



Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes September 26th, 2023

Present: Chairman Espie, Selectman Seamans, Selectman Racine, Administrative Assistant Pitts

Chairman Espie called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm

Chairman Espie made a motion to enter Non-Public pursuant to RSA 91-A; II (c) at 4:19 pm, seconded by Selectman Seamans. Motion passed (3-0)

Chairman Espie made a motion to come out of the Non-Public meeting, seconded by Selectman Racine. Motion passed (3-0).

Regular meeting reconvened at 4:42 pm.

Chairman Espie made a motion to seal the Non-Public minutes for 60 days, seconded by Selectman Racine. Motion passed (3-0)

Budget Presentations:

Chairman Espie discussed the budget for Payroll Expenses. Budget Committee Chair Strauss asked if the numbers provided on the draft budget were the current numbers from FICA. Chairman Espie asked Strauss if salary wages were to go up by 3% would FICA also go up 3%. Chairman Espie tabled Payroll Expenses until the percentages from FICA.

Chairman Espie discussed the EMS Contract in the amount of \$125,636.00. Chairman Espie made a motion to accept, seconded by Selectman Seamans. Motion passed (3-0).

The Board of Selectmen agreed to make Street Lighting budget \$4,000.

The Board of Selectmen discussed the Solid Waste Collection Budget. The Board agreed to the following; Leveling Certifications at \$500.00, Leveling Household Hazardous Waste Day at \$1,870.00, Leveling Mileage at \$100.00, Leveling Repairs and Materials at \$4,500.00, Salaries were raised by 3% for a total amount of \$92,000.00, Leveling Supplies at \$1,200.00, and leveling Telephone at \$660.00. Solid Waste Collection totaled \$100,830.00.

The Board of Selectmen discussed Solid Waste Disposal. The Board agreed to the following; Containers through Waste Management will be raised by 5% totaling \$71,757.00; Electronics were leveled at \$3,000.00; Freon was leveled at \$550.00; Glass was leveled at \$2,500.00; Metal was leveled at \$1,500.00; Tires were leveled at \$1,200.00. The total of Solid Waste Disposal came to \$80,507.00.

The Board discussed Solid Waste Cleanup. The Board agreed to the following; Land Fill Monitoring was leveled at \$10,500.00, PFAS Testing was leveled at \$2,500.00. Solid Waste Cleanup total was \$13,000.00.

The Board of Selectmen discussed the Parks & Recreation budget. Parks & Recreation increased by \$5,000.00, making a grand total of Parks & Recreation at \$40,000.00. Resident Rosemarie Wissenbach asked how long the Town had a contract. Budget Committee Chair Strauss stated the Town is on a three-year contract and the Town will need to renegotiate once the contract is up.

The Board of Selectmen discussed the budget for Patriotic Purposes. Chairman Espie mentioned the budget was over by \$63.00 last year. The Board agreed to increase the budget for Patriotic Purposes to \$750.00.

The Board of Selectmen discussed leveling the budget for PLA Lake Host Program at \$3,000.00. Selectman Seamans questioned what the funds go to. Budget Committee Chair Strauss answered it goes to the removal of Milfoil on boats before they enter the lake.

The Board of Selectmen agreed to level the budget for Debt Services to \$1.00.

Business:

Selectman Seamans brought up concern on the Summer Road RFP, #14, where it states for the contractor to check the emergency phone line which the Town no longer has. Selectman Seamans recommended taking that section out of the RFP.

Chairman Espie announced starting next week, October 3, 2023, budget presentations will begin. Starting with Susan Slack of the Historic District Commission at 5:00 pm.

Budget Committee Chair Strauss recommended to the Board not having Avitar process five-year assessments as there will be a warrant for assessing services to contract during Town Meeting.

Selectman Racine questioned the budget for the Town's Auditing services. Strauss answered the budget is \$11,000.00 and the Town is currently under budget. Strauss also mentioned Mr. Greene has been with the Town for a while and is very responsive.

Selectman Seamans questioned Street Signs on the Summer Road Maintenance RFP and if the Board would like to continue to volunteer or have the contractor complete road signs. Chairman Espie stated the contractor can do it, if asked.

Selectman Seamans recalls confusion that had taken place during the bidding process of Elm Street with quantity, unit, and total price and was concerned the same would happen with Ryefield Road's RFP. The Board agreed to make it clear that the bid will be awarded based on the total price of the project.

Chairman Espie talks about the Mini-Splits for the Departments of Police and Land Use. The Board of Selectmen reviewed quotes provided by Home Energy Products, American Air Systems, Inc, and LaPlante Electric. Strauss mentions to the Board that the budget for Municipal Buildings has a remaining \$23,000.00. The Board agreed to revisit the Mini-Splits in April.

Chairman Espie opened Public Comment

Selectman Seamans informs the Board of an accident that had taken place on Champion Hill.

David Strauss asked why Evans Brother will be doing the cutouts on Elm Street, and not GMI. Chairman Espie explained that GMI only goes 2 feet and gave an example of Lost Valley Path needing at least 12-15 feet.

Mellisa Seamans on Zoom brings up concern to Budget Committee Chair Strauss's comment regarding moving money with the Treasurer and Office Assistant. Strauss stated it was done with the Treasurer and Auditor's approval to move line items that were placed incorrectly and needed to be fixed. Mellisa asked what the duties of the Budget Committee Chair entailed and if Mr. Strauss had additional duties. Strauss stated it was done under Deputy Treasurer. Selectman Seamans confirmed that it wasn't money being moved around, it was expenditures and Strauss confirmed. Mellisa complimented David Strauss for the work he has done regarding the budget and looking into everything for the Town.

Selectman Racine made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Chairman Espie. Motion passed (3-0)

Meeting adjourned at 5:52 pm.

Lenny Espie, Chairman

Chris Seamans, Selectman

Leo Racine, Selectman