

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING
FEBRUARY 1, 2022**

In attendance were Chairman Carl F. Kowalski; Vice Chairman Daniel L. Salvucci; Member Randolph G. LaMattina; Member Justin R. Evans; and Town Administrator Lincoln D. Heineman. Clerk Brian J. Bezanson was absent. Chairman Kowalski opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Kowalski asked everyone in attendance to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. This was followed by a moment of silence.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve bill and payroll warrants. **Second** Mr. LaMattina, **so voted 4-0.**

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept correspondence in the Read File. **Second** Mr. LaMattina, **so voted 4-0.**

Chairman Kowalski opened public forum and no one in attendance came forward to address the Board.

At 7:01 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** pursuant to M.G.L., Chapter 30A, Section 32a (1) to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline of dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual. **Second** Mr. LaMattina. Roll call vote revealed: Mr. Evans – yes; Mr. LaMattina – yes; Mr. Salvucci – yes; and Chairman Kowalski – yes. **So voted 4-0.** The meeting will reconvene in Open Session.

The meeting reconvened at 7:07 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Strategic Plan

Mr. Heineman announced the Board has received a draft version of the Strategic Plan. He suggested the Board members send any amendments they may have to Ann Donner by February 8th. Ms. Donner will attend the February 15th meeting of the Board to discuss the document.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Schools Audit

Mr. Heineman advised the Board that the Invitation for Bids for an audit of the schools closed on Friday and no bids were received as it appears that CPA firms are overwhelmed due to the pandemic. Mr. Heineman, Mr. LaMattina, Lisa Green and Laura Kemmett-Fitzgerald will be meeting later this week to further discuss the issue.

Historical Museum

Mr. Heineman advised the Board of the request of the Historical Commission to utilize space in the old police station for a Historical Museum. He has suggested the Historical Commission take the lead and determine what is needed for space and staffing; work with Bob Curran regarding ADA issues; come up with a cost for renovations; and file an application with the Community Preservation Committee.

Mr. Salvucci advised that he has spoken with the superintendent of SSVT who agreed to have his staff take a look at the space in order to determine if they can help with the renovation.

Mr. LaMattina stated that establishing a cost and what space will be utilized is important.

Mr. Heineman advised the Board that the Historical Commission is in the process of raising funds.

Pay Rate for Auxiliary Police Officers

Mr. Heineman advised the Board that Chief Hanlon would like to increase the pay rate for auxiliary police officers to \$26.00 per hour. The current rate is \$20.00 per hour which has been in place since July, 2014. Town Counsel has confirmed that the previous chief implemented a pay increase on his own; therefore, this does not require a vote unless there is an objection from the Board. Chairman Kowalski asked for any objections and there were none.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS/HEARINGS

Joint Meeting with the Finance Committee

At 7:30 p.m. Chairman Kowalski opened a joint meeting with the Finance Committee. Present for the Finance Committee were Chairman Rick Anderson and members Kathleen Ottina; Ralph Mitchell; Chuck Colby; Rosemary Connolly; and Leslie DiOrio. Also present was Town Accountant Ken Lytle.

Chairman Kowalski advised everyone that the Board received the proposed budget and PowerPoint presentation around 12:00 noon today which did not leave much time for the members to review it. He suggested adding April 12th to the budget timeline as a joint meeting between the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee. Mr. Anderson advised Chairman Kowalski that he was leaning towards April 19th; however, Chairman Kowalski advised that he is not available on April 19th. Mr. Anderson agreed to an April 12th joint meeting.

Mr. Heineman thanked Mr. Lytle for his work on the budget. He also thanked the department heads who were all agreeable to working through a new process. He then outlined the budget goals and objectives; the budget summary; the revenue summary; pensions; targeted investments; historical and projected average single family tax bill increase; and policy decisions.

Ms. Connolly asked Mr. Heineman about his idea to use ARPA Funds towards the budget. Mr. Heineman stated this is strictly an option. This is one-time revenue that can be used for one-time expenditures. He reminded everyone that the Madden Report indicated an override in FY22. We are now moving into FY23 without having to go for an override.

Mr. Anderson expressed his appreciation to Mr. Heineman and Mr. Lytle for their work on the budget. He then suggested incorporating the Capital Committee into the budget timeline.

Mr. Salvucci asked if repairs to 2 dams are included in stormwater management. Mr. Heineman said no, those would be capital items.

Mr. Evans asked if the proposed allocation for stormwater management is for known projects that need to be taken care of or is it for state requirements. Mr. Heineman advised that Bruce Martin would be better suited to answer that question.

Mr. LaMattina stated this was a fantastic rollout of the budget, noting this is a budget where one-time funds are not being used for recurring expenses. He feels this is a sustainable budget but there will be some adjustments. Areas of growth that we have talked about are shown, even though we may not obtain all of them.

Shawn Kain, 31 Forest Street, asked Mr. Heineman for the percentage increase over the last few years for each department.

Mr. Heineman advised Mr. Kain that he does not have that figure in front of him.

At 8:06 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. **Second Mr. LaMattina, so voted 4-0.**

Brian J. Bezanson, Clerk