

MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD

Monday April 19, 2021, 6:15 PM

Via Zoom

Present: William Stewart-Chair, Tom Maher-Selectman, Dave McGuckin-Selectman, and Jennifer Smith-Administrative Assistant to the Select Board and Recording Secretary.

Public Participants via Zoom: Thomas Smith-Chair of the Budget Committee, Michael Traister- Budget Committee, Jane Lannon- Budget Committee, Christiane McAllister- Town Accountant, Norman Houle-Chair of the Water & Sewer Commission, Carl Roediger- Water & Sewer Commission, Laurence Leavitt.

Chairman Stewart opened the public session meeting at 6:19PM. Selectman Stewart explained the nature of the meeting, indicating it is considered an Emergency Meeting which meets all the State requirements of posting, and noted the availability of a phone number to call if a participant could not connect via Zoom. Selectman Stewart explained the criteria for Emergency Meetings, and stated that all votes by the Select Board would be roll call votes.

1. Warrant Article Public Hearing

Chairman Stewart read the Notice of the Public Hearing and Warrant Article 13 into the record, as well as screen shared the printed version.

Selectman Maher asked if the amount constitutes the remaining balance of what is available to the town in terms of the SRF funding.

Chairman Stewart responded that is not and further stated that under the SRF the town had the ability to borrow 5.5 million dollars total. The town has spent a total of \$4,378,604.60 under Warrant Article 7 from 2018, leaving \$671,395,40.00 and no monies have been spent from the \$450,000.00 warrant article either.

Selectman Maher asked if this warrant article creates a special district where one did not exist before.

Chairman Stewart responded that it does not. There are a series of steps that need to take place in order to establish the district, including public hearings, a petition to establish the Special District containing 50% of the participants signatures and votes of the Select Board to create a special district. It is not a Town Meeting vote.

The Special District is basically a mechanism to establish the special assessment as a repayment schedule that continues with each property.

Michael Traister, a member of the Budget Committee, asked what would occur if the 50% of required signatures to establish the Special District are not received.

Chairman Stewart responded that the Special District would not be established and no monies would be spent.

Mr. Traister then asked if the bond would still be owed.

Chairman Stewart responded that the town is only responsible for the amount of funds it has drawn down from the full amount of the bond. The Chair further stated that the town has been assured that there is 100% participation.

Larry Leavitt, a representative of the property owners wishing to participate in the Neighborhood Water Improvement Program, stated that in November/December he and others were able to obtain the written consent to the betterment for this purpose from 100% of the membership of the two streets.

Normand Houle, Chairman of the Water & Sewer Commission, stated that this sounds like a reallocation of funds from the public water main project to the private water main funds and asked why funds are being reallocated.

Chairman Stewart stated that when the private project was initially considered it did not appear that the original \$450,000.00 would cover the costs of this project.

Mr. Houle asked what the Select Boards' view is with regards to the additional work that was contemplated for the loops.

Chairman Stewart stated that costs came in higher on the original bid for the transmission main. A good job was done with managing the costs, but there was not enough money left to do the loops and the private lines. There may be remaining funds left for doing looping, but the town does not know what that number could be at this point.

Mr., Houle asked if there is a drop-dead date by which the funds have to be spent.

Chairman Stewart responded there is not a definitive date, but they would like us to utilize the funds as quickly as we can. Currently, we have until the end of December to finish the remainder of the project, without applying for an additional extension.

Mr. Leavitt wanted to clarify that the residents have committed to be responsible for the engineering study that is related to replacement of the water line and the cost of that study will be assessed against them by virtue of a special assessment. It is their assumption that once the study is complete the work will be put out to bid. It will only be after that work is put out to be that we will know the cost of the project. Depending on the cost, the 19 lot owners have reserved the right to opt out. We are 100% committed through the engineering cost phase and we have an agreement that is 100% committed of a desire to proceed, but at the end of the day, it is contingent upon the bids that come back to the town and the appetite among the 19 lot owners to pay for that.

Chairman Stewart closed the public hearing at 6:43pm

Selectman McGuckin made a motion to recommend Warrant Article 13.

Selectman Maher seconded and the motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

Chairman Stewart then asked the Budget Committee to offer a motion with regards to Warrant Article 13.

Mr. Traister of the Budget Committee offered a motion that the Budget Committee recommend Warrant Article 13. Mr. Smith seconded said motion and it carried unanimously with William Stewart and Jane Lannan voting in the affirmative.

a. Adjourn

Selectman Maher offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 pm.

Selectman McGuckin seconded and said motion carried unanimously 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Smith
Recording Secretary