



Office of Board of Selectmen

143 Main Street, P.O. Box 310, Belmont, New Hampshire 03220-0310

Telephone: (603) 267-8300 Fax: (603) 267-8327

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Monday January 14, 2019, 5:00 p.m.

Corner Meeting House

Chairman Ruth Mooney called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Present were Selectman Jon Pike, Selectman Claude Patten, Jr., Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin, Assistant Town Administrator Alicia Jipson, Fire Chief Kirk Beattie, Deputy Fire Chief Mike Newhall, Kevin Sturgeon, Don Hurd, Tim Ellis, and Public Works Director Craig Clairmont.

Minutes

Selectman Patten moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 7, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. as written; seconded by Selectman Pike and the motion passed unanimously.

Abatements, Manifests, Exemptions & Credits

Chairman Mooney moved to approve the abatements, exemptions, credits and manifests; seconded by Selectman Pike, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Hearing

Chairman Mooney opened the public hearing at 5:00 p.m. in accordance with RSA 33:8-a. to take public comment on the proposed municipal bond issue/note in the amount of \$1,600,000 for the purpose of constructing an Iron and Manganese Treatment Facility for the Town's water system. The Town of Belmont has been awarded funding for the project through the NH Drinking Water Groundwater Trust Fund in the amount of \$3,100,000; \$1,500,000 in available grant and \$1,600,000 in a loan from the fund. Chairman Mooney read the following article that will appear in the warrant:

Article #2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Million One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,100,000) for the purpose of construction of an Iron and Manganese Treatment Facility including engineering costs, acquisition of land or interests in land and all other costs reasonably associated with this project. This appropriation is to be funded by a grant in the amount of One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000)

from the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund, and further to authorize the issuance of a bond or note in the amount of up to One Million Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,600,000) from the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. Future bond payments are anticipated to be funded through Water User Fees and Taxation by inclusion in the budget. (3/5 Ballot Vote Required)
 (The Budget Committee recommends \$3,100,000 and the Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.)

TA Beaudin added that the interest rate on the note would be 3.38% for a 5-40 year note regardless of the term. Kevin Sturgeon asked who would be responsible for the payment? TA Beaudin responded that it would be user fee based as well as taxation. Kevin added that he noticed the school is a large user and asked if they pay their share. TA Beaudin replied that yes, all the schools are metered. Currently we do not know what the increase in water rates will be. The Town conducted a water rate study that will be available in the future for review. Selectman Mooney added that Belmont does not have an issue with quantity rather the issue is quality, this is going to be an overall positive for the values in Belmont. Kevin Sturgeon finished with saying that he would be interested in seeing the projections on the rates for water users. With no further public comment, Chairman Mooney closed the public hearing at 5:06 p.m.

Chairman Mooney opened the public hearing at 5:15 p.m. in accordance with RSA 31:95-c to take public comment on changing the purpose of the Special Revenue Fund known as the Fire/Ambulance Equipment and Apparatus Fund. TA Beaudin explained that this has been done for several years now to help offset the Fire Department budget. Chairman Mooney read the following article that will appear in the warrant:

Article #4. To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken on Article 7 at the 1999 Annual Meeting to restrict all revenues from ambulance billings to be deposited in the Special Revenue fund known as the Fire/Ambulance Equipment and Apparatus Fund to instead restrict all but the first \$131,000 of revenues from ambulance billings received during the 2019 budgetary year to be deposited in the Special Revenue fund known as the Fire/Ambulance Equipment and Apparatus Fund. The first \$131,000 of revenues from ambulance billings will be deposited in the Town’s General Fund to defray the cost items identified below. This restriction shall only be effective for the 2019 budgetary year (Majority Ballot Vote Required).

Training Expenses	\$3,000
Medical & Supply Expenses	\$28,000
Ambulance Billing Fees	\$25,000
Overtime	\$40,000
Telephone	\$2,000
Conferences & Dues	\$1,000
Office Expense	\$12,000
Vehicle Repair & Parts	\$8,000
Fuel	\$12,000

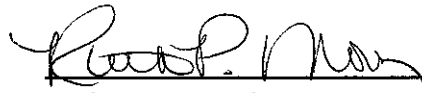
With no public comment, Chairman Mooney closed the public hearing at 5:20 p.m.

New Business

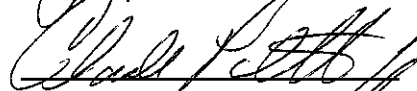
DRA Review- TA Beaudin shared that part of the warrant process is that there is now a pre-review through the Department of Revenue. This year they seemed to be doing a very thorough review and have raised questions on the way warrants are written. TA Beaudin has spoken with our Town attorney for input on one of the warrant articles that was flagged for change relative to amending the Special Revenue Fund. Vice Chairman Pike inquired about the impact of the proposed language change and TA Beaudin noted that it impacts the revenue used to offset the tax rate if the article were to fail, however she noted that revenue projections are revisited in August and the Town is waiting for a final review of the article by the Town attorney.

Selectman Mooney asked when the deliberative session is for the schools. TA Beaudin indicated that it was on February 6, 2019 at 6:00 pm at the High School. Selectman Mooney voiced her concerns over the schools anticipate budget and urged all to attend the session, because the proposed increase will have a large impact on the tax rate.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.


Ruth Mooney, Chairman


Jon Pike, Vice Chairman


Claude Patten Jr., Selectman