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SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES

February 18, 2020

The Meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Chairman Pitt. Present were Selectman Paight, Selectman Nelson, Ellen Smith, Town Administrator, Jeffrey Miller, Bob Sweet and Teresa Horne.

Chairman Pitt started the meeting off by explaining that there are a lot of things we need to get straightened out before the library expansion project takes place. We need to understand how each of the groups will work together and how the money will flow. The expansion was slated to be a 2021 project, however, as soon as the Attorney General's Office confirmed that the principal in the Mary Lodge Fund could be spent by the Library Trustees, the project became a 2020 project. Unfortunately, the Town was unable to include the gross budgeting activity in the Town Warrant as there would not be enough time to properly post and hold the required public hearing.

The Town recently completed the addition to the highway garage. That project was on a much smaller scale than the one being proposed for the library. During that project, the contractors and or Director of Public Works were at the Board of Selectmen's meetings each week going over the progress, ironing out details and keeping the job on track.

In order for this project to be a success we need to understand who will manage the construction. Mr. Sweet said that the Trustees are responsible. It is the Town's position that the Selectmen are the stewards of town buildings. Who will be the bursar? The Trustees say the Friends of the Library will be. It is the Town's position that this is a Town project involving a town building. Mr. Miller asked what specific information was needed and when. The Selectmen have been asking questions and discussing their concerns with the Library Trustees for years. There are still some major unanswered questions. Mr. Miller asked how do we make sure the project will move forward this year? Mr. Sweet suggested an amendment at Town Meeting to increase the budget by \$800,000 with the understanding that there will be offsetting revenues in the form of donations and grants. NHDRA requests that any known proposed amendments be reviewed by them ahead of time.

Mr. Miller will email TA Smith the proposed amendment to be passed on to NHDRA for review.

There was discussion about the flow of funds from the Friend's and Trustees of the Trust Funds to the party that will be disbursing the funds.

In order to move the meeting along, Selectman Nelson moved and Selectman Paight seconded a motion to approve the Library Board of Trustees proposal for construction, upon receipt of private funds to fully offset the cost of construction expenditures provided the Board of Selectmen has general oversight of the 1,500 square foot addition to the Frost Free Library and improvements to the current structure, vote to approve was unanimous.

The group agreed that after Town Meeting once the dust has settled, there needs to be a great sharing of information. This will clarify who is responsible for the disbursement of funds and how will the bidding be done. What is the contingency budget? Who will approve and manage change orders? What are the site challenges and how will they be overcome?

Mr. Sweet, Mr. Miller and Ms. Horne left the meeting at 11:35 am.

Selectman Paight moved and Selectman Nelson seconded a motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 3, 2020, February 4, 2020, February 6, 2020 Budget Public Hearing, February 6, 2020 Bond Public Hearing and February 11, 2020, vote to approve was unanimous.

There was a brief discussion about adding a warrant article to increase the Veteran's Credit. It was decided that since the goal of this year's budget season was to reduce the tax rate there will not be an article added this year.

The Board signed the following items:

- Electrical and plumbing permit application for Map 14-031
- Intent to Cut – Map 07-008

Selectman Paight left the meeting at 12:00 pm.

Motion to enter Nonpublic Session made by Chairman Pitt, seconded by Selectman Nelson, 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 Nelson yes. Motion: PASSED. Entered nonpublic session at 12:10 pm.

Public session reconvened at 2:20 pm. Motion made to seal these minutes made by Chairman Pitt, seconded by Selectman Nelson 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 Nelson yes. Motion: PASSED

Chairman Pitt moved and Selectman Nelson seconded a motion to recess the meeting at 2:20 pm until 9:00 am Friday February 21, 2020, vote to recess was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Smith
Town Administrator