

TOWN OF TEMPLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

SELECT BOARD

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

Town Hall

6:30 PM

Select Board members present: George Willard, Bill Ezell, and Ken Caisse

Other Attendees: Mike Madden, Chris Wells

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

Chairman Comments: *None*

Public Comment: *None*

Old Business:

1. **Code Enforcement Officer, Parking/Zoning Fee structure update** – *No update*
2. **Investment Policy update** – *No update*
3. **Radar Signs** - *No update*

New Business:

- **Fire Dept – ARPA Fund use:** *Fire Chief Clark was unable to attend the meeting and therefore deputy chief Caisse commented on his behalf stating that the fire department has quotes on fixing 4 dry hydrants around town and adding one new one. Approximately \$17,500. The new one will be placed near the pond at Bens new maple sugar facility. Caisse noted using funds from the ARPA account would be preferred. Ezell noted there are currently no requests to use the remaining balance of \$20,500.00 and he has no problem with this request. Therefore, Ezell moved to allocate up to \$17,500 from the ARPA funds for the Fire Dept. to repair 4 dry hydrants and add one new hydrant. Willard seconded the motion, Caisse abstained, motion passed.*
- **Con Com – West Property conservancy:** *Madden introduced Chris Wells, executive director of the Piscataquog Land Conservancy. Madden noted the Conservation Commission has voted to contribute \$15,000.00 to support the West property conservation easement project. Madden stated they are looking for the board to sign and notarize the executory interest document which has been reviewed by the select board and their attorney. Madden noted a public comment hearing is scheduled for March. Madden asked for contingent approval to spend the \$15,000 commitment. Wells added that when a town committee donates money, some towns including Temple, must take a legal interest in the property. Well explained what all that meant. Ezell and Caisse stated they had no problem signing the document. Ezell moved to sign and notarize the executory interest document tonight with the contingency that if this does not go forward after the public hearing, they will withdraw their approval. Caisse seconded, all were in favor, the document was signed and notarized.*

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- **Con Com – School House Meadow budget** : Madden noted the survey has been completed. The final drawing was sent to the board and he feels it is complete. Madden noted they are still waiting on the language for what the conservancy deed will look like. Madden noted he sent the board the estimate and noted it will be in the 25-30K range which is paid for by the Con Com fund. He noted there will be a public meeting in March for this. Madden asked for contingent approval to pay the conservancy fee at the conclusion of that hearing. Madden noted they wanted to pay the surveyor prior to the public hearing. The board discussed the process to pay the surveyor agreeing they should be paid prior to the hearing.
- **Derek & Denise Long – Bldg. permit/easement**: - Ezell noted that the permit application does not meet the boundary limits. The road frontage was also missing from the application. Ezell stated they formally reject the application due to possible set back issues and an incomplete application, and referred them to the ZBA. Caisse noted if the lot was pre zoning, it may be grandfathered.
- **Sullivan/Harrison Bldg. permit – Moran Rd**: The board signed the permit however noted that the 36+ boundary needs to be verified.
- **Review Cert. of yield tax & warrant – Beaudoin** – The board signed the paperwork.
- **Occupancy permit – Golden-Barn-Blood Rd.** – The board signed the permit.
- **Occupancy permit- Walsh-Garage/ADU – Mountain View**- The board signed the permit
- **Occupancy permit – Roper – Barn- Old Rev** - The board signed the permit
- **Approve Select Board Meeting Minutes January 9, 2024**: Ezell moved to approve the select board minutes from January 9, 2024 as amended. Willard seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion passed.

Other Business:

1. **Review warrant Articles** – The board reviewed the 2024 warrant articles and recommended all of them except the closing of Powers bridge. Caisse noted this may result in the Fire Dept. having to go through Wilton to respond to an emergency call. The Fire Chief will talk about this at town meeting.
2. **Rec Event on the town common** - Ezell moved to allow the recreation department to hold a craft fair on the town common in May. Caisse seconded, all were in favor.
3. **Acknowledgement** – Ezell moved that they thank Russ Huntley for his donation of his surveying services to the town which valued \$2,000.00. Willard seconded, all were in favor.
4. **COLA Increases** – Ezell noted he has told the BAC they would like to provide a 2% COLA increase to all eligible town employees. Willard noted Peterborough is getting 4%. Ezell noted the budget is up 6.5% and employees received a lot last year. Caisse agreed with 2% adding that he would like to do more however they need to watch out for the taxpayer and he hopes to be able to do more next year. Ezell moved to grant a 2% COLA increase to all eligible town employees. Caisse seconded, and noted we need to add the supervisors of the checklist to the eligible list. Ezell noted he has requested this change.

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All were in favor, motion passed. Ezell noted election workers and other roles need to be reviewed next year for salary increases. Caisse noted we should be getting lunch for the election workers who are at the polls for 12+ hours. Dinner is provided. Ezell added that everyone is asking to change the election hours. The board discussed options and Ezell moved to change the election hours from 7am to 7pm to 8am to 7pm except during the presidential elections which will remain 7am-7pm. Willard seconded the motion, all were in favor. Ezell will write up the warrant article.

Committee Updates:

1. SAC – Willard noted there was a meeting on January 25th which had just enough people to have a quorum. Willard noted that Kimberly Saunders was congratulated for becoming one of 4 candidates to receive NH Superintendent of the year. Willard noted their budget is \$56,749,000. Willard noted health insurance and transportation were up. The average cost per student is 22K per year and they are still working on the consolidation and reconfiguration but there was no one there to speak against it. Ezell noted Temple pays 32K per year. Something is wrong with that. Willard noted the consolidation plan will be on the warrant and he hopes people do not support it.
2. Police – Ezell noted the budget was reviewed and it did not change. Ezell added the Budget hearing is Thursday February 8th at 6:30.

Non-Public Session :

Meeting Adjourned: Motion to adjourn by Caisse, second by Willard, Meeting adjourned at 7:17 PM

Next Select Board Meeting: The next select board meeting will be held on **Tuesday February 13, 2024** at the Town Hall main room at 6:30pm. Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Carole Singelais