman

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Susan J. Simpson, Selectman

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Jonathan H. Smith, Selectman