

Town of Union Selectmen's/Assessor's Meeting

March 21st, 2017

Call to order: 6:40 p.m.

Selectmen present: Greg Grotton, Lyle Cramer, Jim Justice, John Shepard and Sarah Drickey.

Others present: Jay Feyler.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments:

Approve minutes of March 7, 2017:

Motion by: Jim Justice

2nd by: John Shepard

Vote: Unanimous

Vote from Executive Session:

Motion by: John Shepard to increase town manager's salary by 10% this year and an additional 10% next year per his contract and to renegotiate by the third year.

2nd by: Jim Justice

Discussion: Jim feels that Jay is the best town manager he has ever seen. Jay goes above and beyond his regular duties for this town and feels he is deserving of a decent salary. Currently he is at the bottom of the pay scale compared to other town managers in Knox county. Greg pointed out that Jay is the second lowest paid town manager in the county. All aspects of Jay's work criteria were evaluated by the Board, looking at additional duties and staff to help support him. Jay does not have direct staff to support him and works independently. In his 10 years on the Board, Greg has witnessed Jay do more for the town of Union than any other manager. Every department in town has been running much more efficiently since Jay has been in office. To add to Jay's credibility, Greg also pointed out that Jay was awarded the very distinct honor of "top dog" by MTC Maine; which honors community figures, and should speak volumes to the outstanding contributions Jay has made to this town.

Vote: Unanimous

Approve Public Hearing date and time of Marijuana Prohibition:

Jay stated the Board needs to approve the public hearing for April 18th. The Board of Selectman will be holding its own public hearing. The Planning Board will have an answer as soon as they have a chance to evaluate any additional information presented to them.

Motion by: Lyle Cramer to approve hearing date.

2nd by: John Shepard

Vote: Unanimous

Sign Treasurers Warrant dated March 21, 2017:

Motion by: Jim Justice to sign Treasurers Warrant.

2nd by: Lyle Cramer

Discussion: John questioned repairs made to the furnace in one of the town buildings. Jay confirmed it was at the public works garage, which the town pays for since the repair company will not honor a service contract.

Vote: Unanimous

Town Manager's Report:

Jay stated that he handed out the printed copy that was presented by Jesse. He will also put it in the Budget Committee's packets.

New heat pumps downstairs at the town hall will be up and running tomorrow. Temperatures can now be regulated down stairs.

Jay spoke with the engineer and the DOT concerning the sidewalks. They will all be meeting some time in April. Maine Local Roads will be conducting a class pertaining to sidewalks, which Jay plans to attend. Greg asked if there will be rough estimate as far as cost for the budget and if the construction will take place in phases. Jay stated that the construction will be done in phase; however, the estimated costs remain to be seen until the preliminary paperwork is completed.

Other Business:

Nominations were voted upon for Spirit of America. Paper ballots were passed to Greg and turned over to Jay. The recipient will be revealed to the public soon.

Lyle had questions pertaining to the town fire hydrants such as color differentiation, accessibility and water capacity, i.e., are assorted color hydrants used for different trucks?

Jay stated that the regular hydrants are only used in emergencies due to the water capacity and the gravity fed system. It is more feasible to use the river or quarry as an alternate water source as not to drain the homeowners water supply. Greg feels the hydrants should be prioritized and should be numbered externally for immediate notification. Lyle will speak with Kevin and follow up.

Greg pointed out a previous discussion pertaining to the trees on the Common. Lyle thinks we should start a replacement program, so the town does not accumulate a large expense in the future due to unattractive views on the Common. John asked if this included cemetery trees as well, and if the trees can be appraised by a landscaper or tree surgeon. Jay stated that there are several rotted trees that have already been analyzed (and recorded in the office) and that would need to come down. There continues to be reservations by some residents regarding cutting the trees; nonetheless, there has been an increase in maintenance costs for the town due to leaf removal and headstone damage from falling branches. Greg stated that there are plans for one tree to be planted on the Common this Spring. He would like to see two planted for every one that is cut down to assure sustainability and manageability of the newest trees.

Selectmen's report:

Future Agenda Items:

2017-18 Budget remaining items:

Office personnel figures were discussed.

Motion by: Jim Justice to approve office personnel figures.

2nd by: Sarah Drickey

Vote: Unanimous

Reserve accounts:

Ambulance – Currently have \$140,000.00 in reserve. As of July 1st, 2017 there will be \$165,900.00. Estimated cost of new ambulance will be \$230,000.00. The remaining balance will be approximately \$64,000.00 to come out of the fund balance.

Public Works Truck - \$51,535.00 in reserve. As of July 1st, 2017, there will be \$111,535.00. Estimated new after trade-in will be approximately \$135,000.00. The remaining balance after trade-in value of approximately \$5,000.00 is about \$23,000.00.

Fund balance is approximately 1.1 million dollars.

Jay stated due to unspent funds, these purchases can be made without a tax increase. He also suggested to the Board that after this budget cycle, they try and increase reserve accounts for next year.

Motion by: Lyle Cramer to tentatively approve the reserve account.

2nd by: John Shepard

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion: Resident asked a question about what happens to the money not used for the year. Jay stated that the money goes into a miscellaneous fund balance, which is then reciprocated back into the budget which helps evaluate tax assessments for the following year. Resident also asked if the Selectmen have looked at the revenue side of the budget. Jay stated that they do look at the revenue side once the final budget amounts are complete, usually looking after the budget meeting upon waiting for figures from the state.

Greg thanked the residents for coming and reminded everyone about the Informational Meeting on March 28th.

Motion by: Jim Justice to adjourn

2nd by Lyle Cramer

Vote: Unanimous

Adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Sandy Patrick