



## OFFICE OF SELECTMEN

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### **SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES February 22, 2023**

Chairman Paight called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Selectman Pitt and Selectman Nelson were present. Also in attendance were Ellen Smith, Town Administrator, Craig Cashman, DPW Director, Roland Veaudry, Dustin Franco members of the Library Board of Trustees, 150 Committee, and Friends of the Frost Free Library.

The Board of Selectmen accepted the resignation of Bob Sweet from the Building Advisory Committee. Selectman Nelson moved and Selectman Pitt seconded a motion to appoint Julie Farhm to the Building Advisory Committee, vote to approve was unanimous.

Chairman Paight began by stating that the Board of Selectmen voted at their January 4, 2023 meeting that they "will not support a warrant article to raise taxpayer money for the Frost Free Library Addition and Renovation Project". Town Counsel advised against negotiating anything but the overall cost of the project with the low bidder as anything further could be seen as unfair bidding practices.

Chairman Paight continued by saying the Library Board of Trustees, at their last meeting, discussed options moving forward with the funds currently available.

TA Smith asked if the donors would support a scaled-down project or if are they only in favor of moving forward with the project as it currently stands. Jeff Miller read from the informational flyer what improvements would be part of the project, these included the following:

- Meeting space for 65 people
- Expanded children and young adult spaces
- Removal of the bathroom from its current location and construction of new ADA-compliant restrooms
- Universal accessibility
- Additional parking

The group thought coming up with a plan for what is possible with the approximate \$1,000,000 available and proposing it to donors, or a segment thereof would be an appropriate next step. To do so, Chairman Paight will be scheduling a meeting of

the Building Advisory Committee. The Committee was unable to gather a quorum at the last meeting so Chairman Paight sent out an email to members explaining that those originally appointed to the Committee may no longer be able to commit the time and may wish to resign. Jackie Leahy agreed to talk to the Friends about a new representative.

Maia Beh and Mike Wilber joined the meeting at 10:25 am.

The deadline to award bids is March 1. With no chance of raising the funding gap by then, Selectman Pitt moved and Selectman Nelson seconded a motion to reject the 4 bids received on February 7, 2023, from the following contractors:

- Hutter Construction
- Seppala Construction
- Triple Construction
- Turnstone Corp

And further, the reason for the rejections is that the bid amounts exceed the available funds. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Ham Richardson, Electrical Inspector joined the meeting at 10:45 am. Everyone left the meeting except for the Board of Selectmen, TA Smith, Mike Wilber, Maia Beh, Jeff Miller, Roland Veaudry, and Dustin Franco.

Ham brought to TA Smith's attention a few weeks ago a potential hazard of power lines currently located over the playground at the Marlborough School. The playground needed to be relocated from the wellhead area to the current site. Ham has been working with Eversource to develop a plan to run the lines underground. To do so, several large pine trees between the playground and the ball fields need to be removed. Dustin Wilcox of Wilcox Tree Service has offered to take down the trees, remove the debris and grind the stumps at no charge to the town. Selectman Nelson moved and Selectman Pitt seconded a motion to grant permission to have the trees removed at no cost to the town, the vote to approve was unanimous. TA Smith will email members of the school administration and coordinate to have the trees removed while the school is out of session.

At 11:00 am Ham, Mike, and Jeff Miller left the meeting.

Selectman Nelson moved and Selectman Pitt seconded a motion to approve the meeting minutes for February 14, 2023. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Selectman Nelson moved and Chairman Paight seconded a motion to approve the February 23, 2023, Payroll Check Register in the amount of \$90.96 Direct Deposit Register in the amount of \$11,392.85, and Accounts Payable Check Register in the amount of \$31,897.39. The vote to approve was unanimous.

The Board reviewed and signed the following items:

- Building and Electrical Permit Application 02-069
- Electrical Permit Application 07-030-1

Maia asked some questions about the budget and town meeting process moving forward.

TA Smith had been asked if Juneteenth was a paid holiday. After some discussion, the Board agreed to follow the State of NH in saying it is not a paid holiday.

Maia left the meeting at 11:35 am.

The Board discussed issuing a proclamation honoring Dottie Wilcox's 101 birthday.

Mike Wilber rejoined the meeting at 11:45 am as the Board had a couple of questions on a permit application.

At 12:10 pm Mike, Roland, and Dustin left the meeting.

TA Smith explained that the warrant is in for pre-review with NHDRA. Once it is finalized the warrant and MS 636 will be printed for the Board's signature and posting on Monday, February 27, 2023.

The town report is almost done, and TA Smith will distribute a draft by the end of the week.

Selectman Nelson moved and Selectman Pitt seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:50 pm, the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Smith, Town Administrator