

TOWN OF TEMPLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

SELECT BOARD

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday, January 26, 2021

Via Zoom Call

6:30 PM

Select Board members on the call: George Willard, Bill Ezell, and Ken Caisse

Other Attendees: Connie Kieley, Jessica Hipp, Christine Robidoux, Bruce Kullgren, Gail Cromwell, Vivian Wills, John Kieley, Honey Hastings, Linda Bollinger, Tim Fiske & Carole Singelais.

Meeting called to order by Caisse at 6:30 PM.

Chairman Ken Caisse Remarks:

- *Caisse reminded participants that the meeting was being held electronically pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, Section 8, Emergency Order #12, Section 3.*

Public Comment: None

Old Business:

- **Marsh Litigation Update:** No update.
- **Discuss Elderly & Disabled Income & Asset limits & Warrants:** Caisse stated we needed to review the income and asset limit amounts on the elderly exemption in order to allow more people to be eligible for the credit. Temple currently has the minimum allowed which makes it difficult for anyone to qualify. Caisse motioned to increase the Income limit for single from \$13,400 to \$30,000, and from \$20,400 to \$45,000 for married, and to increase the asset limits from \$35,000 for single to \$50,000, and from \$35,000 to \$75,000 for married. Ezell and Willard agreed and Ezell seconded the motion. Roll call vote was unanimous in favor. Regarding the disabled exemption that was approved at the previous meeting, Willard evaluated 25 surrounding towns and suggested we adopt an income limit of \$15,000 for single and \$25,000 for married, and an asset limit of \$50,000 for single and \$75,000 for married. Caisse made a motion to approve these limits, Willard seconded. Roll call vote was unanimous in favor. The select board assistant will forward to town counsel to review and to write the warrant articles.
- **Next Steps with Town Land Use Committee recommendations:** Tim Fiske stated he wanted to address people's concerns tonight regarding the TLUC committee's recommendations. Fiske stated the committee's task was to do the research, make recommendations, and set up public forums to present the plans to the town's people. Fiske stated in the past not many people participate in forums and wondered if we may get more people with zoom meetings. Fiske stated the moving of the highway department seemed to be the item that raised the most concern and he reminded everyone that this issue has been on the CIP list for years and felt the time to start is now. Creating the warrant articles and getting the public to vote will indicate what they ultimately want. Fiske spoke to how the committee came up with the chosen location for the garage to move to, and he

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noted that the CIP committee had combined all 3 articles into one to simplify. Fiske mentioned the issues with the Highway department's current location as being very congested during meetings and events which is dangerous and he noted there is very limited parking. Fiske also stated that some of the feedback received mentioned preparing visual architectural drawings for people to see what it will look like. He noted they cannot do this or any site work unless they have money to do it with. Dan Cournoyer spoke as an abutter of the highway department, and noted that he liked the building right where it was. He feels that people would like to know the price tag before voting. Fiske stated we cannot get a number until we spend some money on site work, architects, and engineer's first. Ultimately Caisse decided to table this conversation for now and get back to it later after we discuss the Town Meeting dates.

Ezell updated the recent governor's executive order which authorizes the town to delay town meeting up to July. Kullgren stated he spoke to the municipal association about the emergency order and discussed possible options and noted that the school ballot is moving forward. He noted a 3 part option utilizing zoom and drive up voting. Kullgren noted maybe we should contact town counsel before moving forward. Jessica Hipp added that we don't need to delay the date for Broadband. The committee has worked out a schedule that can work without a delay. Robidoux added that they don't know yet what the application deadline will be and feels that if they delay the meeting past April, they are at risk of missing the current opportunity to get broadband up and running.

John Kieley commented that the CDC is predicting an upswing in infection rates and that Temple has far exceeded his expectations and strongly suggests the Select board push the meeting back to July in order to allow more people to get vaccinated and the meeting can be held outdoors where it is easier to social distance. He mentioned he went through the budget looking for potential problems if the meeting was delayed and found nothing important except that with all the new firefighters, there will be healthcare cost increases for physicals which is important to continue with. Ezell spoke about spending and how it would work on a delayed meeting model. Kullgren noted the decision to delay will be the select board, the town clerk, and the moderator but recommends postponing to June or July.

Hastings provided an update on the state of NH vaccination standings noting that due to lack of supply, we don't know when people will be getting the vaccination. Caisse decided to defer the decision for tonight. Caisse said the select board, town clerk and moderator should meet and he noted that he is worried about the broadband funding deadlines stating we have been fighting for this for 2 years and we are so close. Connie asked if the board could meet in a week since a lot of hearings hinge on this decision. The board decided to meet next Wednesday via zoom at 6:30 to continue discussion on delaying town meeting.

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- **Clarify 2.5% rate increase voted on Jan 12:** Ezell clarified that the recently voted pay increases were for town employees and salaried town people and were a cost of living increase. Caisse motioned to clarify that the 2.5% increase voted on Jan 12 was for bookkeeper, board assistant, tax collector, town clerk and the 3 highway employees. Ezell seconded, roll call vote as unanimous in favor.
- **Appoint Tom St. Cyr to Village Green committee:** Gail Cromwell noted that Tom was appointed to the Historic district committee at the last meeting and said he would like to withdraw his request to be appointed to the Village Green committee. Tom's fiancé Mackenzie Arndt applied for the position instead, therefore, they asked for her to be appointed. Caisse motioned to appoint Mackenzie Arndt to the village green committee with a term to 2023. Ezell seconded, roll call vote was unanimous in favor.
- **COVID19 Update:** – John Kieley provided an update stating the vaccination schedule has been moving back and that sadly people are not signing up for the vaccine. He noted Temple has had 3 dozen cases and hoped that town meeting will be delayed. He also asked why the Red Cross was being allowed to use the town hall for their blood drive and felt that this was a mistake. Ezell said yes we approved that use due to the shortage of blood and the need for the Red Cross to find locations to hold their blood drives. He noted they will be following all the COVID protocols and will clean up after the event. The board assistant noted we have not heard back from them and there is currently no scheduled time for this to happen.

New Business:

- **Broadband Update:** – Jessica Hipp updated that the revised RFP with the updated % of coverage, was ready for select board approval. Ezell read the document and said it was straight forward and saw no problems. Caisse motioned to sign the document, Ezell seconded, roll call vote was unanimous in favor. Christine noted there were a lot of proposed deadlines and hearings which will change if town meeting is changed. Additional meeting dates were discussed for the Select board and Broadband committees to meet to discuss which RFP should be selected.
- **Appoint Mike Flynn to the CAC and Broadband committee:** – Jessica noted that the committee would like to appoint Mike Flynn to these committees and noted he has already done some volunteering and attended some meetings. Caisse made a motion to appoint Mike Flynn to the CAC and the broadband committee. Willard seconded, roll call vote was unanimous in favor.
- **Rec Dept – Discuss amending the 2010 Warrant Article re: Revolving fund & Receiving donations:** – Ezell noted that once a warrant article passes at town meeting, you cannot amend it. You would need to redo a warrant article to amend the previous one and vote at town meeting. Caisse mentioned we can ask legal counsel or the municipal association, what kind of account we need for recreation that will allow them to expend their own funds and take in donations. Vivian said the treasurer sent her some information and she understands they are fine having the revolving fund the way it is, they just need to have the warrant article amended. Vivian Wills said they have 3 different

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financial avenues and she hopes they will just need to correct the wording. Ezell reminded they would need a warrant article to set up the expendable trust. Vivian noted that the DOR has given advice. Vivian added she wants to be clear and clean on this. Who has expenditure authority for the trust was also discussed. Vivian confirmed it is the select board. Ezell said you have to write up the warrant article and be specific on the wording.

- **Review accounting transaction for Cemetery plot purchases:** – Caisse motioned to approve the revised letter to the Trustees of the trust fund that states an AP check will be cut and mailed to Trustees of the trust fund for 4 cemetery lots sold. Ezell seconded, roll call vote was unanimous in favor.
- **Solar Permit – Raczek:** – Caisse motioned to approve the solar permit application for Raczek. Ezell seconded, roll call vote unanimous in favor.
- **Approve LUCT bill – Gehly:** – Caisse summarized the events of the lot line adjustment and made a motion to sign the LUCT bill. Willard seconded, roll call vote was unanimous in favor.
- **Mark Salisbury – Hoop barn tax exemption:** – Caisse mentioned that hoop barns are tax exempt and the board had previously chosen to keep them as tax exempt. In 2019 Salisbury was taxed and had to file for an abatement. Caisse wanted to put it in writing somewhere that these hoop style removable barns are tax exempt. Ezell mentioned he is not sure how we will do this and suggested we bring it up to the planning board and maybe amend the zoning ordinance to cover the hoop barns. The board assistant will send a note to the planning board to look at the zoning ordinance.
- **Vote to change date of Budget Hearing to Feb 11th** – Caisse motioned to change the budget hearing date to Feb 11th at 7pm via zoom. Ezell seconded but noted that if we move town meeting, it will change this date. Roll call vote was unanimous in favor.
- **Discuss Town Meeting date:** This item was postponed for now and a special select board meeting was scheduled for Wednesday Feb 3rd to decide if and when to postpone town meeting.
- **Review GRD 2021** – Linda Bollinger asked if she could hold a virtual Good Roads Day in 2021 and offered some suggestions and asked the select board for feedback. She noted they would be suggesting small family pod activities, small groups to rake and garden. Also she asked if they could leave supplies outside the Library for folks to use. Bollinger also mentioned they would like to make it fun and have people send in pictures and their experiences to be posted on our town website. Caisse said he had no problem with the virtual event however participants must bring their own tools but ok to leave gloves and trash bags. Ezell and Willard also approved the event. Linda will speak with the Library about leaving supplies and with the road agent about use of the town dumpster which was off limits last year.
- **Review Select Board annual report:** - Ezell provided a draft version of the submission. Willard motioned to approve the Select Board town report draft. Caisse seconded, roll call vote was unanimous in favor.

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Caisse asked if we were going to answer the TLUC recommendations for warrant articles now or wait until Wednesday. Willard stated he was a little conflicted and noted interest in the CIP committees recommendations, but regarding the 3 warrant articles discussed before, if the budget committee is suggesting deferring the police cruiser, highway truck, etc. we should also defer these warrant articles until next year. Ezell stated we are not deferring those items until next year, just until town meeting. Willard made a motion to defer the TLUC warrant articles until next year. Kieley suggested that Willard is deferring important town projects and needs to be consistent with his conservative posture and noted the budget committee has not even discussed those deferrals and noted the state is allowing towns to defer town meeting that's all. Caisse noted we will wait and discuss further on Wednesday. Robidoux noted she supports the CIP warrant articles proposed by the TLUC and felt it would set a bad example to voters not to move forward. Ezell agreed and said this has been talked about for decades and we need to let the voters decide.

- **Review Meeting Minutes January 12, 2021**– Caisse motioned to approve the January 12, 2021 minutes as amended. Willard seconded, roll call vote was unanimous in favor.
- **Meeting Adjourned:** 8:51 PM. Motion by Willard, second by Ezell, roll call vote Ezell yes, Willard yes, Caisse yes.

Next Select Board Meeting: Wednesday, February 5, 2021 at 6:30 PM. Remote numbers will be provided in the event we are still handling meetings remotely. Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Carole Singelais