

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

November 3, 2022- Approved

Members Present – Roy Watson (Chairman), Jill Smith

Also in attendance: Peter Flynn (Interim TA), Acting Police Chief Cavanaugh and members of the public (Attendance sheet attached)

Call to Order by Chair Watson, seconded by Jill Smith. Vote was in the affirmative 2-0.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT #!

Chairman Watson asked if there was anyone wishing to speak under Public Comment after reading the rule pertaining to this item.

Mrs. Cobb Spoke of her concerns with the cost of operating the Fire Department/EMS service in town and was under the impression that the items addressed on October 6th were a definite go. The status was clarified, and she emphasized to need to watch the expenses of this department in order not to over appropriate and burden the taxpayers.

Approval of the Minutes

Chairman Watson called for review of the October 6, 2022, minutes. Watson moved to accept, seconded by Jill Smith. Vote 2-0

Chairman Watson called for a review and vote on the October 20th minutes. Selectman Jill Smith asked to TA to clarify Item #5 on the report, and she moved to approve with said amendment, Watson seconded. Vote 2-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Roy Watson moved TO ACCEPT THE Consent Agenda, seconded by Jill Smith. Vote was 2-0 in the affirmative. Watson made note that two items were held out for lack of department or employee signatures.

NEW BUSINESS

Item 1: The Board met with Acting Chief Cavanaugh whereby he presented the recommendation to purchase a new police cruiser. Chief Cavanaugh explained the bid numbers

from his recommended vender, MHQ by also presenting an RFQ response from the company. The Board was satisfied with the process for the bid. The Board asked several questions of Chief Cavanaugh in relation to the warrantee and right of refusal should the Town Meeting not approve the Warrant Article to complete the financing. They were assured that the purchase would not be held as final until such time as the funds were approved by the Town. Chairman Watson moved to approve the purchase of the new 2023 Ford Cruiser for \$61,400.40 and to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the document on behalf of the Town.

The motion was seconded by Jill Smith with a vote of 2-0 in the affirmative.

Item #2: Interim Town Administrator Peter Flynn reviewed a memo sent to the Board requesting Mr. Steven Diers to be appointed to the Budget Advisory Committee. Mr. Flynn stated that Mr. Diers has been going to the meetings and offering good input. He explained that the appointment would not be retroactive to the previous meetings but take effect only after swearing in.

Jill Smith moved to appoint Stephen Diers to a three-year term on the Budget Advisory Committee, Roy Watson seconded, and the motion passed 2-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Item 3: ARPA Funds. Mr. Flynn explained that he had the official number due to the Town which is \$206,553 but it was his understanding that no money has been allocated to expend yet. He said he was in the process of attempting to find out the priorities from the Department Heads and is currently working on it. A short discussion ensued as to some priorities mentioned at the last BAC meeting. They included 'sound' issues in the Town Hall meeting room whereby the Committee recommended sound barriers.

Item #4. Selectman Jill Smith explained that she is checking out expense items relating to the Fire Department improvement to the Fire Department buildings along with the Fire Chief who recently responded to her requests. A short discussion took place regarding this issue. She also stated that the Fire Chief responded, and they both are compiling information. It was decided that closing the Murdough Fire Station means no additional utility expenses. Jill also emphasized that all information should be funneled through him.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Item #5. Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Flynn emphasized the need to proceed as scheduled with the advertising for a new Finance Coordinator as the need is urgent. He requested permission to contact MRI to assist in providing assistance by delegating a person from their staff to work with the Town as a trainer and/or part time contract employee for a charge of not more than \$100.00, Jill suggested that Peter contact 'Indeed' to assist in finding a new Finance person.

PUBLIC COMMENT #2: An unidentified citizen stated that the town officials should proceed quicker with the Fire station process.

Jill asked to have a special BOS meeting on Wednesday, November 9th to catch up on employment issues. Consensus agreed.

Jill also asked that Peter be allowed to work up to 22 hours a week instead of the maximum 15. Both Selectmen agreed and Roy moved to request to make the new hourly limit for the Town administrator to be 22 instead of 15.

The Town Administrator was asked to provide the Town Audit and management letter as no Selectmen has seen it yet.

Roy Watson moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45PM, seconded by Jill Smith. Vote was 2-0 in the affirmative.