

MINUTES

SPECIAL EMERGENCY SELECT BOARD MEETING THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2022 ONLINE VIA ZOOM AND TOWN HALL STREAMS 6:00 p.m.

Select Board present: Adam Fuller, Martha Johnston-Nash, Josh White, and Bill Lombardi

Others present: Jay Feyler (Town Manager), Erik Amundsen, Joel Wentworth, Sr., Christine Simmonds (Courier Gazette), and others

- 1. Call Select Board Meeting to Order:** at 6:00 p.m. by Adam Fuller.
- 2. Approve the special warrant dated January 6, providing funding to the Thompson Association:**

Adam said he assumed the board members had all seen the formal request from TMA (Thompson Memorial Association) that Paul wrote out and signed, for the funding to basically operate the building until the town vote on January 25.

The warrant is for \$5,000 as discussed at the last meeting. Adam said Paul feels that with the tenant and donations for oil delivery, this will definitely get them to January 25.

Jay read aloud a caveat, saying the above expenditure has not been approved by the voters of Union, and we understand we could be held personally liable. He also read aloud a release of all liability for the Town Manager and Treasurer.

Josh feels there's been enough support to show the town wants to get this to a vote, and \$5,000 is a reasonable amount of money to run the building for three weeks to get it to the 25th when people get a chance to vote on it.

Adam doesn't like the idea of it, though \$5,000 is not a lot of money and this should get before the voters – as it is a contentious issue with long-term ramifications, not something the board should decide unilaterally. He appreciates the waiver at the bottom.

In answer to a question from Christine Simmonds, Adam said we are essentially taking this \$5,000 from the General Fund. If the voters approve funding the building at the January 25 vote, the money will be put back into the General Fund. If they do not, "we've just burned up \$5,000." Christine then asked if this \$5,000 is part of the \$30,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance in the warrant; Adam said yes, that \$30,000 would pay back this \$5,000.

Select Board Special Emergency Meeting Minutes – January 6, 2022

Bill clarified it's not that we are going to spend \$30,000. We are asking for authorization to spend up to \$30,000. We believe that, due to the profound and sincere efforts of the new nonprofit TMA board, we will come in under that figure. The \$30,000 figure is almost like a reserve, a worst-case scenario. We are not going to just go write a check for \$30,000 because it's on the warrant. TMA will be very judicious getting this to a town vote in June.

Adam noted Jim Justice, though absent, had said he agreed with this \$5,000 expenditure.

Motion to approve \$5,000 to operate the TCC through January 25 by: Bill Lombardi

2nd by: Josh White

4-0

3. Adjourn:

Motion by: Bill Lombardi

2nd by: Martha Johnston-Nash

4-0

Meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo
Secretary