

Minutes

March 2, 2023

7:00PM –

Chairman Roy Watson motioned to call the meeting to order, seconded by Bill Whisman. All voted in favor 3-0

Item #1 Action on the Consent Agenda

Minutes requested to be held off until after the Public Comment

The Board took action on the following Assessing Department Items-

- Map 232, Lot 3-Approved
- Map 228, Lot 31 Conditionally Approved- (Discuss at next meeting)
- Map 228-Lot 31-\$1,900.00 abatement -Approved (Although precedent setting issue mentioned-late application)
- Lot 232, Lot 14-Board seeks verification of definition of service before abatement approved.

Roy moved to approve a Consent Agenda pertaining to Payroll and Accounts Payable, Seconded by Jill. Motion approved 3-0

Jill mentioned the question of payment being charged to correct account pertaining to the Regional Planning invoice. Peter will check it out.

Item #2- Meeting with Moderator Phil Bryce

The moderator reviewed the several protocol issues pertaining to the order of events at the Town Meeting.

- Roy will do introductory commentary of Warrant in General

The following order of introducing article is as follows:

- Article 3, moved by Bill, seconded by Roy (Jill to discuss and amend)
- Article 4, moved by Bill, seconded by Jill (Bill will ask if comments are sought)
- Article 5, moved by Jill, seconded by Bill.
- Article 6, moved by Roy, seconded by Bill (Bill will speak) Peter to check legality.
- Article 7, moved by Bill, seconded by Roy. (Tom Cavanaugh and Roy to speak)
- Article 8, moved by Bill, seconded by Jill. (Bill and Joy to speak)
- Article 9, moved by Bill seconded by Jill. Jill will speak and make an amendment.
- Article 10, moved by Jill, seconded by Roy.
- Article 11, moved by Roy seconded by Bill.

The moderator indicated that he would send a script in advance to all board members.

Item #3

Roy moved to accept the resignation of Wyatt Gould from the Highway Department, seconded by Jill Smith.

It explained that Wyatt was resigning only because he was taking on a new job in New York. All voted to accept 3-0

Item #4

Peter Flynn explained to the Board that the Town was ready for a change in auditors. He mentioned the fact that the present Auditor was a bit slow in getting responses from staff although he believes they had difficulty in obtaining all the necessary information and backup they needed to complete the task in a timely fashion. He also mentioned that the present auditing firm is headquartered in Massachusetts and had just been bought out by a larger firm.

Peter recommended that the Town engage the service of Plodzick-Sanderson of Concord to be our new Auditors. After much positive explanation of his recommendation, the Board agreed to make the Change.

Motion by Roy to hire Plodzick-Sanderson as the Town of Deering auditors for the three-year proposal with the initial cost for 2023 being \$24,000, seconded by Jill. The vote was 3-0 in the affirmative.

Item #5

Town Administrators Report

1. Contacted company who sets up 'Streaming' for various meetings at Town Hall
An estimate for installation and monthly cost is in the works.
2. Contacted sound system company to get estimate on installation of Town Hall public address sound system in main hall downstairs.
3. Worked with Meagen on completing annual Town Report
4. Preparation of Voters guide for Town Meeting attendees
5. Research and preparation for recommendation of new Procurement Policy.
6. Research and recommendation for new Public Hearing Policy
7. Research and preparation for new Selectmen's Meeting Policy

Public Comment

Tricia Whisman spoke to the Board concerning the method and accuracy of the minutes in the last few months, especially the Public Hearing of February 9th. She emphasized that the minute taker was recording the minutes and even though the minute taker claims they were recorded on her own recorder they were officially 'public record.' She requested the Board to obtain those minutes from November through November 9th and provide them to her. She cited several RSAs to solidify her argument. The Board asked Peter to follow up on her request.

Steve Diers praised the efforts of Peter and Meagen in the last few months in keeping up with the many difficult tasks and commended the Board for its efforts.

Selectmen's reports

Roy thanked Bill for all his work as a Board member for the last four years and wished him well in the future.

Bill also thanked the Board and Peter and Meagen for the work done, especially in the last few months when much difficulty was experienced.

Roy moved to go into non-public session at 7:55pm per RSA01-A:3II, (a) (b) and (j)

Seconded by Jill. Vote by roll call: Roy-yes, Jill-yes and Bill -yes

Board came out of Non-public at 8:01pm.

Roy moved to hire Wendy Baker as a s minute-taker at \$20.00 per hour effective immediately.

Jill seconded and the vote was 3-0 to approve.

Roy moved to adjourn at 8:02pm seconded by Bill. All voted in favor 3-0

Submitted by Peter Flynn