

Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Wednesday, March 1, 2023  
4:30 PM Town Hall

*Present:* Matthew Riiska, Paul Madore, Sandy Evans, Barbara Gomez, Phylis Bernard and Linda Perkins

The meeting was called to order at 4:36 p.m.

*Public Comments:* None

*Minutes:* February 1, 2023

**MOTION** S. Evans to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2023 meeting as presented. Second M. Riiska. P. Madore abstained. Motion carried.

*Appointments/Reappointments:* Conservation Commission, Inland/Wetlands Agency

- M. Riiska requested the appointment of Shelley Harms to the Conservation Commission with term to expire 2/17/26.
- M. Riiska requested switching the positions of Jill Chase and Myron Kwast on the Inland/Wetlands Watercourse Agency. Myron will now be a regular member and Jill Chase will be an alternate. Both terms will expire on 12/31/23.

**MOTION** S. Evans to approve the above appointment and changes. Second P. Madore. Carried unanimously.

*Budget Discussion*

M. Riiska reviewed budget information he is working on for the Board of Finance's 3/14/23 meeting:

- Salary increases – The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities did a survey and the majority of the municipalities fluctuated between 2.25% - 3% for salary increases, some were at 4%. There was some discussion regarding the teacher salaries and calculating for a possible 3% increase.
- State legislation was put forward for allowing an incentive program increase for EMS and fire department volunteers which is currently capped out at \$1,000 per volunteer, but the new legislation will allow up to \$2,000. The Town of Norfolk ordinance currently allows for a property tax abatement or a check. We need to consider attracting and retaining volunteers when deciding the increase.
- There are two major projects coming up –  
Maple Avenue reconstruction – The low bid was \$2,150,000 from NJR Construction plus and on-site engineer at the cost of \$200,000 brings the total to \$2,350,000. We will be getting \$500,000 in a STEAP Grant from the State of CT. The cost of the project excludes the work being done related to the fuel spill.

*Budget Discussion (continued)*

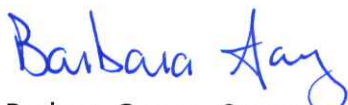
- Botelle School roof – Garland Engineering has been working on preliminary work for a standing seam metal roof and the low quote is \$1,800,000.00. It is rated for solar panels. M. Riiska looked into a grant which would cover 33% but it has too many restrictions which would be cost prohibitive.
- The price for oil has been locked in through the Ed Advance Consortium at \$3.26/gallon for heating and \$3.32/gallon for diesel.
- The price of road salt will be increasing from \$72/ton to \$94/ton
- There is approximately \$100,000 of tree work that needs to be done. We will be contracting with Distinctive Tree as well as a couple of local contractors.
- Chipsealing will be completed on North Colebrook Road, Mountain Road and part of Westside Road this Summer.
- We are currently in a 5-year contract with MIRA, the company that hauls our trash. The price is increasing from \$1.05/ton to \$118/ton.
- There will be a BOS Special Meeting to discuss the budget on Wednesday, 3/8/23 at 4:00 p.m.

*Selectman's Report*

- Botelle School – The new oil tank is being installed next week. The old tank will be removed during the April school break.
- Fuel Spill – Cleanup continues and there will be a public meeting next Tuesday, 3/7/23 at the Botelle School Hall of Flags at 7:00 p.m.
- NVFD – The new tanker truck is in service. The old tanker truck is being converted into a plow truck for Public Works.
- Transfer Station – Tree clearing will begin soon as well as the installation of a silt fence for the solar project.
- M. Riiska met with Mike Sconyers, Nina Ritson and Virginia Coleman (BOE) regarding working on a cooperative agreement with Colebrook Consolidated School.

**MOTION** P. Madore to adjourn at 5:20 p.m. Second S. Evans. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara Gomez, Secretary