



**Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
December 27, 2023**

Present: Marybeth Quill, Chair, Bob Hamilton, Selectman, Lori Rautiola, Town Administrator, Laurie May, Finance Director, Mike Cloutier, DPW Director, Members of the public. (Karl Pruter, Vice Chair-absent)

Marybeth opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing-Unanticipated Revenue

Marybeth stated the hearing was being held to accept unanticipated revenue for the Special One Time Bridge Payment in accordance with HB 2 for maintenance of bridges in the amount of \$29,837.29 and the Special One Time Highway Payment also in accordance with HB 2 for Class IV and V Highways in the amount of \$49,824.39. Marybeth opened hearing to the public at 10:01 a.m. Tom Coneys asked where the money came from and Director, Mike Cloutier explained it was from the State and he plans on using the funds to cover the curbing project around the Rindge Common. There was no further public comment. Marybeth closed the public portion of the hearing to enter into deliberation at 10:04 a.m. Bob made a motion to accept the unanticipated revenue in the amount of \$29,837.29 and \$49,824.39 pursuant to RSA 31:95-b. Marybeth seconded the motion and it passed 2-0.

2023 Encumbrances: There was a discussion on the Solid Waste Line. Director Mike Cloutier stated it was over budget and proposed taking funds \$50,000 from the Highway budget which was under budget due to the loss of a full-time employee and encumbering money from the building line. Mike also noted last year's diesel and electric were budgeted high because of inflation and there is money left to encumber if needed. He recommended carrying forward the extra funds to install a new septic system at the Meetinghouse as this would free up ARPA funds which could be used towards other priorities.

There was a discussion on the Police Budget and if any funds were left to encumber. Laurie May calculated about \$35,318 left in the budget, again, due to loss of officer and vacant positions. It was noted to use funds from the budget to carry forward and pay for new radar units for the vehicles. The amount quoted for radar units was \$16,075.

It was also noted that the Board was looking to carry forward \$10,000 from the 2023 warrant article for the Rec. Department Energy Proposal which was approved by the voters, but the work was being held up due to the proposals being over budget. It was recommended to the Board carry forward the \$10,000 and to allow Eversource to fund the other half with the NH Saves Incentives.

Bob made a motion to carry forward \$10,000 for the Rec Department Energy warrant article, \$288,016 in ARPA funds, and the Highway Block unanticipated revenue \$29,837 and \$49,824 plus the \$150,314 from last year to go towards the curbing project around the common for a total of \$527,991.68. Additionally, encumber the \$16,075 from PD wages for the radar units, and \$50,000 from the Buildings line to go towards the new septic at the Meetinghouse. Marybeth seconded the motion and it passed 2-0.

Dwight Schenk was present to explain the perpetual care accounts the Trustees of the Trust Funds hold and what was discovered while researching the old perpetual care accounts for maintenance of the cemeteries. He explained there was a way to allow the funds to be withdrawn from each individual account, but the



Trustees must leave a percentage in the account at all times. It was found that the Town can withdraw from each account and may be able to reduce the cemetery budget by about 80% in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Rautiola