

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 \$105/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