

**Minutes
Select Board Meeting
Thursday, January 11, 2024
6:00 PM**

Greg Huang-Dale
Thomas Klinepeter

Chiye Harper
Thomas Kingsbury

Jim Tyrrell

Tyrrell called the Select Board Meeting to order and declared a quorum. The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.

Kingsbury made a motion to approve the December 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes, which was seconded by Klinepeter and passed 4-0-1 (Huang-Dale abstained).

Department Head reports: Library Director Eastman provided a review of December library stats and of upcoming programs. Police Chief Mick noted that "Coffee with a Cop" will take place on Thursday, January 18th from 8-10am.

The Board reviewed the draft 2024 Police Department Sign-on and Retention Bonus Memorandum of Agreements. Klinepeter made a motion to approve the MOA, which was seconded by Kingsbury. There was discussion about the effectiveness of the bonuses and comparisons with other towns. Additional pay increases will be discussed as part of the budget process. The motion passed unanimously.

Haley summarized the Battleground Monument title work which determined that the Town does not own the parcel. There was debate about the request to place an additional monument on the property. Kingsbury believes that the town should not maintain the property and that it needs to be corrected on the tax rolls. Klinepeter thinks there is no reason to not maintain it and continue with the property as has been done given that it is an important part of the Town's history. Huang-Dale doesn't think that there should be a rush to change anything and questioned how it came to be listed as town property. Tyrrell commented that is more difficult for modifications to be made to the monument parcel if it is under control of the Town. Harper asked of the owners had been contacted about this. Huang-Dale said he had been in contact with them previously; he reported that they were unaware that they owned it but had no plans for the monument area. Harper believes that we should have a maintenance agreement in place and that the ownership and tax status should be corrected. After continued discussion Kingsbury made a motion to table the topic, which was seconded by Huang-Dale. Haley will contact the property owners.

Haley reviewed Brian Fram's offer related to Town property by the former intersection of Lovewell Pond Road and Pine Street; he offered to purchase the property for \$1 and he will take care of all of the survey and other necessary work to finalize the sale. Kingsbury is in favor of proceeding. Chief Mick suggested not proceeding with this; the current road arrangement is a seriously problem area, especially during after school hours. Selling the property would eliminate the potential of reverting the roads back to the way they were. This was discussed. The use of the bowling alley parking lot for pick-up after school was discussed. Tyrrell noted that Fram is making the request due to lot size restrictions that he is facing. Huang-Dale made a motion to retain the property, which was seconded by Kingsbury and passed unanimously.

Kingsbury made a motion to accept a \$50,000 grant for the Fryeburg Public Library from the Stephen & Tabitha King Foundation, which was seconded by Huang-Dale and passed unanimously. The grant is to upgrade shelving.

Haley presented some recommended ARPA expenditures as follows:

- Revise the approval to use \$10,000 for the Teen Center; the Teen Center has gotten a series of generous annual donations and currently has a healthy account balance. The newer and more urgent focus is to purchase a van to be used for the senior programming.
- Reduce the Town Office training allotment from \$17,000 to \$6,000. That training was set aside for additional assessing and bank reconciliation/auditor training. Given our transition to contract assessing and completion of audit training, it is clear we will not use the total amount approved.
- Revise/increase the computer/cloud upgrades another \$7,000; we are in the midst of transitioning to a new IT consultant. The ARPA funds will cover the onboarding fee, other items already identified by Ion as needing upgrading (Managed server for PD, ITC Firewall Switch management), conversion of town office server to a domain, and approximately \$1,500 for other expected deficiencies or necessary computer replacements.

Kingsbury made a motion to proceed with the expenditures as outlined, which was seconded by Klinepeter and passed unanimously.

The Board discussed the Municipal Complex Public Hearing held earlier in the week. Tyrrell thought it went well. Kingsbury was happy with the turn-out and presentation. He understands some of the comments about cost, but doesn't want to cut corners. Klinepeter thought Port City offered good comments and noted that facts about the existing building deficiencies get taken more seriously when they are made by the professionals. Harper appreciates getting opposing opinions but also believes that we should not cut corners. Tyrrell noted that the meeting is available for viewing on Facebook. Haley relayed a conversation she had with Stephen Smith, notably that he had concerns that voting related to proceeding with the Municipal Complex will be done at a Special Town Meeting. Haley reported that she felt it was unlikely that the Board would do so; Klinepeter confirmed this.

Haley provided her Town Managers Report. Kingsbury requested that Budget Committee meeting schedule be added to future reports. Klinepeter made a motion to accept the report, which was seconded by Kingsbury and passed unanimously.

Other Business: Harper commented on the free Community Dinner on Monday evening, being sponsored by D's Pizza. Huang-Dale relayed that he set up a meeting with Lindsay Knapp and Marianne Jackson (Gibson Center) to discuss partnerships. Klinepeter asked about the funding source for the Outdoor Learning Center; Haley reported that this is being funded by the Community Action Grant. Kingsbury thanked town employees. Tyrrell reviewed an email received from Senator Bennetts office related to a resident's questions about taxes and the proposed municipal complex and read Haley's response. He notes that if one person has these questions, then others likely do as well so he thinks it is beneficial to share the question and response.

Public Forum Daymond Steer asked questions about previously discussed topics.

Kingsbury made a motion to approve Payroll Warrants #55 & 57 and Accounts Payable Warrants #54, 56, 58, which was seconded by Huang-Dale and passed unanimously.

Huang-Dale made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Kingsbury and passed unanimously.

Date: 1/25/24

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