

UNAPPROVED

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 29, 2023

This meeting was called to order by Zeke Goodband at 6:00 pm at the Town Office in Dummerston, Vermont.

Members present: Zeke Goodband, Maria Glabach, Lewis White, Alex Wilson, Todd Davidson
Members absent:

Also present: Michelle Cherrier, Bob Spencer, Paul Normandeau, Dan Ridlehoover, Larry Pratt, David Shaw, Ezlerh Oreste-BCTV

Minutes:

On a motion by Lewis and second from Alex the Board voted 5-0 to approve the minutes from November 15, 2023 & November 22, 2023.

Warrants:

On a motion by Lewis and second from Maria the Board voted 5-0 to approve the payment of warrants 11, 11P, 11R & Cemetery Fund #1.

Warrant 11 included ARPA funds for the Highway Department for the Park Laughton Road structure engineering.

ARPA Funding: None

Public Comments:

Paul Normandeau spoke to the Board regarding proposed budget increases. He felt strongly, that a 40% increase, with many items not yet in, that the public could not afford this. He said “this was obscene and hopes the Board takes the budget seriously”. Zeke explained that the Board has always taken budgeting seriously. The increase is due mainly to wages, as our wages are not competitive with other Towns. Paul suggested considering increasing wages incrementally over several years.

Michelle Cherrier and Bob Spencer spoke with the Board regarding the WSWMD budget request and updated the Board on the activities taking place at the Waste Management District. The budget request went up 4% from \$12,800 to \$13,300. Michelle offered to come back after Town Meeting to update the Board.

The Board met with Larry Pratt, Dan Ridlehoover, and David Shaw from the Fire Department regarding their budget request. The Board had several questions regarding their budget request. The Board is inclined to include the capital requests in the Towns Capital Plan. The Board feels this would be much clearer to the public than lumping it into their line item request towards operating expenses.

Road Foreman’s Report: No report

Correspondence for Information: No Discussion

Correspondence for Discussion and/or Action:

Update regarding Salmon Brook erosion, Emergency Watershed Protection Program: Todd has not heard from any of the property owners, he will reach out again.

New Business:

ARPA Updates & Discussion: No updates.

Todd attended the meeting regarding the proposed Regional Policing Project. Signing a letter of support does not commit the Town to anything. Todd volunteered to be the representative. On a motion by Lewis and second from Alex the Board voted 5-0 to sign the letter of support for the Regional Policing Pilot Project.

Zeke acknowledged the retirement of Lester Dunklee, a long time fixture in Brattleboro & Dummerston resident.

Unfinished Business: None

There being no other business to come before the Board, Lewis made the motion and second from Maria, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

BUDGET WORK SESSION

Also present: Dan Normandeau

The Sheriff Department animal control budget meeting will be 12/5 on Zoom, Zeke will attend.

Dan spoke with the Board regarding the budget increases, specifically the diesel fuel expense line in the Highway Budget.

The Board discussed Lister and Zoning Administrator wages. Delinquent Tax Collector wages were also discussed.

Health insurance family coverage was also discussed.

The Board discussed the Fire Department request. The consensus was to include capital items in the Towns capital plan. Zeke will follow up with Larry Pratt, to see if the fire departments treasurer is available to meet at next week's budget work session, even if it needs to be on Zoom.

The General fund was updated with the insurance figures.

On a motion by Lewis and second from Maria the budget work session adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Approved

Zeke Goodband, Chair

Lewis White, Vice-Chair

Submitted by Maria Glabach, Clerk