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TOWN OF WINDHAM, NH
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
May 22nd, 2023
Community Development Department
3 North Lowell Rd.
Approved Minutes

8 Attendance:

9 Chairman Ross McLeod- present
10 Vice Chair Heath Partington- present
11 Mark Samsel- present
12 Bruce Breton- present
13 Roger Hohenberger- present

14
15 Staff:

16 Brian McCarthy- Town Administrator

17
18 Announcements:

19
20 Mr. Samsel mentioned the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 29th at 9:30 am; there will likely be
21 traffic delays in the area of North Lowell Road and Cobbetts Pond Road due to the parade.
22

23 Mr. Samsel also mentioned the tour of the caboose and story time at the caboose located at the rail trail
24 near the junction; Mr. Samsel also wanted to thank the police for the detail and there was also a large
25 crowd present at the event.
26

27 Chief McPherson stated that there was a brush fire at McIlvaine Forest reported on Tuesday at about 5
28 pm. Firefighters located the brush fire at about 6 pm. Fire fighters were pulled out of the area at about 8
29 pm. Fire fighters spent the entire day the next day managing the fire. According to Chief McPherson,
30 access was difficult and he wished to thank their mutual add partners; they started at Bayberry Road on
31 foot and walked all the way to Osgood to locate the brush fire.
32

33 Chief McPherson also mentioned the jet ski loaner program. New England Motor Sports of Maine of
34 Lebanon, Maine is loaning the jet ski in order to do boater safety checks which will be done with the jet
35 ski and it will be ready for any water safety needs they might need.
36

37 Chief Caron addressed the Board to ask about the purchase request for cruisers. Chief Caron stated that 2
38 of the vehicles were misquoted from the dealer Chief Caron stated that the vehicle is \$591.71 more
39 expensive than quoted per vehicle, yet, this would be under budget. The cars are in stock at this dealership
40 and it would be a wait of 3-4 months if they went with another dealer.
41

42 Mr. Hohenberger does not like to have vendors not be forthcoming from the beginning about the cost of
43 vehicles.
44

45 **A motion was made by Mr. Breton to allow the chief's request as stated. Breton. Seconded by Mr.**
46 **Samsel.**
47

48 The Board discussed that they are not happy with the increase in cost but they are also not in favor of the
49 delay.

50

51 **Vote 4-1. Motion passes. Mr. Hohenberger opposed.**

52

53 The amounts discussed by the Board and Chief Caron were \$44,674.74 for one of the vehicles and
54 \$45,266.44 for the other two vehicles.

55

56 Assessing

57

58 Mr. Paul McKinney addressed the Board to discuss several properties.

59

60 Lot 8-B-6200

61

62 \$120.51 is the amount listed for the permit. Mr. McKinney stated it would be 6.45 thousand square feet of
63 timber.

64

65 **A motion was made by Mr. Samsel to issue the timber cut warrant for Lot 8-B-6200 as**
66 **recommended. Seconded by Vice Chair Partington. Vote 5-0. Motion passes.**

67

68 Lot 8-B-500

69

70 Mr. McKinney reviewed the estimate for the harvesting of timber on this lot. Mr. McKinney stated that
71 the amount would be \$2,683.86 and then listed the estimated harvest on the property for the Board.

72

73 **A motion was made by Mr. Samsel to issue the timber cut warrant for Lot 8-B-500. Seconded by**
74 **Mr. Breton. Vote 5-0. Motion passes.**

75

76 Cemetery Bid

77

78 This has been withdrawn for this evening. The town administrator has more information.

79

80 Community Development Department

81

82 Mr. McCarthy addressed the Board to discuss the road acceptance for Sheffield Street. \$25,012.80 is the
83 amount that would be released once the road is accepted. Sheffield Street would then be a public road.

84

85 Community Development asked that \$500 be added to the escrow account to cover any outstanding
86 review fees and iron pins are being replaced by granite bounds according to Mr. Mello in a memo.

87

88 **A motion was made by Mr. Hohenberger to release the bond and accept the road for Sheffield**
89 **Street from station 43+00 to 73+00 and to hold back \$500 (escrow account) and also accept the road**
90 **pending the iron pins being replaced by granite bounds. Seconded by Vice Chair Partington Vote 5-**
91 **0. Motion passes.**

92

93 Windham Local Energy Committee

94

95 Mr. Allen Reed addressed the Board. There is a local energy committee here in Windham. Mr. Reed
96 discussed a law that was passed by the New Hampshire State House to buy power in bulk for their
97 residents. "The ask", according to Mr. Reed, is going to be for some money. Residents can stay with
98 Eversource or they can choose to buy their energy from the town. Mr. Reed stated that all the cost is up

99 front; all residents buy in and they can opt out and opt in. Mr. Reed stated that there would be a potential
100 savings based on residents interested is saving money on their default rate but also saving on the
101 consumption of greenhouse gases. Mr. Reed stated that the initiative is an attempt to lower the cost by
102 buying in bulk and to eliminate the predatory pricing by buying your electric rate from the company.
103

104 Mr. Reed stated that all of these options are cheaper than the current rates from Unitel and that nothing
105 goes into effect unless the residents approve it.
106

107 Mr. Reed is looking for an approval from the Board to proceed. They would be looking for the Board to
108 agree to the communication agreement.
109

110 Mr. Reed is looking for an approval of \$5,000 for attorney review of agreement; They are looking to
111 approve \$5,000 for the committee and that committee would sunset once the project is complete.
112

113 Mr. Breton asked how many towns were part of the program. Mr. Reed stated that they need to convince
114 towns of the benefits. And there are currently 10 towns that are part of the program but there are many
115 more towns than that in the state. Mr. Reed stated that there has been one cycle of the rate of change in
116 other towns and they have locked into a one-year program. The first city to be a part of the program was
117 Keene.
118

119 Mr. Samsel asked when the rate change would be. Mr. Reed stated that there was one city that opted out
120 of the program of Massachusetts, Haverhill.
121

122 Mr. Hohenberger stated that he likes to go out to bid on projects. The Board discussed representation on
123 the Board. Mr. Hohenberger asked if a resident would lose his contract with his provided before he can
124 opt in. Mr. Reed stated that he is not sure. Residents will be able to opt out.
125

126 Mr. Mark Kovacs addressed the Board. There is no more than 30 days notice and there is no penalty. Mr.
127 Kovacs stated that there is flexibility for the rate payer whenever they find it convenient.
128

129 Vice Chair Partington stated that for most people this would help save money and he does think it will
130 benefit the vast majority of taxpayers.
131

132 Chairman McLeod stated that he would be in support of the next steps this evening. Mr. Reed stated that
133 they go out and looked for the rates throughout the country and look for rates based on that information.
134 Mr. Samsel would like to see the Power Point from the organization. Mr. Kovacs stated that
135 Peterborough, Nashua and Rye are part of this program. The Board discussed being able to have a
136 discussion with the coalition at some point.
137

138 **A motion was made by Mr. Samsel to allow staff to pass the document from the Local Energy**
139 **Committee on to the town's attorney and have him or her review the proposal and with the**
140 **condition that there be an amount of up to \$2,000 to be expended for the legal review only.**
141 **Seconded by Vice Chair Partington. Vote 5-0. Motion passes.**
142

143 Finance /TA McCarthy
144

145 Mr. McCarthy reviewed the bid award for the ambulance and the police cruisers. Ms. Padykula , per a
146 memo, recommends the leases over the next 5 or 6 years with the following rates and terms. The
147 recommendation from Mr. McCarthy would be to accept the bid from Government Leasing Company for
148 a total amount of \$604,127.55 which would be paid in 3 installments from 2023-2025 at a nominal
149 interest rate of 4.5% saving the town \$20,000. If approved, it would go to legal and if it is approved they

150 will send it in. The amount budgeted is currently under this price.

151

152 **A motion was made by Mr. Hohenberger to award the bid to Government Leasing at an interest**
153 **rate of 4.497% pending legal review. Seconded by Mr. Breton. Vote 5-0. Motion passes.**

154

155 Request for Mapping (E911)

156

157 Mr. McCarthy discussed the State-wide contract to map our town by technology funded by a state grant
158 program. They will be delivering their first round of draft maps to be used by the town.

159

160 **A motion was made Mr. Hohenberger to allow the New Hampshire Board band dating for E911**
161 **and giving the town administrator the ability to sign the release. Mr. Samsel Vote 5-0. Motion**
162 **passes.**

163

164 The New Hampshire Department of Environment Services to collect the fish at the Canobie Lake Boat
165 Launch on the free fishing day to better understand the impact of PFAS and other chemicals. NH DES
166 would set up on the property.

167

168 **A motion was made by Mr. Hohenberger to allow Dartmouth College and the New Hampshire**
169 **Department of Environmental Services to set up and collect fish on the free fish days for the**
170 **purpose of collecting data. Seconded by Mr. Samsel. Vote 5-0. Motion passes.**

171

172 Town Election Date Change (Potential)

173

174 Chairman McLeod stated that Tuesday, May 20th and Thursday, June 22nd would be potential dates to
175 meet with the School Board and the moderator. May 30th was also mentioned as a potential date.

176

177 The Board discussed that the following people would need to be involved in the discussion: the School
178 Board, the 2 moderators, the general public and the town clerk, and the road agent.

179

180 This would be a meeting for a change in the town meeting date.

181

182 Mr. Peter Griffin addressed the Board. Mr. Griffin stated that Ms. Bottai, the town clerk, has a file
183 regarding the 2017 election, there is a list of reasons why it cannot be changed as of 2017.

184

185 The Board is going to try to push this date back as it would be a Tuesday after a long weekend and there
186 were some items that would need review.

187

188 Mr. Wayne Morris addressed the Board and asked if they could put the public notice in the paper, Mr.
189 Morris stated that a lot of the information is from New Hampshire Municipal Association. The Finance
190 Director will also be present at the meeting regarding the election day date change.

191

192 Minutes

193

194 Public Draft

195

196 **A motion was made by Mr. Breton to approve the May 1st (2023) draft minutes as amended.**
197 **Seconded by Vice Chair Partington. Vote 5-0. Motion passes.**

198

199 **A motion was made by Mr. Hohenberger to approve the May 9th, 2022 draft minutes. Seconded by**
200 **Mr. Breton. Vote 4-1-0. Mr. Samsel abstained as he was not on the Board at the time.**

201 **A motion was made by Mr. Hohenberger to approve the May 23rd, 2022 draft minutes. Seconded by**
202 **Mr. Breton. Vote 4-1-0. Motion passes. Mr. Samsel abstained as he was not on the Board at the**
203 **time.**

204
205 **A motion was made by Mr. Hohenberger to approve the June 6th 2022 draft minutes as written.**
206 **Seconded by Breton. Vote 3-0-2. Motion passes. Mr. Samsel (not on the Board) and Mr. McLeod**
207 **abstained (not in attendance).**

208
209 **A motion was made by Mr. Hohenberger to approve the June 22nd, 2022 draft minutes. Seconded by**
210 **Mr. Breton. Vote 4-0-1. Mr. Samsel abstained as he was not on the Board.**

211
212 Non-public Drafts

213
214 **A motion was made by Vice Chair Partington to approve the June 20th 2022 non-public draft**
215 **minutes. Seconded by Mr. Hohenberger. Vote 4-0-1. Mr. Samsel abstained as he was not on the**
216 **Board.**

217
218 **A motion was made by Vice Chair Partington to approve the April 17th non-public draft minutes.**
219 **Seconded by Mr. Hohenberger. Vote 5-0. Motion passes.**

220
221 The Board discussed the RSA 91A: 3 II (b) for this draft.

222
223 (There were 2 sets of non-public that were discussed by the Board.)

224
225 **A motion was made by Mr. Hohenberger to approve the April 17th, 2022 non-public draft minutes**
226 **that were sealed and occurred that evening to include the RSA 91A: 3 II (a), (c) and (e). Seconded**
227 **by Mr. Breton. Vote 4-1. Vice Chair Partington opposed.**

228
229 **A motion was made by Mr. Hohenberger to approve the May 1st, 2022 non-public non-sealed draft**
230 **minutes. Seconded by Mr. Breton. Vote 4-0-1. Motion passes. Vice Chair Partington abstained.**

231
232 **A motion was made by Mr. Breton to approve the May 9th, 2022 non-public draft minutes.**
233 **Seconded by Mr. Hohenberger. Vote 4-0-1. Mr. Samsel abstained as he was not on the Board at**
234 **that time.**

235
236 The May 23 and June 6th, non-public drafts from 2022 will be taken up in non-public for approval.

237
238 **A motion was made by Mr. Hohenberger to go into non-public under RSA 91A-3 II under (b) (c)**
239 **and (d). Seconded by Mr. Breton. Roll call vote: Chairman McLeod, Vice Chair Partington, Mr.**
240 **Breton, Mr. Samsel, and Mr. Hohenberger. Vote 5-0. Motion passes.**

241
242 Respectfully submitted by Anitra Lincicum