

Town of Groton
Select Board Work Session Minutes
October 4, 2022

In attendance: John Rescigno, Tony Albert and Sara Smith (Administrative Assistant - AA)

Absent: Ron Madan

John called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

John motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a) and (b) at 4:30pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to return to public session at 5:00pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

John motioned to seal the non-public minutes, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Meeting with Carol Miller on Broadband

Carol could not attend so this meeting was rescheduled for November 1, 2022 at 6:00pm.

Memo from Sara

Sara submitted a memo for time off. The Select Board approved her time off.

Nail concern

There were two more posts about nails in tires and one of the people emailed the Select Board. Sara read the email to the Select Board. The Select Board asked Sara to email her back and thank her for letting them know and inform her that they are still monitoring the situation.

Sara brought up that at the last meeting the concerned resident asked the Select Board if they would come up with a plan if a hazard like this was to happen again. Sara mentioned that we haven't had an emergency management meeting in a long time and should try to schedule a meeting with Bill and Patti to discuss hazards like this, flooding if it were to happen again, the EOP, etc. The Select Board agreed that we should set up a meeting and will talk to Bill at the budget meeting to see when this works for him. It was agreed we should try to have these meetings every six months.

Quote for Town House work

Coursey and Sons submitted a quote for the repairs at the Town House. The quote is for \$27,500.00. This includes all work and materials but excludes paint. This also doesn't take into consideration that once they start taking rot off around windows and doors it could be worse than they can see from just looking at it. Also, another company SB Custom Homes came and looked at everything today and will be sending a quote over.

There is \$33,749.66 in the Town House Capital Reserve Fund. The Select Board agreed that we should wait for the second quote and then we should start doing the work as soon as possible since there is money in the Capital Reserve Fund. We can put money back into it at Town Meeting.

Budget Meetings

Moderator's Budget

Amy Prive-Hardy attended to discuss the moderator budget. This is her first time doing the budget and being moderator so she asked for assistance with the budget.

Moderator Salary

The Moderator recommended an increase of \$140.00 making it \$640.00.

Workshops/training

The Moderator recommended an increase of \$99.00 making it \$100.00. It was agreed to increase this to \$200 since she will be attending more trainings.

Mileage

The Moderator recommended an increase of \$74.00 making it \$75.00. It was agreed to increase this to \$200 since she will be attending more trainings.

Ballot Clerks/Counters

The Moderator recommended an increase of \$435.00 making it \$2035.00. It was agreed to decrease this to \$1,000. Sara had mentioned that Pam put a request for an increase for all election officials from \$11 to \$12. Amy said that Pam had talked to her about this as well. The Select Board agreed the hourly rate should be increased and will discuss this.

Assistant Moderator

Stayed the same

The Select Board is okay with the Moderator budget as is.

Library Trustees Budget

Library Trustees didn't feel there was a need to meet since everything is staying the same.

Wages

Stayed the same

Library expenses

Stayed the same

Other Concerns:

There were no concerns with the library budget.

The Select Board is okay with the library budget as is.

Cemetery Budget

Jim Gaffey attended the meeting.

Repairs & Maintenance

Stayed the same. Jim did note that there will be repairs needed to falling monuments at Rolfe Cemetery; he is hoping to get this done this year but if not, it will be next year.

Wages

Stayed the same

Supplies

Stayed the same

Mileage

Stayed the same

Fuel

Stayed the same

Advertising

Stayed the same

Site Work- River Rd Cemetery

Jim proposed an increase of \$1,000.00 making it \$1,500.00. He is waiting for an estimate from Alan Barnard for survey work. Alan needs more information from Jim regarding this.

Other Concerns:

The Select Board said since there is money left in the budget this year, if he can do the work this year that would be best. If it cannot be done this year but he can get a contract we can encumber the funds. Jim said the only other concern is there are some stones falling over that need to be fixed that he mentioned earlier that he will also try to do this year but it may be next year.

The Select Board was okay with the Cemetery budget as it is.

Treasurer Budget

Pam Hamel was unable to attend but is willing to meet later if the Select Board would like to.

Stipend

The Treasurer recommended an increase of \$600.00 making this \$3,600.00. She is requesting \$50 a month increase. A number of changes have taken place over the last few years that has added to the amount of time she spends on the books. We have gone to the one check vehicle registrations system which has added a significant amount of time to balancing the books at the end of the month as well as daily ACH transfers that require either Sara's or her approval. In addition, we are now accepting CC payments online for registrations and taxes as well as accepting CCs at the window. This has also significantly increased the amount of time taken each month to balance the books. The Select Board agreed with this.

Deputy

Stayed the same

Mileage

Stayed the same

Supplies

Stayed the same.

The Select Board was okay with the Treasurer budget as is.

Supervisors of the Checklist Budget

Pam Hamel and Virginia Parker were unable to attend but Gina did attend.

Town Elections

The Supervisors requested an increase to \$432.00. As Sara mentioned during the Moderator's meeting, Pam had noted to please consider an hourly raise for all election workers of \$1 per hour, from \$11 to \$12 per hour. This increased amount listed is based upon an increase of \$1 per hour (from \$11 to \$12 per hour). After more discussion, the Select Board feel that we should increase it to \$15 per hour to make it worth people spending the day here and maybe we would get more help.

The Select Board said if there is money in the budget we can do the increase this year, if not we will do the increase next year. Sara will check the budgets to see where we are at.

After the discussion to increase the election pay to \$15 per hour, this line was increased to \$515.

Town Meeting

The Supervisors proposed an increase to \$216.00.

Wages: State Primary

There is no State Primary this year.

Federal Election Primary

The Supervisors proposed an increase to \$528.00. There was a note that in order for NH to maintain it's "First in the Nation" status, currently the Federal Primary is scheduled for 1/30/2024 but this is subject to change based on other states schedules.

Wages: November elections

There are no November elections this year.

Pre/Post Election Meetings

Stayed the same

Training

Stayed the same

Mileage

Stayed the same

Supplies

Stayed the same

The Select Board was okay with the Supervisors budget as is.

Conservation Commission Budget

Gina Rescigno attended to discuss the Conservation Commission budget.

Conservation

Stayed the same

Workshops/Seminars

This was decreased to \$275.00.

Postage/Supplies

Stayed the same

Mileage

Stayed the same

Other/fishing derby

This was increased to \$1,000.00.

Water Testing

Stayed the same

Other Concerns:

The Select Board was okay with the Conservation Commission budget as is.

Meeting with Bubba

Bubba met with the Select Board to go over the following:

- Bubba stated that they still haven't taken the tree off the line yet and Spectrum and Consolidated have both been contacted. Tony also called. The Select Board said that since they have been contacted and an orange safety barrel has been put out there that we just leave it as is for now. Sara will reach out to them again. The Select Board does not want Bubba to move it because if anything happens when he is moving it the Town could be liable and right now it isn't affecting anyone's service at this time.
- They put the sanders in the trucks and the plows are painted to get ready for winter.
- Sara explained the letter for the driveway concern was mailed on Tuesday September 27, 2022. We have not heard from them yet. Bubba said they have not called him yet either.
- The orange truck needed a new clutch so this work was done.
- The red international is at the dealership due to a check engine light. It is under warranty.

Having no other business to conduct, John motioned to adjourn at 6:50pm, Tony 2nd, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Smith
Administrative Assistant