

Town of Union – Board of Selectman Meeting

March 7th, 2017

Call to Order: 6:30 p.m.

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

Others present – Jay Feyler, Constance Bodine, Bruce Cobb, Paul Gaudreau, Terry Brackett

Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments:

Minutes of February 21, 2017:

Motion by Jim Justice to approve

2nd by Lyle Cramer

2 abstentions and 3 yes

Discussion on Ambulance Replacement:

Greg stated that the ambulance discussion was tabled last week as the board felt everyone on the committee should be present. The board asked Jesse to compile data to aid in assessing the cost of a new ambulance. Jay stated that Jesse was not present this evening due to work obligations. Jesse did prepare a packet for the board of a breakdown from original estimates and compiled information from computers that he had access to. The bid came in around \$230,000. Jay feels the board can wait to approve keeping the second ambulance dependent on the final bids.

Greg calculated approximately \$15,000 in repairs. There are 182 thousand miles on the 2010 ambulance that is 7 years old which is the life expectancy. A decision needs to be made whether to put a new ambulance in the budget. Jay stated if the board would like Jesse to start getting requests for proposals he would have to tally all the balances in the reserve account and what would need to be added to a warrant. An updated estimate will be finished soon. Greg believes the breakdown is around \$140,000.00 Jay estimated just about \$180,000.00 to work with once the additional \$40,000.00 is added from the budget. Jay stated that there will be GPS units and cameras in the front of the ambulance which adds another \$1500.00 to the overall cost. Greg added that in today's age, cameras and GPS units are required. We will have \$180,000.00 in reserves by end of this year. If we estimate the cost of the ambulance to be \$216,000.00 and then take \$180,000.00 off the top, we are looking at about \$37,000 that still needs to be raised.

Sarah asked if we will be paying for the ambulance up front to avoid interest charges. Jay stated there are several ways to pay; we could raise and appropriate the additional funds and pay all at once or we could finance it. This will need to be determined once a decision is made on purchasing a fully equipped ambulance.

A town resident raised a question in lieu of Sarah's question about the value of the current vehicle. Greg responded that the existing vehicle trade-in is anywhere between \$3,000 and \$5,000 dollars. Stating that people do not buy used ambulances. Jay stated that they do not trade very well, and it would

probably be best to do an outright sale which has been found to be the most effective alternative from past experiences. Greg agreed that will most likely be the outcome.

Lyle stated that the reason why he requested the detailed information pertaining to the ambulance was so that he could evaluate the outside costs for the ambulance and when these costs occurred. He questioned the rental costs of \$874.00. Greg cleared up the misunderstanding, stating that those costs were not rental costs, but repair costs when the ambulance was brought in for repairs, and that the repair shop usually provides a loaner vehicle. Lyle asked Jay if it was possible for Jesse to provide this specific information. Jay stated; to obtain that information we would have to individually sort through all the invoices since there is not a line item category in the budget bookkeeping for a rental ambulance. Lyle is concerned about the overall costs that may be incurred if a second ambulance is required for another call. Jay made a statement that Jesse should not have a problem retaining the information pertaining to double call ratios. Lyle would like to see more data presented to help decide about the ambulance. Greg stated that we are currently in budget proceedings and the business on the old ambulance can wait another six months while all the data is still being collected.

A resident asked about Sugarloaf Rescue and was wondering if those charges were for using another town's ambulance services. Jay stated that they are the manufacturer of the body of the current ambulance.

Motion by: Jim Justice to have Jesse move forward in collecting all the information pertaining to the ambulance so that a decision can be made.

Discussion: Jim would like to remind everyone the importance of having a second ambulance to save a life and suggest we keep the second ambulance as a back-up. Greg does not dispute that, although he stated the town would need the manpower and should not be discussed until we know the outcome.

2nd by John Shepard

Vote: Unanimous

Spirit of America Discussion:

Jay explained this is the recognition program which started last year to recognize a citizen that volunteers their time in the town in which they live. First recipient was Walter Rich; the board was unable to give him personal recognition because he passed away before the next town meeting. It is the board's decision to pick a candidate. Greg asked about the residents' criteria and Jay explained it can be an elected official on any board or committee as well as a town resident. Sarah asked if it could be in memory of an individual. Jay stated that we had already honored Walter Rich and normally it is in recognition of someone living. Greg stated he would like to keep it confidential until an announcement is made and suggested that each board member send two names to Jay by the end of the week and a decision can be made at the next budget meeting.

Discussion on Sidewalk Grant:

Jay gave documents to board and spoke with the DOT. Jay again emphasized that this is a long-term expense and once the town agrees to accept the state and federal funds, that the town must maintain the sidewalks for 20 years. What needs to be taken into consideration is plowing the sidewalks which adds an extra expense. The sidewalks must be 4 feet wide for wheel chair and handicap accessibility.

Once the construction is underway, the sidewalks must cover Ayer Park, Four Corners and up to the school which are all state property zones.

Jay has a rough estimate from the engineer. The earliest we can receive funds is the year 2020. The project has the potential of spanning over multiple years if we cannot receive the funds at all at once.

Greg pointed out that not only are the sidewalks feasible for walkers, but also for bicycles. The sidewalks will promote economic development in our community. The federal grant is a onetime cost of \$400,000.00 and the town is responsible for 20% of that cost. If we can get the engineer to get us estimates, then we can plan from that point. He suggested construction of the sidewalks in phases so that we can work them into the budget each year if we can get approved for the grants. Applications would need to be submitted by August 15th of 2017. The development in town would benefit the elderly residents by giving them access to sidewalks as well as safe place for maneuvering their motored carts. Planning for the future is important for the town residents. Greg inquired as to where the budget funds would come from. Jay suggested the park and recreation fund for this year and possibly find funding from other areas such as AARP to help alleviate the 20% from town funds.

Jim voiced his concerns about the credibility of the current sidewalks and how they are a hazard for potential injuries, and he is all for the project.

John feels that there is enough support from the town to install new sidewalks, although he is questionable about how the town plans to keep the sidewalks plowed in the winter. Jay stated that the town would need to invest in a piece of equipment which would acquire extra expenditures.

A town resident inquired about various construction standards. Jay suggested by using granite versus asphalt the sidewalks will be more durable and last longer. No matter how they are built the town is responsible for twenty-year maintenance.

Greg would like to pursue the project and get Jay on board with the engineer.

2017 Summer Intern:

Jay has an application in and needs to pull the application to see about funding. It will cost the town \$5000.00 for the intern as he has applied for an intern this year. There is a different criterion on this intern; this is someone who has an engineering background, because he would like to see them work on the RSMS software and do research on the towns' right-of-ways as well as enter the data into the system for the road inventory. Issues with the old software have posed problems with printing, and the new version is easier to use.

Motion by: John Shepard to approve the 2017 intern

2nd by Sarah Drickey

Vote: Unanimous

Approve Election Dates:

Jay needs to finalize from last meeting.

Motion by: Jim Justice to approve the election dates

2nd by Lyle Cramer

Vote: Unanimous

Note: Nomination papers are available March 20th, 2017. Election date is June 13th, 2017.

Accept Resignation of Budget Committee member Lynn Athearn:

Motion by: Jim Justice

2nd by Lyle Cramer

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion of personnel policy revisions:

Corrections were made by board members

Jay will make the appropriate changes and bring the policy revisions back to the table

Discussion on Warrant Article on Marijuana prohibition:

Greg stated that Jay provided the board with a sample ordinance prohibiting marijuana use in the town of Union from a state meeting he recently attended. Greg also stated that the town of Union voted “No” on the Marijuana law in the last election, and if the town decides that they do not want marijuana use in town that it is the responsibility of the town to protect the residents.

Jay stated that although the marijuana law passed in the state, it is far from over. The state of Maine will not have their rules and regulations in place until sometime next year. It will take quite awhile to compile ordinances. There are several matters to consider, for example odor issues and federal laws. To protect the town from any potential problems in the foreseeable future, the best thing to do is prohibit the use of marijuana throughout the entire town. If the residents of Union want it there would need to be a prohibition put in place, and the town will need to hold a meeting to build a moratorium, and it would need to be voted on it. A prohibition could always be lifted in the future. He stated that the board would need to vote to put it on a warrant.

Motion by: Jim Justice to move forward with a public presentation meeting

2nd by Lyle Cramer

Vote: Unanimous

Sign Treasurers Warrant dated March 7, 2017:

Motion by: Jim Justice

2nd by John Shepard

Vote: Unanimous

Town Manager's Report:

Informational meeting will be on Tuesday March 28th at 6:30 p.m. The postcards will go out in mail on March 20th, and the information will also be posted on the town's website this week.

Multipurpose Field – architect did more work than anticipated. The engineer finalized the work for the DEP permit. Colin O'Donnell has been helping with the 3-D design project and working with the engineer for free, saving the town some money.

Will have the information for the board pertaining to the digital sign next week. Pricing for the signs range from 18,000-23,000. He feels it is a lot of money and the money should be raised.

Other Business:

Lyle wanted everyone to know that David and Susie Shaub are moving to North Carolina - the church will be holding a going away party luncheon following the church service on April 2nd. Everyone in town is invited.

Selectmen's Report:**Future Agenda Items:**

Executive Session Salary Negotiations

Jay would like to meet next Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. for the executive session meeting. The regular board meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. as scheduled.

2017-18 Budget presentations Admin, Bldg Maintenance, Office, Stipends, Insurances:

Motion by: Jim Justice to approve items covered on budget with final vote when warrants come out 2nd by John Shepard

Vote: unanimous

Motion by: Jim Justice to adjourn

2nd by Lyle Cramer

Vote: unanimous

Adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sandy Patrick

Minutes approved March 21st, 2017