**MINUTES SELECTBOARD SPECIAL MEETING**

**Thursday 9:30 AM December 17, 2020**

**Via Microsoft Teams**

**Meeting being held electronically pursuant to 1 VSA 312, including The Legislature’s H.861 (2020) “Temporary Suspension of Designated Physical Meeting Location Requirements” (see attached)**

1. The Chair opened the meeting at 9:32 AM.

Present at the virtual meeting:

Selectboard members: Chair Joe Pollio, Stan Mack, Cathy Siano-Goodwin, Al Sands and John Gregory.

Others present: Hardy Merrill, Nancy Merrill, Suzanne Welch, Suzanne Welch, Kim Record Clerk/Treasurer and Bill Kearns Town Administrator.

1. Capital budget presentation. See Minutes of Capital budget Committee and attached pages at end of these minutes. Hardy Merrill, Chair of the Capital Budget Committee presented the proposed budget. \
   * Fire Truck – Nothing received from Fire Department re amounts to set aside for replacement vehicle, though information/budget was requested of them. Thus, left at $15,000
   * Town Hall - nothing for this year. There is sufficient money tin the town hall fund for this year.
   * Guard Rail program, what is in the fund is sufficient for this year.
   * Computer upgrades. What is currently in fund is sufficient for this year.
   * Bridge maintenance – problem is that repair of bridges is expensive, and unknowable. Added $3000 to bring it to an even $30,000.
   * Bridge construction – Walker bridge – at the rates of $46,393 a year and estimated Town share, we will have all the match needed by 2026. Not known when the bridge will be built. With this amount we will have $182,000+
   * Highway and road structures, saving for the next project, expecting 20% match on $198,000 culvert #10 on Fisher Hill, and will be funded for 2026/27
   * Long discussion on Equipment Depreciation and Analysis of Cash needs (See last two pages attached.) debate about how much to set aside this year in light of possible large rises in school tax, and at the same time consideration about falling behind in putting money aside for necessary equipment, discussion of possibility of moving money around among the projects listed in the Capital Budget – which is allowed. Should the number be $122,000+ or $139,000+ Finally it was moved by Al Sands, stating that if the school budget goes up, we cannot inf the face of higher school taxes ask the people to take a big jump in Capital Budget next year, and we need to have the money for essential equipment, therefore he moved that the Highway Equipment fund should go to the $139,000+ number. Second John Gregory. Further discussion and then Al Sands called for the motion and it passed on a roll call vote Yes: Al Sands, John Gregory, Stan Mack Joe Pollio. No – Cathy Siano Goodwin.
   * Motion by Al Sands, second john Gregory to set the Capital budget amount at $207,588.00 Motion passed unanimously.
2. Audit items:
   * Stated she had the Draft Audit Report and letter for the SB and would send it to Bill kearns for distribution to the SB ONLY. Once finalized it could be distributed.
   * In 2018 and 2019 we had funds left over in the retreatment fund. The Town voted to keep those funds restricted (reserved) for retreatment only, and a fund was set up, but the funds were not transferred into the fund by the SB. Kim asked that the Selectboard make a motion to do so. Al Sands made the motion, second Stan Mack to move 2019 unassigned money in the sum of $95,933.00 and 2020 unassigned money in the sum of $95,230.00 into the highway Retreatment Fund. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Work on budget:
   * THO fee upped from $1000.00 to $1200.00
   * The Humanitarian Funds new request was from the Grafton Community Church for $1000.00, and would be a separate Article, since it is new.
   * Suzanne Welch and Wendy martin asked that the SeVEDS amount $2,037, be moved to a separate article instead of being kept with the Humanitarians. They questioned its services for Grafton as not being specifically identified when asked last year. Motion by Al Sands, Second Cathy Siano-Goodwin to make the SeVEDS request a separate Article. Motion passed unanimously.
4. No other business
5. Public comment.
   * Suzanne Welch thanked the Selectboard and all present for all their work on the budget.
   * Bill Kearns stated he would like to run all the Articles by the Town attorney because of some relatively rare items and because of the manner of voting them this yea. No one objected.
   * Bill Kearns said he had asked and been told by DominionTech how to post the Teams meeting by link on the Agenda and would be providing a link to those wishing to attend by putting it on the agenda in lieu of invitation, the link being more in keeping with the Open Meeting law.
6. Date of Next Selectboard Meeting: December 21, 2020 6:00 PM Microsoft Teams
7. Adjourn. On motion by Al Sands, Second John Gregory, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM

Respectfully submitted

William G. Kearns, Town Administrator