

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

December 21, 2020

MEMORIAL BUILDING

4:00 P.M.

The following are to be considered draft minutes only until approved by the Board at their next meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Selectmen present: Tamara Butcher, Chairwoman, Dick Hendl and George McCusker

Others: Pixie Hill

Janet has the deed prepared for the Village District of Eastman. The deed was signed by the three Selectmen and then notarized by Pixie.

Janet gave Tamara the agreement from Healthtrust which covers the new IRS rules allowing the town to transfer \$550 into 2021. The agreement needs to be signed and returned to them.

Janet also passed around an abatement to the tax collector and two supplemental warrants because when Avitar did the sales transactions they transferred the wrong property owned by Maureen Graham. We are just creating a paper trail to correct the situation.

Pixie provided the Selectmen with a written request for salary increases. Tamara asked Pixie what days and hours she was currently working, which was provided by Pixie. Dick would like this matter to be discussed in the context of overall raises. Pixie added that she was not expecting an answer today, she was just putting it out there for consideration.

Starting with the Historical Society's request, Tamara has no issue putting money into a line item for them. Tamara is unsure if we need to make a line item for them, but feels it should fall under government buildings. Dick agrees. Janet also suggested using the non-recurring projects line. Dick made a motion to encumber \$3500 out of the non-recurring projects line to allow the historical society to take care of their floors and paint the front of the building. During the discussion Dick encouraged Jim to, and didn't make it contingent upon, make that building available more than just seven or eight Saturday's in the summer. Tamara and Jim had the same discussion. Jim was ok with that but did say he would need more volunteers to make it more available. It has also been mentioned, by Brandt or Jim, that they would like to know if internet could be made available to them. The motion was seconded by George and unanimously approved.

Janet said this has come up as a conversation before, and she knows someone was going to check on putting the screens under the foundation in the summer but is unsure if that happened. Janet said that is something to keep in the back of your minds because you can fix the floor this year and if it's still moist underneath there's no guarantee it's not going to buckle somewhere else. Dick said that is a good point and he will talk to Jim about that because this was also suggested several years ago.

Budget Review

Executive Line:

Dick said that computer support seems to be a place where we had significant costs that were not budgeted for. Janet said some of that will wash because of the grant we received. Janet said it doesn't show up here but for unanticipated revenue we will be washing out some of this overage.

Vital Statistics:

Janet explained vital statistic fees. These are all fees that we pay back to the state from money that we've collected.

Financial Administration:

The deputy treasurers' line was over because Jessalyn Straniti was not paid in 2019 as we did not have her W-4. Once we received all her payroll information, we were able to catch her up in 2020. Dick would like to see Angela have Jessalyn more involved, so she has a clear understanding of the position.

Legal Expenses:

Janet said it will probably come up at the budget meeting that we are overspent with legal fees. There has been conversation that is attributable to noise, and Janet just wants to say a big portion of that expense is not attributable to noise. The selectmen agree and all feel this needs to be cleared up. Janet stated the account detail if very informative and talks about each case.

Fire and Rescue Department:

Tamara brought attention to Hanover Dispatch, feeling this was an error on a couple of levels. Pete thought they only billed us once because that is what happened in the past, which is why he only asked for \$7000 in that line. That is not the case anymore, they now bill twice. Janet also added that their fiscal year runs different than ours.

Police Department:

Dick said as a result of last week's discussion the part time wages, line 130, which was \$20,000 last year, has been proposed to increase to \$40,000. That is the biggest jump. On the other side of the coin, since we encumbered the money for the dash cams the equipment line would stay just about the same. The uniform line has also doubled due to the fact if we do take on some part time officers we will need to get new uniforms. Dick said everything else was within the error of estimate.

Dick made a motion to encumber \$9,000 to purchase and install the dash cams in two police cruisers. The motion was seconded by Tamara and unanimously approved.

Highways and Streets:

Tamara asked George about the gravel line, it was almost three times what he had budgeted. George said the cost did go up, but Pete also got a lot more. Janet said Pete will be receiving more repair bills on the red truck. George added that Pete has received a price on the Hog Hill paving, and it was almost \$160,000. George feels at this point, he would like to take a hard look

as to whether this paving is really needed. Dick asked what criteria is used to decide whether you are going to repave a road. George thinks it has more to do with when it was paved last. Dick would think there has to be some sort of objective criteria to determine this. After discussion it was determined that the road was paved about sixteen years ago.

Health and Hospital:

Tamara brought up the line for deputy health officer. Part of that should be under health officer salary, which will get fixed.

Welfare:

Tamara stated she was surprised that we didn't pay out any welfare requests this year. Janet said the request that she knows of that was recent, they were able to find assistance somewhere else.

Library:

Dick will discuss the budget, which has not changed, with Maryanne because he feels it could be lowered.

Janet said the cemetery commission and conservation commission are both asking for the same amount of money.

Janet said George Sansoucy was going to charge \$6,000 to do the appraisal for the power plant. After a discussion with George Hildum, George Sansoucy has agreed to cut the bill to \$2,500.

George said the Highway department would like to have a boot allowance. Tamara and Janet believe they always had one available as part of their uniform allowance. George proposes \$150 each. Tamara feels we can authorize them to purchase boots and they return the receipt to us, up to \$150. Tamara made a motion that each highway employee will be reimbursed up to \$150 per year for boots, which will be included in the uniform allowance line. The motion was seconded by Dick and unanimously approved. This is effective today.

At 4:52 p.m. Dick made a motion to enter into non-public session for personnel per RSA 91-A:3, seconded by George and unanimously approved.

The Board moved back into public session at 5:13 p.m. A motion was made by Tamara to seal the minutes, seconded by Dick. Tamara, Dick and George all voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Jill Hastings
Deputy Administrative Assistant