

Selectboard Minutes

March 7, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 11:45 AM by Ann Marie Visconti, Chair, with Curt Robie and Tamarin Laurel-Paine were in attendance as well.

Mark Doane, Administrative Assistant was also present. Town residents present were: Louise Harlow, Maureen Longobardi, Kenneth Murray, and Adair Laurel-Cafarella. There was difficulty in being able to access ZOOM.

A discussion was held between Curt Robie and Ken Murray concerning the plans for the Senior Center Repairs. The contract was awarded to the low bidder, who hopes to begin the work in April. Ken also felt more than one person should have been reviewing the plans. Ken asked if spray foam will be used as the insulation choice, which Curt reported as yes.

A Moment of Silence was held for Duane Pease, former Town Assistant, who recently passed away.

Under public input, Ken Murray felt the Selectboard Agendas would be easier if the Selectboard would share information with the Finance Committee. Maureen Longobardi agreed with Ken and stated it would be nice if we all worked together. Ann Marie reported that she did attend the most recent Finance Board meeting, however, Town Council recommended, due to the Open Meeting Law, that she not speak during the Finance meeting. Ken then brought up the letter from the attorney Ann Marie referenced. Ken stated that since Ann Marie read "Towns are bound by things voted." Ken replied "so we don't need to change where it goes" referencing remaining Town Hall floor money. Ken took issue with the wording of the ATM vs the STM vote. Ann Marie stated the Town residents will decide.

Discussion then turned to the Articles for the Special Town Meeting. Article 1, concerning funds remaining with the Town Hall Floor project and which account those funds should be placed in, amounted in a rather lengthy discussion, and the discussion also included amount in free cash. Much of the discussion occurred around an April 13, 2024 STM, where it was voted to put any remaining floor funds into the General Stabilization Account. KP Law was contacted during the discussion, who stated that accounts that are closed out generally go into general funds. This discussion then went to how the ARPA funds were used. The attorney reported that the final decision of where money goes, with the exception of Grant monies, is up to the voters. Tamarin then brought up to the attorney that the letter he sent noted a problem with the funding source not being specific, but was specified in the warrant article and discussion of that Article. Tamarin then reported that the minutes failed to mention that. Tamarin asked what the best practice is for having the minutes reviewed by anyone other than the Town Clerk before becoming final. The attorney recommended that the minutes be sent to the Selectboard for review, however, by law the minutes belong to the Town Clerk.

Discussion on Article 2 was held concerning the Senior Center Repairs. Curt stated that more money would be needed to continue working on the Senior Center building. The Finance Committee recommends going in smaller project increments for repairs. Curt responded stating to Adair if he

wants to run the Town, he should get voted onto the Selectboard. Tamarin felt that allocating more funds should be put off until the bid work is completed, and then formulate details of the next project. Ann Marie saw both sides but wishes to leave the article on the warrant.

The discussion on Articles 3 and 4 was about the increase in amounts from the prior version of these articles. This increase in funds was due to the tariffs being imposed by the Trump Administration. Adair asked if three bids were received for the Grapple and the Power Washer. He then handed out the by-law about getting 3 quotes on any item costing \$4,000.00 or more. Curt recommended tabling the discussion until they could talk to the Highway Superintendent. The Highway Superintendent was able to address these concerns later in the meeting. He reported he had reached out to three companies and only Quality Fleet responded with a quote. Craig company will re-quote when they learn the effects of tariffs. WRAP money will cover a portion of the Grapple cost, and the Power Washer will be requested from Free Cash.

Articles 5 & 6 were discussed regarding the Senior Work-off program and the Veteran Work-off program. It was reported via the Town Accountant, that other towns have the assessor's office oversee the program. The Town needs to decide other aspects of the program such as physicals, CORI checks, etc. This article was revisited later in the meeting. The Town Accountant reported that these programs need to be voted on every 2 years. If a person is going to do manual labor, it would be best to check with the town insurance company to see if any restrictions would need to be put in place.

Article 7 was discussed due to needing funds to pay the Accountant Firm for submitting Schedule A. The accountant recommending using end of year funds from other accounts to pay what is owed to the accountant for the rest of the fiscal year. The Finance Committee states they will not vote for transfers for this to occur. The Finance Committee recommends using Free Cash to fund this.

Article 8 was discussed concerning paying a broker fee for the post office. This is from a prior year, and after Town Council reviewed, and it is a one-time fee, and recommend paying it. The accountant also stated it does not appear the post office has paid the contracted amount.

While the accountant was on the phone, an extensive discussion occurred about the new truck and the funding of it. After much back and forth, the accountant will write up an appropriate warrant article. The accountant also estimated the truck borrowing costs and interest being at about \$25,000.00.

Discussion then turned to a new playground for the Town Center. Contact has been made with 3 different Playground Companies. The money for the playground is proposed to come from the Sarah Dickson Fund. The Highway Superintendent is also getting quotes on a fence for safety at the playground. The finance committee stated they need forty-five days to review any financial item being brought up at the Town Meeting per the By-laws.

Discussion was held about doing a full audit of FY 25, which will also capture the beginning balance at the end of FY 24.

It was reported that interviews for Town Administrator are occurring on March 8, 2025, beginning at 9:00 AM. Curt reported he contacted the lowest bidder for the Senior Center Repairs; to assure he was comfortable with his bid. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the lowest bid of Gill Building Corporation DBA Renaissance Builders. Garaventi has been in to begin repairs on the lift to the stage. They will be back to finish work when parts are available. We will then need to have it inspected by the State. Van Zandt Plumbing has been in to repair flushometers in the restrooms. Henshaw Well will be replacing the pump in well, as the current one is not operating appropriately. The Selectboard will be tag teaming with the Finance Committee on the pre-STM meeting on March 20, 2025.

There being no further business to come before the Selectboard, it was declared closed at 2:10 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark W. Doane, Administrative Assistant

Ann Marie Visconti, Chair: _____

Curt Robie, Member: _____

Tamarin Laurel-Paine, Member: _____