

MINUTES

SELECT BOARD MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2022 ONLINE VIA ZOOM 6:30 p.m.

Select Board present: Jim Justice, Martha Johnston-Nash, Josh White, Bill Lombardi, and Adam Fuller (arrived at #6)

Others present: Stacey Parra (Town Clerk), Jim Murphy (Assessors' Agent), John Gibbons, Gail Hawes, Erik Amundsen, and others

- 1. Call Select Board Meeting to Order:** at 6:31 p.m. by Josh White.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Public Comment:** None.
- 4. Approve Minutes of Tuesday, March 1, 2022:**

Motion by: Bill Lombardi
2nd by: Martha Johnston-Nash
4-0

- 5. Approve Treasurer's Warrants dated Tuesday, March 15, 2022:**

Motion by: Jim Justice
2nd by: Martha Johnston-Nash
4-0

- 6. Tax abatement (Jim Murphy):**

Jim presented information on 1073 South Union Road, DED, LLC c/o Grace Cloutier.

Motion that "The abatement application is denied based on the findings of fact and discussion. The applicant did not present sufficient information to indicate that the valuation is manifestly wrong. The assessed valuation of \$68,000 is actually less than the '\$275,000 for arable land' as requested by the applicant in Line 8, therefore the assessed land valuation is appropriate" by: Bill Lombardi
2nd by: Josh White

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Amended motion to include findings of fact as presented by the Assessor as part of the above motion by: Bill Lombardi

2nd by: Josh White

5-0

7. Town Manager's Report: None.

8. Other Business: None.

9. Committee Reports:

a. Broadband

John Gibbons said they confirmed with LCI's Alan Hinsey that they are working on a ConnectME grant for unserved addresses in Union. If successful, this will result in about a 50% increase in road miles of fiber currently in the town. One of the requirements of the application is a demonstration of active community support; this consists of much of what the committee and the board have done over the last year or so. They submitted a status report. Successful awards should be announced by mid-April. The Coalition is still focused on securing funding.

b. Aging in Place in Union

Bill said Thursday is the St. Paddy's Day luncheon. They no longer have a chair. He brought up a needs analysis for the community and asked for guidance as to how to move forward with the Aging in Place Committee at this point. There will be an in-person meeting April 1, William Pullen meeting room.

c. Future of the Thompson Community Center

Martha said they had a meeting last night. Each group reported in. They looked at all the information gathered and discussed it.

Gail said they are cleaning up the data. There has been so much work by so many people. Rebekah plans on doing a narrative to start with. Subgroups have been working together to collate the data, and each subgroup will do a presentation. Rebekah will get an outline to the board including data as is with questions that have been asked, some answers, and the board will be able to pitch in.

d. Green Space

Josh said they met last Wednesday and discussed things to ask people in the community who have preserved their own property, whether through conservancy or deed restrictions. Next meeting is March 23. They requested funds for a survey.

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e. TMA Report

Erik Amundsen said they had a meeting last night. Rental requests are coming in. The gym is open 8 a.m. to noon each morning. They have walkers, basketball, and baseball (Little League signups/tryouts) March 16, 20, and 24 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. They have line dancers and rentals from those who are there. By April 14 they will have the sprinkler system hooked up to the alarm. The sprinkler system will go directly to Seacoast. The elevator will be wired to 911 in case of emergency. The thrift shop is doing a booming business. The main thing is keeping costs down.

Martha asked the board if the income/expenses breakdown was satisfactory.

Adam noted Bill had emailed a question regarding receipts totaling \$33,000 and change, with expenses of \$27,000. Bill was asking Paul Raudonat about the current cash balance, and whether he predicted that the current cash on hand would get TMA through until the end of June in essence.

Bill shared Paul's response, which Paul also sent to the board. He said the \$5,000 approved on March 1 does not show on this report; it was received on March 11. The balance is roughly \$10,000 at the moment; it fluctuates depending on oil deliveries and other bills. At this point expenses are almost exclusively oil deliveries, electrical bills, and insurance but also ongoing repairs and maintenance projects noted in the two previous reports (sprinkler system, monitoring, service lights, exit doors, issues of safety). He believes the current cash on hand will be sufficient through end June. They budgeted for an additional \$2,500 in April, which would mean a total request of \$26,000 from the town, but it's looking like that will not be necessary based on decreasing heating costs as the weather warms up. Any cash balance the TMA may possess on June 30 will be distributed back to the town, likely a couple thousand dollars.

10. Select Board Reports:

Martha clarified that the yellow building roof was indeed patched.

Adam apologized for technical difficulties at the beginning and thanked Josh for taking the reins.

11. Future Agenda Requests: None.

12. Adjourn:

Motion by: Bill Lombardi
2nd by: Jim Justice
5-0

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Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo
Secretary