

Selectmen's Work Session Tuesday, October 10, 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 2:30 PM

Discussion:

Eldridge motioned to appoint Jonathan as Chairman of the Board. Simpson seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Smith motioned to appoint Martha as the Vice Chair of the Board. Simpson seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Smith introduced Edwina Boose, Chair of the Friends of Constitution Park nonprofit organization. Boose said she is seeking grant funding for a rehab of the Deer Run Trail at Constitution Park, and that the project will cost over \$300,000 and require some matching Town funds. Discussion ensued. There was some discussion regarding "in-kind" contributions the Town would be required to donate. Sawyer said that TJ with his software can easily demonstrate the monetary value of labor and equipment time, Edwina would just need to come up with a dollar figure to work backward from. There was a quick discussion about the possibility of including a new well in the project. Smith motioned to put a warrant article on the warrant for \$50,000 to establish a Deer Run Trail Expendable Trust Fund and naming the Selectmen as the Agents to Expend. Eldridge seconded and the motion passed 3-0.

Smith motioned to enter a nonpublic session per RSA 91-A:3, II(c). Simpson seconded and a roll call vote was taken at 2:44 PM:

Martha – YES

Sue – YES

Jonathan – YES

At 3:19 PM Smith motioned to re-enter the public meeting. Simpson seconded and the motion passed 3-0. Smith motioned to seal the nonpublic session minutes. Simpson seconded and the motion passed 3-0.

Moving on to budget sheets, Jim Mueller spoke on behalf of the Economic Council's request to return the funding to \$5,000 as it had been in many recent years. Mueller spoke about the EDC's plans to develop a new website and some other general projects. Smith motioned to approve the Economic Development budget at \$5,000. Eldridge seconded and the motion passed 3-0.

TJ spoke about the Recreation Department budget and explained the plans to buy a used tractor and a drag harrow for the playing fields. Smith motioned to approve the Recreation budget at \$226,505. Eldridge seconded and the motion passed 3-0.

Chris Seamans from the Highway Department introduced himself as the Union's Shop Stewart and Local President. Chris presented the union contract/collective bargaining agreement which was then signed by all three Selectmen and Chris.

TJ spoke about the Government Buildings budget and a quick discussion regarding an increase in wages due to the addition of the part time employee. Smith motioned to approve the Government Buildings budget at \$323,604. Eldridge seconded the motion passed 3-0.

TJ spoke about the Highway Department budget and a quick conversation ensued about rising prices for line striping and everything else. Smith motioned to approve the Highway budget at \$1,483,850. Eldridge seconded the motion passed 3-0.

TJ spoke about the Transfer Station budget and a quick ensued about the additional wages for the part time team member, and also the increase in the price of petroleum products. TJ said he is in talks with North Conway Incinerator about a multi-year deal. Smith motioned to approve the Transfer Station budget at \$602,035. Simpson seconded the motion passed 3-0.

TJ spoke about the Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance budget and a quick conversation ensued about rising prices for DEF fluid, grease and all oil products. Smith motioned to approve the Vehicle and Equipment budget at \$287,500. Simpson seconded the motion passed 3-0.

Sawyer spoke about the Cemeteries budget and explained a recommendation he has to pay a \$200 stipend per Trustee per month for all the extensive work they do on their own time. Smith said he supported it fully as they work very hard, sometimes doing manual labor, all for free. TJ said he supports them getting a new mower, as the old one is very old and needs a lot of work. Smith motioned to approve the Cemeteries budget as presented for \$58,550. Eldridge seconded the motion passed 3-0.

Smith presented an agreement with Newfound Title Services and motioned to approve the Town Clerk's choice of using Newfound for her deed work. Eldridge seconded the motion passed 3-0.

Smith discussed a request from the Town Clerk to purchase poll-pads for expedited check-ins at elections. Smith motioned to approve the purchase of \$7,650. Eldridge seconded and the vote passed 3-0.

Smith re-presented the exemption paper work for the Roman Catholic Church with DRA recommendation to approve from the last meeting, as it had reported to have been accidentally skipped. Smith motioned to approve the exemption consistent with the DRA's recommendation.

Smith asked if there was any other business. Sawyer said he had been in contact with Jeff Earls who is doing the revaluation and his initial value letters will be out around November 1. There was consensus that the tax bills would likely be a few months late due to the revaluation.

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

Jonathan H. Smith, Chairman

Susan J. Simpson, Selectman

Martha B. Eldridge, Selectman

