

Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
January 3, 2024

- 5:30 p.m. Non-public session pursuant to Article 91-A:3 (b) hiring
- 6:00 p.m. Public Meeting/Pledge of Allegiance at the Town Office  
Marybeth Quill opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance.

Selectmen's Announcements: Bob Hamilton had several announcements: Retired chief Frank Morrell passed away. Wake and services will be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> from 3 to 6 at the Hope Fellowship church in Jaffrey. POOR meat raffle is this Saturday and will start around 1:30 pm at the VFW in Jaffrey and is being co-sponsored by the Jaffrey-Rindge Education Foundation. There is hope that the Franklin Pierce football team may be there to help out. Retired General Dan Bulduk recently graduated from the police academy and was their most senior person to have ever graduated and is currently working as a police officer. He has long been a friend of Rindge.

Consent Agenda: Accounts payable questions for 12.28.2023 were satisfactorily answered so Marybeth made a motion to accept the consent agenda for payroll and accounts payable for 12.28.2023 and 1.4.2023. Seconded by Bob and passed 3-0.

Minutes for 11.29.2023 MB had questions on the Rec RFP and will reach out to Laurie May so was tabled. MB said she was perfectly fine with 12.13.2023 and 12.20.2023 minutes. Karl agreed. Bob made a motion to accept the 12.13.2023 minutes. MB seconded passed 3-0. Bob said he sent some edits and asked for an attachment to the minutes of "pretty much a letter" that was presented by a citizen during citizen's forum. It be tabled.

Old Business: ARPA updates: ARPA has an unspent balance of \$96,000. Karl asked that we reevaluate what we want to spend the balance on and review list. MB pointed out that we have freed up moneys as we were not using ARPA for the MH septic. Money will come from encumbered buildings and highway. We will ask Rick to update the ARPA list for future review. Related we encumbered moneys for the Radar. Lori R. to schedule ARPA review.

Citizens Forum: Craig Clark – On Saturday the RVA had Larry Cleveland's group pick up the flags and wreaths at the cemeteries. Question: Have we hired a planning director? BH responded the planning board is working on it. Roni

Hamilton: Could we postpone next week's meeting or at least not have a non-public as there will be a wake for Frank Morrel. BOS agreed to not have a non-pub so BOS members can attend wake at Hope Fellowship church. Roberta Oeser asked if the pay plan was being updated. Laurie May assured her it was.

Budget: Two cuts were made by fire and PD. \$10,000 from Fire Call and police from fuel by \$7516. Radar was reduced by \$16,075 from cruiser supplies as funds were encumbered. Code enforcement is reduced to \$12,000 from 13k.

Concom has a \$5000 (111%) increase for maintenance that BH suggested should be funded by Concom funds.

Cemetery can now access trust fund income for cemetery maintenance and so we are reducing the cemetery maintenance by almost \$5600 cutting maintenance line to \$1500.

Welfare: MB proposed that we use the interest earned on welfare funds to supplement the welfare budget. \$14,846 is available this year. We will reduce the amounts for fuel rent and electrical assistance to \$1000 and draw from an account that Laurie May will establish to house the Accrued interest. Welfare will be reduced by \$11,350.

Technology: Reduce computers by 2 saving \$2358. Rachel will let us know whether we need a pricey or cheap laptop for her court requirement. MB stated that we need to verify the number of software subscriptions for computers needed. BH we need to inventory cell phones and stipends and who's using Firstnet and get a handle on it.

Rec Dept.: MB Reach out to Dan Bemis and find out why less salary is being taken out of revolving fund and not more. The board agreed to bring the budget line back to \$12,100.

Town Clerk: We agreed to keep salary flat until experience meets pay level.

Budget pay adjustments: Phil Motta Argued that interfering with the Dept heads recommendations and trying to save a few percentages is not worth the risk. There was a long discussion on colas and adjustments.

Budget increase verses default: Discussion on tolerable gap between proposed budget and default and what can be in the default budget. MB proposed an increase of 5% or \$5,289,085 or \$226,404 over default. Her concern is that if the budget is too high it will not pass. Karl argued that when you take out uncontrollable increases such as the ninth office and health care there is only about \$94,000 in discretionary changes. BH asked for the figure from LM after subtracting the cuts we made tonight. \$5,356,234. BH was concerned that a straight 5% increase would not address the dept head requests. MB agreed that the call member's rates should go up but many of the other increases are very big. Board agreed to propose \$5,356,234.

There was a further discussion over colas and possible step reductions.

#### New Business

Energy Efficiency Incentive: Eversource has applied for an energy efficiency incentive that will eliminate the excess cost of the program. BH made a motion to accept the EEI. Passed 3-0

Police Chief unused vacation hours: proposed payout for unused vacation time she was unable to use at the end of the year. BH motion KP second Passed 3-0

Gifts to police: BH proposed that gratuities to departments can be accepted if they are given to and approved by the town. Passed 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karl Pruter, Vice Chair