

Selectmen Meeting Minutes-February 13, 2019

Present:

Selectman: Errol S. Peters

Selectman: Michael M. Ransmeier

Selectwoman: Jennifer L. Locke

Administrative Assistant: Robyn Gilmartin

Budget Hearing

Meeting began at 7 p.m.

Introduction of the Board.

In reviewing the proposed Warrants, questions were asked as they pertained to the Warrants read. Errol Peters read off the Warrants.

Mr. Carizzo questioned the amounts in Warrant article 7, if they are more than last year's requests? Jenn Locke responded that these are optional and can be voted on as a whole or we can create amendments within the Article to change any particular line.

Deb Erb commented she appreciated the grouping of Articles 7 and 8.

Mike Ball sought clarity that Woodsville Ambulance will transport and Lisbon is a first responder for medical emergencies. Errol confirmed.

Reg Lavoie, representing the Trustees of Trust Funds, gave a brief explanation of Article 10, referencing the closing out of two accounts.

Article 11 passed last year but was put back on the table again this year for the People to vote again, pertaining to the Lisbon Police contract.

Mike Boivin asked if there was an opinion to cut the amount of time spent on Lisbon PD.

Mr. Albright asked about emergency calls for police, The Select Board responded that reports from Lisbon and State are requested. We receive a log from Lisbon usually on a monthly basis and we have recently requested one from the State as well.

Judy Boulet asked how much is in the Transfer Station Fund now for a new compactor, Reg Lavoie responded \$2900.

Errol made another announcement from the Board concerning a culvert in Town on Sym Noyes Rd that has been red tagged by the State. This will have to be repaired or replaced in the near future. Options will be discussed. This notice is recent.

Mr. Albright asked how a culvert gets on a red tag list, Board replied that the DOT does regular inspections.

Dale Locke asked roughly how much for major culvert repairs? Errol responded roughly \$60,000. But because this just came in we will need to look into actual costs.

Mr. Albright asked if the culvert repair is something the Town can do, Select Board responded no.

On Article 16, Mr. Albright asked how this falls in with the other two Articles pertaining to Fire Services. The Select Board responded that this is not a reserve for either or, it is strictly for the LVFD.

Sandy Brackett asked how much is in the Fire Department Capital Reserve, Reg responded \$30,000.

Mike Ball asked if Lisbon Fire Dept go down Rt 112 if the Lisbon Life Squad does not, Jenn replied that we will look into this.

Jennifer Locke read off the Projected Revenues for 2019. She highlighted that a portion of the high timber tax received was held in a reserve in 2018 to offset 2019 property taxes. The projection for 2019 is not expected to have the same returns on timber tax.

Michael Ransmeier read the expense projection for 2019. Michael clarified the increase in legal expense is to cover legal fees for a utility lawsuit. A specialty assessor for utility property is needed to update those values as well and provide expert testimony for the trial for utility case.

Jason Cartwright asked how much land and tax is involved. Select Board responded that it's not the land but rather the poles and wires valued at roughly \$1,000,000, with a tax value of roughly \$20-25,000. Jason then questions why pay the legal fees then?

Mr. Albright wanted to know if the law suit intention is to protect a future tax revenue to which the Select Board agreed.

Debb Erb asked why the Building Repair and Maintenance is higher. Jenn responded that the Town Hall has a leak over the handicap inside entrance that is coming from a fault in the roof that will need to be repaired.

Brenda Dodge asked about the heat expenses for the VFD building being so high. Jason Carwright responded that repairs were done to the heating units, also a variance in delivery timing.

Brenda Dodge asked what the hours were for the Highway Dept. Robyn responded that Andy is 40 hours and Tom is 24 hours on a regular schedule, and does not reflect overtime of which Tom's hours from 24-40 try to get utilized before overtime.

Judy Boulet asks if Landaff uses salt on the roads. Andy responded yes we use a mix, but please note the roads that are State maintained may be different.

Mr. Albright asks about the spike in emergency management. The Board responded that the Emergency Mitigation Plan needs to be updated every ten years.

Brenda Dodge asked about the sand and gravel for the Highway Dept being higher. Andy responded that it would be needed for upcoming road repairs.

Brenda Dodge asked about the Welfare Assistance Policy, do we put liens on property when applicable and if we do is it on the application. Robyn responded that it is on the applications, also noting the majority of cases that come through are renters.

Brenda Dodge asked if the Highway Dept pays for road signs. Andy responded yes we do if they are Town roads.

Judy Boulet questioned stolen signs on a state road. Andy responded that we don't replace them but will follow up with the state to do so.

Jason Cartwright asked about the wording of Warrant Articles, is it necessary to label an Article as petitioned or level recommended by? Board responded that it is necessary to label an Article petitioned or recommended by the Select Board.

Doug Erb asked about any plans for a generator. Errol responded that we recently received two base quotes in, roughly \$30,000, but that the Select Board would like to know if the People would like it to be another Warrant Article for 2019 due to proposed budget increases. Grants are also being looked into to help offset the costs.

Andy Blodgett has suggested some outlets for purchasing a generator cheaper. He will forward any information to Robyn and would be willing to help with the planning process.

Denise Cartwright made an announcement of the upcoming "meet and greet the candidates", February 24th. All are invited.

Errol announced that the Select Board has thought of adding a Warrant Article for a website company to host the Town's website. Michael Boivin says please, and Gayle Clement thinks yes.

Deb Erb asked if there was a way the Town could do a complete registration so two places don't need to be visited to register a car. Gayle Clement responded that she had looked into this before and it would be costly to update our system, she will check into this again.

Harry McGovern commented that time is money and when you have to drive to another town to register a vehicle, yes please look into this more.

Mike Ball asked if a budget went in for a Fire Warden. Select Board responded that the Town needs more discussion on this matter before a budget can be added. Mike's expressed a concern for the cost of radios and any other necessities. Andy Blodgett offered what kind of range he was looking for in a radio.

Doug Erb announced that copies of the Fire Study Committee Report were available.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. The foregoing minutes were approved on February 20, 2019, by the following members of the Board of Selectmen:



Errol S. Peters

Michael M Ransmeier



Jennifer Locke