

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes  
Monday, November 18, 2019

At the Selectmen's Meeting held at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 18, 2019 the following people were in attendance: John Tholl, Peter Corey, and Stanley Holz participated via conference call.

A motion was made by Peter Corey to enter non-public session at 6:00 p.m., motion seconded by Stanley Holz pursuant to NH RSA 91-A:3, II (b) the hiring of any person as a public employee. Roll call to enter non-public session: Holz: Yes; Tholl: Yes; Corey: Yes. All in favor, 3-0. Motion passed.

The Board adjourned from non-public session at 6:30 p.m.

Chairman Tholl opened the meeting and led the pledge of allegiance at 6:30 p.m.

The Board met with representatives from the Morrison Hospital Association to vote on the application for a charitable exemption, pursuant to NH RSA 72:23, V, for The Summit facility. Chairman Tholl said that the Board agonized over this and spoke with our Attorney and have come to the decision that the Summit doesn't meet the charitable qualifications. We have to vote on this tonight. This doesn't come lightly and it doesn't come with any happiness. The Summit is and will be a great addition to Whitefield, but what we need to do know is call for a motion on the charitable exemption. Peter said John is absolutely correct that there is no happiness in this decision. We have worked with our attorney since the summer and based on the advice we have received and on our litmus test for the charitable exemption, the Board has reached the decision that the Morrison doesn't meet the qualifications for a charitable exemption. We find the entity subject to taxation. We all know your appeal process, and we understand that. We looked at this with an open mind and this is where we are at. We have an obligation to the citizens of the town as well as to the Summit and Morrison. We did our due diligence. Selectman Holz said that this decision effects the current tax year and the Summit will move forward with their charitable component, and hopefully they will meet the charitable exemption requirements in the future. A lot of the components are promises rather than anything that has been fulfilled. This is for the current tax year, 2019. If the charitable component progresses, the decision can be looked at again next year. John Tholl said this facility is a benefit to the residents as well as the Town. The facility is outstanding, and we have been struggling with how to go about this.

A motion was made by Peter Corey that the Board deny the request by the Summit for a charitable exemption as prescribed NH State Law for tax year 2019. The motion was seconded by Stanley Holz. All in favor, 3-0. (Roll call vote: Tholl: Yes; Corey: Yes; Holz: Yes) Motion passed.

Brian Fogg said it is unfortunate the Board has made this decision. Brian said he feels we have been led astray by our attorney. Morrison will have no alternative to litigate it. Brian said that their Board voted prior to this meeting that they are not going to pay a property tax bill. Brian said he feels that the efforts of this Board have been undermined. We both will spend a lot on litigation. It is unfortunate that the Board went with Attorney Fulton's recommendation. John said we tried to do the best we can with what we have. The Morrison has to do what they have to do.

Steve Lafrance of Horizons Engineering attended the meeting to discuss the bid results from the Trust Fund Water Project.

Steve said that they Bid the job on November 6<sup>th</sup> and had seven bidders. After speaking with the contractors, it was decided to bid it out this fall for a spring 2020 start date. Park Construction Corp. is the low bidder. Steve wanted to be sure we had enough money to do the project. The base bid was structured using his estimate of \$3.3 million and as it turned out, the low bid was \$2,864,393, \$450,000 under Steve's estimate. We can look at added alternates. We have about \$450,000 for added alternatives. Steve has discussed this with Fred over the past few months. Fred felt that the Route 116 work is more important so we are looking at Additive Alternate #3 or #4. Fred would prefer that additive alternative #3 as the additive work. This will give us a new water main from King Square up to Myrtle Street and get you under the railroad tracks. That will leave us about \$500,000 in contingency. This will hopefully be enough to then complete Additive Alternate #4. We will award the Base bid and added alternative #3 and sign a change order for additive alternative #4, which Route 116 Shirlaw Drive to Hazen Road, if there are funds available. Myrtle Street to Shirlaw Drive is included in the base bid. Park Construction is open to signing a contract for the base bid and the additive alternate #3.

Steve checked references with Park Construction don't see any reason why they wouldn't be suitable for this project. Steve has worked with them in the past.

Peter made a motion that we send a letter to Mr. Michael Unger, with the State of NH Drinking Water & Groundwater Trust Fund requesting authorization to award the construction contract for the Whitefield Water System Improvements DWGT-07 to Park Construction Corporation. The contract amount will be the base bid plus the Additive Alternate#3—Route 116 /Route 3 to Myrtle Street for a total amount of \$3,122,982. Stanley Holz seconded the motion. All in favor, 3-0 (Voice Vote: Tholl: Yes; Corey: Yes; Holz: Yes) Motion passed.

Bob's Stiles' request to hook up to the town water line at Fred's Way was discussed. Mr. Larson said he has told Bob that he needs to see an easement. Mr. Corey said he would like to see a meter pit installed at the departure from the main line. Mr. Larson said he and Fred are working on this for the Water Ordinance.

A motion was made by Peter Corey to approve an abatement on the sewer bill for Jodie & Dave England at 82 Northwoods Drive for 8,500 gallons (\$49.72), which was water used to fill their pool. The motion was seconded by Stanley Holz. All in favor, 3-0 (Voice Vote: Tholl-Yes; Corey-Yes, Holz-Yes) Motion passed.

#### Budgets:

The Board met with John Ross, Jr. Fire Chief to review his 2020 budget proposal for Whitefield Fire-Rescue. He said his increase is mainly for salaries because the number of calls keeps going up. There is an increase in the training budget, as the state has come up with centralized training facilities where they will go for bi-weekly training and weekend training, but you have to buy into it. One of the training centers is right next door at Weeks Medical. There will be a set fee for the level of service we will need training for. We are looking at the BLS level for \$2500.

John was wondering about the CIP Committee process. Actually, the CIP committee member are attending the budget session with the Board so there doesn't need to be two separate meetings. John

said he looking at getting a new set of jaws for \$10,000, and he would do the same capital reserve account appropriations as last year:

Fire Department Equipment Replacement Capital Reserve Fund: \$40,000

Ambulance: \$20,000

Establish Emergency Services Building Capital Reserve Fund: \$20,000

The Board met with Ed Samson, Police Chief to review his 2020 budget proposal for the Whitefield Police Department. Ed said his budget includes 3% salary increase to the employees in the department. Ed is finishing up the evaluations. No issues or concerns, we have a pretty good crew. He doesn't see a need for more or less for any individual. We talked about adding money in for promotions and he has added 1% to the salary line item for this. Ed said last year he went with a flat rate amount increase for his employees, but thought it was easier to go with the percentages. He is open to whatever the Board would like to do.

Ed said we are upgrading our log system with IMC. He wanted to add some money to update the logs in our IMC. We have a proposal in place and Town of Lancaster received a grant for an upgrade of their computer and data terminals, and they have offered to pick up a large portion of that cost for us. We should be able to do that out of this year's budget.

The prosecutor position was discussed and if we want to continue it as a sub-contractor position or as a part-time employee. We will check with our insurance carrier, Primex to see about adding an Indemnification Clause to the contract if we continue with it as a sub-contractor position. Chief Samson will also check to see if we have a current, signed contract.

As far as warrant articles we talked about speed enforcement signs, instead of doing a speed trailer. Ed thought it would be a good idea to get four of those signs to put in on the main roads into Whitefield. Ed said he has been approached by several residents who would like to see those installed and would be willing to spend the money on those. We will do a warrant article for \$16,000 for the purchase and installation of those speed signs. Ed is suggesting \$25,000 to put in the cruiser capital reserve account.

The Board reviewed the estimated revenues for the tax rate setting process. A motion was made by Peter Corey that we use the \$56,157, that we received from the State of NH for the municipal aid included in the biennial state budget enacted in September, to offset the municipal tax rate for 2019. The motion was seconded by Stanley Holz. All in favor, 3-0. (Voice vote: Tholl: Yes, Corey: Yes, Holz: Yes) Motion passed.

A motion was made by Stanley Holz to accept the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of the October 21, 2019, October 30, 2019, and November 4, 2019. The motion was seconded by Peter Corey. All in favor, 3-0. (Voice vote: Tholl: Yes; Corey: Yes; Holz: Yes) Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.