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SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES

November 18, 2020

Chairman Pitt called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Present were Selectman Nelson, Ellen Smith, Town Administrator and David Aiken, RTC.

David Aiken was in for his monthly update. There was a discussion about the reconfiguration of the facility and the challenges that project poses, especially at the current site. A member of the Budget Advisory Committee asked for some information about recycling. Mr. Aiken provided the information he had.

Mr. Aiken reached out to NRRA and NHDES and gathered some information about engineering firms that may be able to provide some guidance. It was also recommended that visiting other recycling facilities may offer some ideas as well. The Board noted that this would be a long range project and something that would take a good amount of planning and research.

Thanks to Ecosmith Recyclers of New Boston, there is a new clothing collection container at the RTC.

Mr. Aiken left the meeting at 10:45 and Selectman Paight joined.

TA Smith presented the 2020 preliminary tax rate to the Board which was \$32.65 as compared to the 2019 rate of \$31.47. The details are as follows:

	<i>2019 Rate</i>	<i>2020 Preliminary</i>	<i>2020 Final</i>
Municipal	6.72	6.48	5.30
Local - Education	18.58	19.83	19.83
State - Education	2.07	2.10	2.10
County	4.10	4.24	4.24
	<i>31.47</i>	<i>32.65</i>	<i>31.47</i>

The Selectmen strongly believe that having a tax increase of any kind during the pandemic could be a hardship for many taxpayers. The NHDRA allows the Selectmen to use Unassigned Fund Balance to lower the tax rate. Every time the Board takes this action there is less in our reserves for unexpected expenditures, for example the 2008 ice storm. The municipal rate was lower than last year at the preliminary tax rate stage, however, both the school and to a lesser degree the county, increased.

Selectman Paight moved and Selectman Nelson seconded a motion to use \$208,000 in Unassigned Fund Balance to offset rate increases caused by the school and county, vote to approve was unanimous. The Board would like a stuffer to be included in a tax bills explaining this decision.

The Board reviewed health and dental insurance renewals for 2021 noting that there is a 6.4% increase in health insurance and no increase in dental. Selectman Paight moved and Selectman Nelson seconded a motion to renew medical and dental insurance plans for 2021 with HealthTrust, and further to authorize Chairman Pitt to sign on behalf of the Board, vote to approve was unanimous.

Motion to enter Nonpublic Session made by Selectman Nelson, seconded by Selectman Paight, under RSA 91-A:3, II(c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to include any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant. Roll Call vote to enter nonpublic session Chairman Pitt - Yes, Selectman Paight – Yes, Selectman Nelson – Yes, motion passed. Entered nonpublic session at 12:00 pm.

Public session reconvened at 1:30 pm. Motion made to seal these minutes made by Selectman Nelson, seconded by Selectman Paight because it is determined that divulgence of this information likely would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this board. Roll Call Vote to seal minutes Chairman Pitt - Yes, Selectman Paight – Yes, Selectman Nelson - Yes, motion passed.

Selectman Paight moved and Selectman Nelson seconded a motion to adopt the Water Ordinance and the Sewer Ordinance, vote to approve was unanimous.

Selectman Paight moved and Selectman Nelson seconded a motion to approve Meeting Minutes of November 4, 2020, vote to approve was unanimous.

Selectman Nelson moved and Selectman Paight seconded a motion to approve the November 19, 2020 Accounts Payable Register in the amount of \$40,496.34, Payroll Check Register in the amount of \$455.60 and the Direct Deposit Register in the amount of \$9,570.51, vote to approve was unanimous.

The Board approved and signed the following items:

- Yield Tax Levy – 20-287-01-T & 20-287-05-T
- Permit Applications Map 05-019 & Map 12-054
- Cemetery Deed – Way
- Cemetery Deed – Thomas

The Board of Selectmen waived the cost of the cemetery deed for Deputy Fire Chief Steve Thomas as a small gesture of appreciation for his years of dedicated service to the Town of Marlborough. The Selectmen also hope to work with members of MFD to establish a permanent memorial.

Selectman Nelson moved and Selectman Paight seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:05 pm, vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Smith, Town Administrator