

Minutes

Select Board Meeting – Hastings Community Center

Thursday, March 23, 2023

6:00 PM

Kimberly Clarke
Thomas Klinepeter

Jim Tyrrell
Thomas Kingsbury

Kingsbury opened the Public Hearing on an Application for Special Amusement Permit for Saco River Brewing located at 10 Jockey Cap Lane; there were no comments and the hearing was closed.

Kingsbury called the Select Board Meeting to order and declared a quorum. He introduced the Board and the Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.

Tyrrell made a motion to approve the March 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes, which was seconded by Klinepeter and passed unanimously.

Contract Assessor Bob Konczal of Atlantic Valuation Services introduced himself and provided an overview of the work that he intends to provide to the Town. The specifics of the contract, mostly in terms of timing, were discussed. Office hours were also discussed. Haley noted that the Town employees have been able to get much of the work done and will continue to prep for the tax commitment but really needs Konczal's assistance in doing the April 1st inspections and data entry. Klinepeter noted that the Board already approved his proposal to do April 1st listing work and made a motion to proceed with a 1 year contract. This was seconded by Kingsbury and passed unanimously.

The Board discussed textile recycling and reviewed the First Congregational Church Thrift Store request to place a Salvation Army donation bin at the Fryeburg Transfer Station. Clarke noted that she both donates to the thrift store and puts items in the Apparel Impacts bin at the Transfer Station for recycling and is ok with both being located at the Transfer Station. Ingrid Kellas spoke as a representative for the thrift store and noted that it was not expected that the Apparel Impacts (AI) bin would have a detrimental impact to their thrift store. She noted that the donated clothes go directly to help our community. Klinepeter stated that he thinks a donation bin on Main Street would be better, noting that people from other towns and those that contract for trash pick-up could then donate more easily. Kellas responded that a donation bin on Main St would result in the thrift store needing to shovel snow and remove junk. The potential of placing the bin at the church, rather than the thrift store was discussed. Public Works Director France stated that the only reasonable place to put a bin at the Transfer Station is right next to the existing AI bin. Linda Russell reiterated Kellas' comments about the difficulties of having the bin on Main St during the winter and about the thrift store benefiting the community. Clarke made a motion to allow Salvation Army to place a donation bin, for the benefit of the thrift store, at the Fryeburg Transfer Station, pending agreement of acceptable terms. The motion was seconded by Tyrrell and passed unanimously.

Sherri Billings reviewed the Conservation Committee (CC) request to propose a warrant article that directs Tree Growth and Open Space removal penalties to a designated account to be used by the Conservation Committee. She noted that the proposal would allow the CC to vote to spend the funds, unless it was a land acquisition or conservation easement. The CC believes that this is keeping with the spirit and purpose of the Tree Growth program. Tyrrell reviewed some specific details of the Tree Growth Program. Haley provided a 3-year history of removal penalties. Tyrrell asked if the CC should be budgeting for specific projects rather than asking for the penalty money.

There was discussion about the process of expending funds. Clarke suggested that the Select Board have to vote on expenditures that are over a certain dollar amount and suggested that having a public hearing might be warranted. Klinepeter noted that this will have an impact on everyone's taxes. Jennifer Rullman commented that the CC projects also benefit all tax payers. Clarke believes that this should go to the voters and that it makes a statement that the town values its rural community. Klinepeter would rather see additional funds included in the CC budget but will support posing the question to the town. Tyrrell made a motion to table further action until legal counsel reviews that proposed warrant article. This was seconded by Klinepeter and passed unanimously.

Department Head reports: France provided updates on the Public Works Dept ongoing work. Chief Mick relayed that traffic officer Sandy Stout represented the Police Department at the Ice Out Plunge which benefits Special Olympics. Fire Chief Andy Dufresne provided an overview of the February calls for service, training, fleet/equipment maintenance, and MEA/COVID updates. Clarke asked if there has been an increase in the number of fires. Dufresne noted that there has been a general increase in calls for service.

Clarke made a motion to approve Application for Special Amusement Permit for Saco River Brewing located at 10 Jockey Cap Lane, which was seconded by Tyrrell and passed unanimously.

Klinepeter made a motion to approve a municipal quitclaim deed to release tax acquired property (Map 016, Lot 064) back to Eric Douglass, which was seconded by Clarke and passed unanimously.

Klinepeter made a motion to approve a municipal quitclaim deed to release tax acquired property (Map 15, Lot 18) to Christine MacDonald, which was seconded by Clarke and passed unanimously.

Klinepeter made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Towns of Fryeburg and Conway for Cable Channel 3, which was seconded by Tyrrell and passed unanimously.

Clarke made a motion to appoint Elizabeth Bosworth to the School Board to fill the current vacancy, which was seconded by Klinepeter and passed unanimously.

Klinepeter made a motion to approve the proposed revisions to the Code Enforcement Officer/Local Plumbing Inspector/Assessors Assistant job description, which was seconded by Clarke and passed unanimously.

Haley had requested the review of potential credit reserve expenditures to be included on the town meeting warrant. The discussion began with planned sidewalk improvements. Clarke stated that Oxford St sidewalk needs attention and that it is negligent for the town to not fix it. Klinepeter noted that it will be completed with funds leftover from the Smith Street sidewalk, that the engineer will be looking at the best way to get that completed, and that it might get done this year.

There was discussion about the poor dial-up internet service at the Transfer Station. The town received a rough estimate of \$12,000 from Spectrum. The need for adequate internet service was discussed. Clarke suggested that Starlink be investigated to see if that would be a cheaper option.

Klinepeter suggested using all of the remaining APRA funds to offset the budget. This was discussed. Klinepeter made a motion to use ARPA funds to repair the compactor at the Transfer Station, then use the remaining funds to go towards the purchase of the F550 with plow gear for the Public Works. This was seconded by Kingsbury and passed unanimously.

There was discussion about an appropriate balance in the credit reserve. Klinepeter believes that \$1.5 million is a good balance. He would like to see a warrant article that uses credit reserve to offset taxes.

Tyrrell questioned whether it was confirmed that taxes would be going up. Clarke stated that she believes a \$2 million balance is necessary, especially given the upcoming plans to build a municipal complex. She says we need to plan for the worst and that the town will be bankrupt if we continue to spend reserve funds. Klinepeter responded with noting that our revenues have increased, and that we have funds to run the town for 3 months in an emergency and re-stated that he thinks a \$1.5 million balance is acceptable. Clarke made a motion to leave a balance of \$1,828,000, which was seconded by Tyrrell and passed 3-1 (Klinepeter against).

Haley provided her Town Managers Report. Clarke made a motion to accept the report, which was seconded by Tyrrell and passed unanimously.

Other Business: Kingsbury noted an increase in wild animal sightings in the village area.

Public Forum: Russell stated that the turnout that was promised in front of the First Congregational Church on Main Street was never constructed. There was discussion about the chain of events and ultimate decision by MDOT related to this. Haley was instructed to review the past record.

Chief Dufresne recognized Philip Remington who was recently promoted to Assistant Fire Chief in Conway.

Daymond Steer asked various questions related to previously discussed agenda items.

Klinepeter made a motion to approve Payroll Warrants #81 & 82 and Accounts Payable Warrants #83, which was seconded by Tyrrell and passed unanimously.

Klinepeter made a motion to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405(6)(C) to discuss the disposition of town-owned property, which was seconded by Clarke and passed unanimously.

Klinepeter made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Clarke and passed unanimously.

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