

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 9, 2020

At the Selectmen's meeting held on Monday, November 9, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. the Selectmen participated via Zoom:

Stanley Holz is at his home in South Carolina, maintaining social distancing.

Peter Corey is at his home in Whitefield, maintaining social distancing.

Shawn White is at his home in Whitefield, maintaining social distancing.

Chairman Holz called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Rob was wondering what we wanted to discuss about the roof at the Robinson well. Shawn joined at 6:32 p.m. The cost for the complete job is \$6,400. Rob said he allowed the expenditure of the materials. Shawn said he would rather get those things done at a regular meeting. Rob said that this was approved back in May. Shawn said the email didn't stay that.

Budgets:

WEDC:

Katie Kopp said the WEDC will be asking for \$2,000 rather than the \$5,000 they requested for 2020.

Cemetery:

Cemetery was not coming tonight, but they sent an email requesting a continuation of the amount they are currently allocated, \$32,000.

Library:

Courtney Vashaw said the actual number is \$500 less than last year because she was looking to move something around to treasurer or payroll tax, but actually we will be asking for the exact same amount as this year. We are absorbing some of the state library costs, downloadable book fees. They are asking the libraries to contribute more. She will be fixing the line to bring it back to the \$46,825. Whoever is doing fuel bids, is everything looking good for the coming year? She brought the fuel request down by \$1,500. As long as we can keep the fuel stable, we should be fine to stay at the 0% increase. She is going to fix the clerical area, so she will add that back into the Treasurer and Fuel and we will be the same as this year. No change from this year.

Planning Board:

Scott: Last couple years we have asked for \$4,500 and we would like to pump it up to \$5000 for cost of materials, postage. We did have a total of 75 permits last year. This year we are already at 75, should be over 80 permits for this year. What was taken in for fees was a total just over \$10,000. Looking to get a new computer for the planning board to use. The one she is using is

very slow at times and she does have trouble with it at times. Looking at a part-time person to help with the clerical work because she is starting to get overwhelmed with a lot of the work. Stanley asked why the increase? Costs are increasing. Peter said experiencing the planning board meetings, he doesn't know why it doesn't make any sense to delay her getting a computer. If not, add what you think you need to upgrade the computer because it slows down the meetings and creating challenges for her and for us. The revenues support the purchase of a computer. Scott said the Planning Board would like to go with \$5,000 instead of \$4,500.

Conservation Commission:

No one in attendance from the conservation commission. Their budget for this year is \$2,500 and they have only spent \$28.73. Stanley suggested putting it in at \$1000 unless they have a convincing argument for more.

Tom Ladd asked if we know if there any observances for Veteran's Day happening on Wednesday. We have not heard of anything.

Peter Corey said on behalf of the Selectboard, we would like to express our appreciation to all the poll workers. Everything went extremely well. A lot of time went into it and believes we had a record turnout. Had more volunteers than ever before, including young folks from the high school, which was great and hopes they will continue to participate. Public thanks for all of those who volunteered to make our elections go well. Thanks to Bruce and all the volunteers who took part. Stan suggested we send a letter to the election workers.

Shawn said seeing the budgets come in so far, have we talked to our department heads with shut-downs looming? We really should tighten our belts until we know what is going on. Peter and Stan agreed that is a valid point and we are concerned.

The Board reviewed some different options to the town employee's health insurance plan. The current plan cost is increasing 6.4% for 20201. Shawn thought we should keep the plan we have. Peter said it is an expense that grows every year. Looking at a higher deductible plan and if the town picked up the deductible difference, we could maintain coverage without placing additional burden on the employee. There is a slight increase in the co-pay amounts. Shawn would like some more time to review this information. We can discuss it at our next meeting, November 23rd. If we change plans, we need to let the Health Trust know by November 25th.

A motion was made by Peter Corey to approve the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of October 26, 2020. The motion was seconded by Shawn White. Roll Call Vote: Holz: Yes; White: Yes; Corey: Yes. All in favor, 3-0. Motion passes.

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.