

Board of Selectmen
Work Session
Minutes
January 25, 2022
(Approved - March 07, 2022)

Chairman V. MacDonald convened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

V, MacDonald led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence. The following staff members were present:

Virgil MacDonald, Chairman
Paul LaRochelle, Vice-Chairman
Reuben Wentworth, Selectman
Brock Mitchell, Selectman
Bob Holt, Selectman
Ryan Heath, Interim Town Administrator

Agenda Approval

V. MacDonald mentions to add to the agenda 3A Tax Rebates and 3B Non Public - Litigation.

R. Wentworth motions to approve addition to agenda and B. Mitchell seconded with all in favor of motion.

Meeting Purpose

1. Default Budget

R. Heath states that on **Article 10: Town Operating Budget** that during the Budget Committee's Public Hearing they heard some feedback and recommendations from the public. R. Heath states that he spoke with legal and with NH Municipality and states that the Fire Captain's position which was made half way through the year is not allowed to be in the Default Budget and if **Article 10: Town Operating Budget** is not approved and the Default Budget is to be used then the amount for the Captains position will have to come from somewhere else in the budget. R. Heath spoke with DRA, Town Attorney, and NH Municipal and they all agreed about the changes to the Default Budget.

V. MacDonald motions to accept the **Default Budget** of \$8,496,022.00 and B. Holt seconded.

V. MacDonald cancels motion after R. Heath states that is the old Default Budget and the new budget is \$8,434,833.00.

V. MacDonald motion to set the **Default Budget** at \$8,434,833.00 and B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, yes
P. LaRochelle, yes
B. Mitchell, yes

R. Wentworth, yes
B. Holt, yes

2. Warrant Articles

Article # 9: Benefit Pay Expendable Trust Fund

Move: Reuben Wentworth
Second: Paul LaRochelle
Speak to it: Reuben Wentworth

Article # 10: Town Operating Budget

Move: Budget Committee
Second: Budget Committee
Speak to it: Budget Committee

Article # 11: Water Works Operating Budget

Move: Virgil MacDonald
Second: Bob Holt
Speak to it: Virgil MacDonald

Article # 12: Assessing Department Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund

Move: Brock Mitchell
Second: Paul LaRochelle
Speak to it: Brock Mitchell

Article # 13: Building Department Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund

Move: Brock Mitchell
Second: Paul LaRochelle
Speak to it: Brock Mitchell

Article # 14: Fire Department Equipment Clarification

Move: Reuben Wentworth
Second: Bob Holt
Speak to it: Reuben Wentworth

Article # 15: Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

Move: Reuben Wentworth
Second: Brock Mitchell
Speak to it: Reuben Wentworth

Article # 16: Pumper Fire Truck Pay Off

Move: Paul LaRochelle
Second: Virgil MacDonald
Speak to it: Paul LaRochelle

Article # 17: Grounds and Maintenance Vehicle/Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

Move: Bob Holt
Second: Virgil MacDonald
Speak to it: Bob Holt

Article # 18: Highway Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

Move: Brock Mitchell
Second: Bob Holt
Speak to it: Brock Mitchell

Article # 19: Highway Reconstruction Capital Reserve

Move: Reuben Wentworth
Second: Paul LaRochelle
Speak to it: Reuben Wentworth

Article # 20: Bridge Construction Capital Reserve Fund

Move: Bob Holt
Second: Virgil MacDonald
Speak to it: Bob Holt

Article # 21: Highway Building Improvements Capital Reserve Fund

Move: Paul LaRochelle
Second: Brock Mitchell
Speak to it: Paul LaRochelle

Article # 22: Sidewalk Capital Reserve Fund

Move: Virgil MacDonald
Second: Brock Mitchell
Speak to it: Virgil MacDonald

R. Wentworth states that with the way the rationale is worded, it is a rationale that he would not be comfortable or any member should be comfortable with since they have not received any numbers in front of the board with how much these repairs or new projects will be. B. Mitchell mentions to shorten the rationale with taking out the lines from "Future projects..." and just reword the first sentence to include existing and new sidewalks.

Article # 23: Highway Rock and Asphalt Crushing Capital Reserve Fund

Move: Reuben Wentworth
Second: Brock Mitchell
Speak to it: Reuben Wentworth

Article # 24: Highway Sand Shed Capital Reserve Fund

Move: Virgil MacDonald
Second: Bob Holt
Speak to it: Virgil MacDonald

Article # 25: Public Works Department Excavator

Move: Paul LaRochelle
Second: Virgil MacDonald
Speak to it: Paul LaRochelle

Article # 26: Public Works Department Loader

Move: Brock Mitchell
Second: Paul LaRochelle
Speak to it: Brock Mitchell

Article # 27: IT Capital Reserve Fund

Move: Bob Holt
Second: Virgil MacDonald
Speak to it: Bob Holt

Article # 28: Alton Bay Community Center Property Capital Reserve Fund

Move: Paul LaRochelle
Second: Brock Mitchell
Speak to it: Paul LaRochelle

Article # 29: Jones Field Capital Reserve Fund

Move: Bob Holt
Second: Paul LaRochelle
Speak to it: Bob Holt

Article # 30: Master Plan Consultant

Move: Paul LaRochelle
Second: Bob Holt
Speak to it:

Article # 31: Planning and Zoning Consultant

Move: Paul LaRochelle
Second: Bob Holt
Speak to it: Paul LaRochelle

Article # 32: Transfer Station Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

Move: Brock Mitchell
Second: Bob Holt
Speak to it: Brock Mitchell

Article # 33: Solid Waste Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

Move: Brock Mitchell
Second: Bob Holt
Speak to it: Brock Mitchell

Article # 34: Landfill Closure Capital Reserve Fund

Move: Virgil MacDonald
Second: Paul LaRochelle
Speak to it: Virgil MacDonald

Article # 35: Town Hall Building Improvements Capital Reserve Fund

Move: Brock Mitchell
Second: Paul LaRochelle
Speak to it: Brock Mitchell

Article # 36: Milfoil Capital Reserve Fund

Move: Bob Holt
Second: Reuben Wentworth
Speak to it: Bob Holt

ARTICLE # 37: Environmental Capital Reserve Fund

Move: Virgil MacDonald
Second: Paul LaRochelle
Speak to it: Virgil MacDonald

ARTICLE # 38: Rescind Warrant Article # 41 - 2008

Move: Bob Holt
Second: Virgil MacDonald
Speak to it: Bob Holt

ARTICLE # 39: Tax Impact of Warrant Articles

Move: Reuben Wentworth
Second: Virgil MacDonald
Speak to it: Reuben Wentworth

Article # 40: NH Lakes' Lake Host Program

Move: Virgil MacDonald
Second: Reuben Wentworth
Speak to it: Virgil MacDonald

Article # 41: Alton Community Services Nonprofit

Move: Reuben Wentworth
Second: Bob Holt

Article # 42: American Red Cross Nonprofit

Move: Virgil MacDonald
Second: Brock Mitchell

Article # 43: CAP Nonprofit

Move: Reuben Wentworth
Second: Paul LaRochelle

Article # 44: Caregivers of Southern Carroll County & Vicinity Nonprofit

Move: Paul LaRochelle
Second: Reuben Wentworth

Article# 45: CASA Nonprofit

Move: Reuben Wentworth
Second: Bob Holt

Article # 46: Granite VNA fka Central NH VNA & Hospice Nonprofit

Move: Paul LaRochelle
Second: Reuben Wentworth

Article # 47: Lakes Region Mental Health Nonprofit

Move: Virgil MacDonald
Second: Brock Mitchell

Article # 48: L.I.F.E. Ministries Nonprofit

Move: Reuben Wentworth
Second: Paul LaRochelle

Article # 49: New Beginnings Nonprofit

Move: Virgil MacDonald
Second: Brock Mitchell

Article # 50: Waypoint Nonprofit

Move: Paul LaRochelle
Second: Reuben Wentworth

Article # 51: To hear reports of any committees, boards, trustees, commissions, officials, agents or concerns of voters; and vote to accept the same. Furthermore, to conduct any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

R. Heath states that with the whole board being here and how they just voted on the new Default Budget, if they would like to revote on the whole Town Operating Budget.

V. MacDonald motions to approve **Article 10: Town Operating Budget at \$8,691,586.00** and the Default Budget at \$8,434,833.00 and seconded by B. Mitchell. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald, yes
P. LaRochelle, yes
B. Mitchell, yes

R. Wentworth, yes
B. Holt, yes

Other Business

1. Tax Rebate

V. MacDonald states that he had the Tax Rebate added to the agenda mentioning that there is always a lot of rebates that come before them for signing and is bringing it before the Board to see if they would have a problem with Town Administrator Ryan Heath signing the rebates. R. Heath states that this is only for signing and not for consenting. R. Wentworth is wondering if Town Assessor Robb Jutton would be able to sign if the Board has consented to the rebates. R. Wentworth would like to have this brought before legal to see if Town Assessor Robb Jutton can sign on the behalf of the Board or not.

R. Wentworth motions as long as the Board of Selectmen approves the Consent Agenda on the Assessing Department rebates to allow Robb to sign the rebates and if that is not legal then have it turned back over to the Town Administrator to sign and P. LaRochelle seconded with all in favor of motion.

2. Non Public Session

V. MacDonald moved at 6:28 pm to enter into Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A: 3, II, a (employee matters), c (reputation), d (sale or lease of property), and e (Litigation). B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald - yes P. LaRochelle - yes R. Wentworth - yes
R. Holt - yes B. Mitchell - yes Roll call vote carried unanimously.

At 6:29 pm Chair MacDonald convened the nonpublic session with the following people present:

V. MacDonald, Chairman
P. LaRochelle, Vice Chairman
B. Mitchell, Selectmen
R. Wentworth, Selectmen
R. Holt, Selectmen
R. Heath, Interim Town Administrator

1. Integrity Earthworks Demand Letter (e): This pertains to pending claims or litigation (e). R. Heath advised the Board that a legal meeting has held with Town Counsel concerning this matter. After his review of the contract language he felt the town had a right to retain final payment in the amount of \$33,895.40 and release the retainage held. R. Wentworth motioned to follow counsel's advice as presented. B. Holt seconded. Motion carried

2. Town Administrators Employment Agreement (a, c): This pertains to employee matters (a) and the reputation of individuals (c). R. Heath discussed with the board the employment agreement originally presented. There was a discussion if Town Counsel had drafted new language or discussed it. R. Heath advised that a brief conversation was had in the hallway, but language had not been drafted yet. R. Wentworth felt they should not sign the contract and put the position out for advertisement. P. LaRochelle felt Town Counsel needed to be involved. R. Heath expressed that he needed the protections already afforded to him in his current position in order to feel comfortable taking on the Administrator's job. The majority of the Board was in favor of signing the contract as presented. R. Wentworth expressed his disapproval of the contract and stated he will not vote in favor of it. P. LaRochelle reiterated his feeling that Town Council should be involved. Vote to be made in public session.

3. Offer to Purchase West Alton Community Center (d): This pertains to the sale or lease of property (d). R. Heath advised the board that he received an email from William Sherman offering to purchase the West Alton Community Center. After a brief discussion it was the consensus of the Board that there are restrictions on the property that prevent the town from selling it. No further action needed.

V. MacDonald moved at 7:11 pm to exit nonpublic session. P. LaRochelle seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald - yes P. LaRochelle - yes R. Wentworth - Yes
R. Holt - Yes B. Mitchell - yes Roll call vote carried unanimously

V. MacDonald moved to 'not divulge' the minutes because divulgence of the information likely would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this board or render the proposed action of the board ineffective. B. Mitchell seconded. Roll call vote:

V. MacDonald - yes P. LaRochelle - yes R. Wentworth - yes
R. Holt - yes B. Mitchell - yes Roll call vote carried unanimously

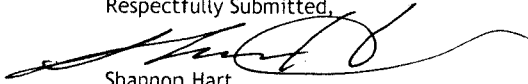
Public Session Actions:

B. Mitchell motioned to accept and sign Ryan Heath's Town Administrator employment agreement as presented. V. MacDonald seconded. R. Wentworth expressed he is not in favor of this contract and that the Board should not be signing it. P. LaRochelle stated that he feels Town Council should be involved first. The motion carried 3 -2, R. Wentworth and P. LaRochelle voted in the negative.

Adjournment

V. MacDonald moved at 7:13 pm to adjourn. B. Mitchell seconded. Motion carried

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shannon Hart', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Shannon Hart
Recording Secretary