



BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
June 21, 2023

Present: Marybeth Quill, Chairman, Karl Pruter, Vice Chairman, Bob Hamilton, Selectman, Betsy Lambert, Executive Secretary. Members of the public.

Marybeth opened the meeting at the Town Office with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 p.m.

Selectmen's Announcements: Marybeth mentioned that the carpet for the Town Hall will start on Monday, June 26th. Bob mentioned that it was the first day of summer and it was also Roni and Bob's 49th wedding anniversary.

Citizen's Forum: Pat Martin presented the Board with a petition with 59 signatures. The petition requested the Selectmen allow Town Employees and Committee Volunteers, such as herself (Energy Commission Chair) to be given permission to apply for grants. The Discussion was tabled and would be discussed later in the meeting.

Consent Agenda: Marybeth made a motion to accept the Payroll & Accounts Payable for 6.15.23 & 6.22.23 and the meeting minutes from 5.24.23 & 6.07.23. Karl seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

Appointments: Karl made a motion to accept Joseph Desruisseaux as an Alternate Member for the Conservation Commission for a 3 year term. Marybeth seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

Public Hearing for Unanticipated Revenue: EMPG (Variable Message Boards): Marybeth stated this grant has been going on for about a year and the Board is ready to accept the matching funds for the variable message board. All were in agreement. Marybeth opened the public portion of the hearing. There was no input from the public. Marybeth closed the public portion of the hearing. Karl made a motion to accept \$20,000 in unanticipated revenue for pursuant to RSA 31:95-b, for the purchase of (2) variable message boards. Bob seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

Old Business:

Land Use Coordinator Position: Bob stated the public has decided the Land Use Coordinator Position would be more in line with a Planning Director and the Board would wait to hear more

from the Planning Board as to what they feel they need. The PB's next meeting is July 18th. No decision was made on the position.

ARPA - Police Academy Training: There was a discussion on whether the Town will use ARPA funds for the daily mileage for recruits to the Academy since the Police Academy is now housing recruits once again as they had been prior to Covid. Marybeth stated she would like to get a cost analysis from Chief Malynowski before a decision is made.-

Town Office Phone System: There was a brief discussion on upgrading the phone system for the Town Office. Bob and Karl stated they liked the proposal from Crexendo. CCI was costly. Craig Clark stated that CCI was more costly because the service would be a dedicated phone line, whereas the Crexendo proposal uses the Town's current internet. Bob mentioned he thought our IT rep Gregg Johnson felt having the dedicated phone line and separate internet would be the best-case scenario and he would check with Gregg. No decision was made

New Business: Marybeth mentioned Lori has submitted a grant application to LCHIP for the preservation of the Meetinghouse. Bob explained if the Town receives grant funding from LCHIP, it would allow the Town to accomplish some critical repairs/maintenance such as the painting the steeple, painting the outside of the building, repairs and paint for handicap ramp, mortar repair and painting the fire escape.

Any Other official Business to come before the Board: Karl stated he would like to continue the discussion on Pat Martin's petition regarding the grant and would like the Board to have a discussion on the topic. Pat mentioned the energy efficiency grant she would like to apply for is the same type of grant she applied for and received in 2009, adding she would include administrative fees for financial compliance in the application to compensate employees for spending time as it will need a town employee to log into the portal. It is a community block grant which is built on community efforts so it needs the support of two towns/school. She understands the hesitance of the Boards as it is a quick turnaround, but it does not commit us to a solar system.

The funds would be used for an analysis of the property to see what size solar field could be added to the property. Pat stated the grant funds would save the taxpayers money in the long run and have the potential to be a revenue source by selling power to third parties.

Marybeth stated there is no guarantee of getting funds back from the school and the property does not belong to the Town. Bob stated there are components that are unknown, including the scope and the size of the project. Bob stated he is in favor of grants, however, this one, in particular, was sprung on the Board without having enough information and the property is not Town-owned, adding the school district has not included the Town in any aspect of what is being proposed for that property. Richard Mellor stated it was just a concept that needed approval and that the petition has a good amount of signatures to support applying for the grant.

There was a discussion on whether or not the Town of Jaffrey was on board with applying for a grant on school property. Pat Martin stated purposely did not ask any town employees to help with this fearing it would place prejudice on them but we will need Lori's help in applying for the grant. Marybeth stated she was offended by that comment and no one on the Board would retaliate against an employee for something like that.

Comments from the public consisted of Jim Qualey stating he was puzzled why the Town is applying for something rather than the school district as it is their property. Karla Macleod responded stating the grant is not open to the School district but is to the Town. She explained the large portion of the taxes that go toward the school. She encouraged the Board to agree to the concept and at least attempt to apply for the grant. Richard Mellor supported and urged the Board to reconsider their decision, adding this will tell the community IF the property has the capacity to support the solar field and how big. It could be a huge cost savings to the whole community not just saving the school's energy bill. Judy-Unger Clark stated it is a "grassroots effort" and the Energy Committee has put forth much effort on a potential solar project and it is needed. She does not understand the Board's hesitance to move forward and investigate the possibilities, adding that opportunities for a cooperative project are there. She also encouraged the Board to go forward with the consent. It would be a positive effort to collaborate with Jaffrey to save the taxpayers money. She feels Jaffrey would be on board with it. Bob mentioned reaching out to a Selectmen in Jaffrey on this.

Marybeth stated she agreed 100 % with Jim Qualey and Bob's comments and she closed the discussion. Karl added one more comment that it is a feasibility study for the property and the Board should consider it as it could be the start of huge savings for the taxpayers. Karl made a motion to allow consent and allow the Energy Commission to move forward with the grant. The motion failed with Marybeth and Bob not in support.

Bob stated he was shocked when he saw the payment schedule for the School district as the monthly amount the Town will pay to the school each month has increased by 20%. He also noted Rindge is paying \$ 1,136,292 a month, and Jaffrey's portion is \$891,000. Bob also noted that Rindge has 539 students and Jaffrey has 696 students. Karla asked if any studies have been done to rectify this. Bob stated there was a committee in the two Town a couple of years back but it failed.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Lambert