

DRAFT

PRESENT: L.M. Smith, Chairman; J.E. Ziolkowski, Vice Chairman; R.P. McDermott, Selectman; L.A. Ruest, Town Administrator; S.H. Ayer, Secretary

Meeting videotaped by Margaret Allen.

6:30 PM

PUBLIC HEARING – PERMISSIBLE FIREWORKS ORDINANCE: Copies of the draft ordinance were made available to the public. The Chairman opened the hearing to comments of the Board. There were none. L. Smith then opened the hearing to the public. No comments were heard. The Chairman closed the Public Hearing.

MOTION: To adopt the Permissible Fireworks Ordinance as written.

MOTION: J. Ziolkowski

SECOND: R. McDermott

UNANIMOUS

BUILDING INSPECTOR, CODE COMPLIANCE, HEALTH OFFICER – MONTHLY

REPORT: The Selectmen acknowledged M. Sikorski’s written report for the dates October 17 through November 15.

M. Sikorski was asked to expand on the issue in his report regarding compliance with Zoning and overuse of an installed septic system at 51 Depot Road. M. Sikorski said that the owner was advertising for rental of his property on Airbnb. The Building Inspector spoke to the owner after seeing that he was advertising the property as larger than allowable use of the septic system. The owner assured M. Sikorski that he would keep the rentals to what the septic system can handle. The property was also advertised on the Airbnb website for use as a function hall, and there was another event on the property. A compliance letter is being prepared advising the owner that he needs to stay within the usage limits of his septic system. The property has since been removed entirely from the Airbnb website.

ROAD AGENT – MONTHLY REPORT: The Selectmen acknowledged the Road Agent’s report of Highway activity for October.

FIRE CHIEF, AMBULANCE, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – MONTHLY REPORT: The Selectmen acknowledged the October report of the Fire Chief. Jon True, representing the Fire Department, reported that the new ambulance was entered into service today.

POLICE CHIEF, ANIMAL CONTROL – MONTHLY REPORT: The Selectmen acknowledged the Police Chief’s report for October.

PROPOSED TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDINANCE: The Traffic Control Ordinance will be considered in 2017.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

GENERAL FUND BALANCE \$899,882

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE/PAYROLL WARRANT(S)

DRAFT

MOTION: To approve the following warrants as presented by the Bookkeeper:

Payroll check warrant	#360	\$16,319.56
Accounts payable warrant	#544	\$737,135.34
Accounts Payable Warrant	#545	\$5,238.14
Treasurer's Warrant	#21	\$5,357.23

MOTION: R. McDermott

SECOND: J. Ziolkowski

UNANIMOUS

Trustees of the Trust Fund requests from the Bookkeeper were presented for signatures of the Board. There included \$2,959.84 to TMS Architects for the Old Library Building CRF; \$1,181.44 to Accents Custom Carpentry for the Police garage; \$735.00 to Robinson Enterprises for the Old Stage Bridge; \$103.54 to Lowes for the Mezzanine Fund; \$200.00 to Mike Dunbar for the Tercentenary CRF; and \$241.51 to Ann Haggart for the Tercentenary CRF.

TAX COLLECTOR REPORT – MS61 TREASURER’S REPORT BOOKKEEPER REPORTS – EXPENDITURES & REVENUES: Reports for the month of October were acknowledged by the Board.

PROPERTY TAX REFUNDS:

A list of seven refunds requiring Selectmen’s signatures have been provided by the Tax Collector. Refunds for overpayment of taxes were approved for:
Map 7, Lot 39, Map 6, Lot 58- 1, Map 4, Lot 48-6, Map 8, Lot 93, Map 5, Lot 53- 1, Map 7, Lot 68-1, Map 8, Lot 64-8

ELDERLY EXEMPTION APPLICATION: An application has been received from a qualifying applicant (Map 5 Lot 82-9).

MOTION: To approve as presented.

MOTION: R. McDermott

SECOND: J. Ziolkowski

UNANIMOUS

PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENTS: The Chairman read the Tax Assessor’s recommendations with regard to two administrative abatements, for the Society for Protection of NH Forestry (Map 3, Lot 149) and the State of NH Department of Transportation (Map 2, Lot RR). Both properties had been classified as taxable in error.

MOTION: To approve, as presented, the tax abatement for the Society for Protection of NH Forests, Map 3, Lot 149.

MOTION: R. McDermott

SECOND: J. Ziolkowski

UNANIMOUS

DRAFT

MOTION: To approve, as presented, the tax abatement for the NH Department of Transportation, Map 2, Lot RR.

MOTION: R. McDermott

SECOND: J. Ziolkowski

UNANIMOUS

SELECTMEN'S PERMIT APPLICATION, HAWKERS & PEDDLERS: The Selectmen reviewed the Selectmen's Permit application submitted by Alexander Caponigro requesting permission to sell solar panels for Solar City, door to door during daylight hours, November 1 through May 31. On the recommendation of the Police Chief, the time frame was changed to six months, from December 1, 2016 through May 31, 2017.

MOTION: To approve as amended.

MOTION: R. McDermott

SECOND: J. Ziolkowski

UNANIMOUS

COMCAST FRANCHISE FEES (JULY - SEPTEMBER 2016): Comcast fees have been received for the third quarter of the year, in the amount of \$8,330.92.

MOTION: To accept the check and place the money in the General Fund.

MOTION: J. Ziolkowski

SECOND: R. McDermott

UNANIMOUS

ELTON LANE INSPECTION FOR ROAD ACCEPTANCE REPORT AND INVOICE: An invoice from Jones & Beach has been received for final road inspection on Elton Lane for road acceptance by the Town.

MOTION: To approve payment of invoice #29325 to Jones & Beach for inspection work on Elton Lane.

MOTION: R. McDermott

SECOND: J. Ziolkowski

UNANIMOUS

Funds in the amount of \$16,168 remain in the escrow account for the road, and will be used to do road repairs recommended by Jones & Beach in a letter of 10/26/2016.

MOTION: To perform the work on Elton Lane as recommended by Jones & Beach, and limit by the amount available in the escrow accounts for the road.

MOTION: R. McDermott

SECOND: J. Ziolkowski

UNANIMOUS

PUBLIC COMMENT RELATING TO THIS MEETING'S AGENDA ITEMS: None heard.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: 11/2/2016 AND 11/10/2016 WORK SESSION

DRAFT

MOTION: To approve the minutes of November 2, 2016 and November 10, 2016 as written.

MOTION: R. McDermott

SECOND: J. Ziolkowski

UNANIMOUS

7:00 PM

PUBLIC HEARING – TRICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION 2022: Ann Haggart, David French and Angelo Montrone of the Tricentennial Steering Committee presented information to the Board and members of the public about preparations for the Town's 300th Anniversary. A. Montrone said that the Steering Committee has done a lot of research and also a Town survey to collect information. He said the Steering Committee is here to find out what the Town wants and advise what it will cost. He said a celebration cannot be planned until the budget is known.

The Committee had prepared paperwork showing survey results and listing possible events. A. Montrone said that the survey had indicated people were interested in an average of 7.7 events to take place surrounding the Tricentennial.

The Committee also showed the information gathered from nearby towns, and what was spent on their similar celebrations. A. Montrone mentioned that one thing learned was that the planning takes a long time.

One specific expense mentioned was the update of the Town history, which it was estimated would take a minimum of three years and \$14,000 to complete.

There was a lengthy discussion with Board members about the amount of funding needed, and how it can be raised. The Committee members stressed that if the Town wants a celebration, the money needs to be available upfront, in order to know what to plan and to allow time to plan. It was noted that a \$3,000 Warrant Article was voted down in 2016, so the Committee was hopeful for funds to be committed in the Town's budget for 2017. The amount requested for 2017 was \$30,000; it was estimated that \$80,000 would be the total needed, and could be raised in installments and supplemented by ongoing fundraising efforts.

R. McDermott asked that the cost of each proposed event be added to the list.

J. Ziolkowski gave credit to the Committee, saying that the visibility of the approaching Tricentennial has improved over the last few months. He said seeing the Tricentennial logo displayed helped bring the event into focus. J. Ziolkowski said he is still not inclined to add funding for the event to the 2017 budget, preferring to add this to the 2017 Warrant. He also said he feels that with the current momentum, more money can be raised by fundraising.

R. McDermott said he partially agrees with J. Ziolkowski, saying that fundraising efforts are still on the periphery. He said that as far as amounts to be added to the budget or to the Warrant, that \$30,000 is easier to manage than the entire amount of \$80,000 at once.

A. Montrone said that \$80,000 is the estimated total needed, but that it can be raised over five years. However, the bulk of the funds will be needed in 2017 and 2018, or plans cannot be made. He asked if there was any way to get a commitment of \$60,000 from the Town.

L. Smith said that he did not think so, that he is concerned about the commitment of budget money when the interest of the public is unknown. He said he still prefers that the funding be requested through a Warrant Article, so that it will succeed if there is public interest.

J. Ziolkowski said that the Warrant article could be voted down, but with budget funds, there is also the risk that a default budget would be passed if the budget is seen as too high.

DRAFT

Member A. Haggart said that the committee has been given a mandate to come up with recommendations, but that it is up to the Town to determine what is wanted. She added that getting information to the public at large in time will be difficult, as they will only look at the bottom line. She added that the Committee will not spend a lot of time planning if there will be no money forthcoming.

The Chairman opened the discussion to the public.

E. Zumbado, Brown Road, expressed concern about the burden on taxpayers, who have other things to spend money on, such as their children's college education. She said she felt that every time she goes to vote, she has to try to prevent having to spend more money. She also questioned how many people being asked to pay for the celebration will be here to enjoy it.

L. Smith said that that for every tax dollar spent, 18 cents goes to the Town government, with 77 cents to education. He said that the Selectmen work hard to keep the budget as level as possible.

D. Coe, Coburn Woods Road, suggested that the money could be visualized another way, by seeing \$80,000 as \$80 per each of 1,000 households, spread out over several years, for example.

The Selectmen were asked if they would affirm a Warrant article if it were prepared by the committee, and all answered that they would, if the amount was right and the article well written.

T. Beattie of Drinkwater Road commended the Committee on their efforts, but expressed concern about the amount of \$80,000. She also recommended advertising through an article in Hampton Falls magazine, which is delivered to every household. R. McDermott said that with the right publicity, the residents would be engaged and get behind the celebration effort.

Tim Samway, Old Stage Road, said he can see that the Committee is looking for leadership from the Selectmen, and thinks that putting money in the budget would show this. He said he does not remember the Town budget being amended at the deliberative session in recent years. However, he said that if the Selectmen were not in favor of putting the money in the budget, they should state strong recommendation of the Warrant Article.

D. French, Exeter Road, said that if the Selectmen would speak in favor of a budget line item, that would show commitment. He said that there is a lot of momentum among the committee, which has about 50 members, and that these include professional not-for-profit fundraisers. He also mentioned that at the Election Day booth, a tally was taken from people gauging their awareness of the upcoming Tricentennial, and the count was 60-40, majority being aware, in contrast to 9 out of 10 residents asked at the Primary election being unaware. He urged the Board to reconsider putting the funding in the proposed budget.

It was mentioned that other Town committees have line items in the budget, and all are worthwhile. These are ongoing items, where the Tricentennial would be over a course of a few years and then completed.

Beverly Mutrie, Brown Road, said that this will be a marketing campaign by the committee, and agreed that an article in Hampton Falls Magazine would boost support. She said maybe \$5,000 in the budget and \$20,000 in a warrant article could get support, and that way if the Warrant article was voted down there would still be some money for the celebration.

J. Ziolkowski mentioned that the Board has been struggling to keep the budget in line with inflation, and that there have been four budget work sessions devoted to keeping the budget as low as possible.

A. Montrone said that any excess funds would be returned to the Town.

B. Mutrie asked if it would be possible to promise \$60,000 of Town money and have fundraising money go back to the Town.

DRAFT

The possibility of using the proposed Comcast media fund (yet to be created or approved) for such things as promotional mailings was discussed.

The Hearing was closed to public comment.

Comments of the Board were solicited and continued the discussion of how much funding should be requested in the budget versus a Warrant Article.

During discussion, it was noted that even though a Town Committee, the Tricentennial Committee could promote voting for the Warrant Article. L. Smith added that only privately raised funds could use to promote it.

MOTION: To put \$2,000 in the 2017 Town budget and propose a \$20,000 Warrant Article.

MOTION: L. Smith

SECOND: J. Ziolkowski

In discussion, J. Ziolkowski said he felt the amount in the budget should be at least \$5,000.

MOTION DID NOT PASS.

MOTION: To put \$5,000 in the 2017 budget to support the Tricentennial celebration.

MOTION: J. Ziolkowski

SECOND: R. McDermott

UNANIMOUS

MOTION: To sponsor a \$20,000 Warrant Article to fund the Tricentennial celebration.

MOTION: R. McDermott

There was a continued discussion on the amount proposed, and who should sponsor the Article, the Selectmen or the Committee. There was no second to the motion.

L. Ruest reminded the Board that there is currently a “place marker” article on the draft Warrant for this funding. There was discussion of possibly breaking up the requests into several articles for specific expenses, in that way eliciting the opinion of the public as to what sort of celebration they are willing to pay for, and also making the individual articles smaller amounts. It was agreed to withdraw the Selectmen’s article and have the Committee come forward with a request of their own.

MOTION: To withdraw the Selectmen’s Warrant Article for \$20,000.

MOTION: L. Smith

SECOND: J. Ziolkowski

UNANIMOUS

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:23 PM.

MOTION: R. McDermott

SECOND: J. Ziolkowski

UNANIMOUS