

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting

This meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 12:05PM on Thursday, February 23, 2023 in the Town Offices. Jason Petraitis and John Tripp present.

Review of Special Town Meeting articles:

Mr. Petraitis reviewed the article on the sewer project, he said we looked at different options, what is the cost if Sewer users took on debt? Is there Rate relief available? Jim Nyberg said rate relief is available but it's a pittance. He will apply for it yearly and look for other funding. Jim reviewed an email he sent with cost breakdown.

Mr. Petraitis reviewed-the Town already approved 13.1 million, we are getting 9.8 million from USDA, and we need to fund an additional 10 million.

Mr. Petraitis reviewed the sewer rate relief; Jim said no guarantee but percentage is based on debt. Mr. Petraitis asked what the amount was last time we received it, Jim said about \$2,000.00. Mr. Tripp asked if we'd get more because debt has increased. Jim said in theory, but it's a difficult law to understand with many variables.

Shiela LeBlanc said we could put a percentage of the debt on the tax base and a percentage on the sewer user. Shiela said when the loan is refinanced Sewer won't have any loans but the tax base will. At some point users have to help pay for this, she doesn't see how Town can be responsible for the whole project. When the Water Department had upgraded the cost was on the water users alone.

Shiela suggested putting 3.5 mill more on tax base and balance on users. Jim said he could split the grant, Shiela said that muddies the waters. Shiela said all funds must be approved, grant kicks in at the end. Mr. Petraitis said the grant has to go towards the original 13.1 million approval. We could do 6.5 to sewer users and 3.5 to town.

Article 1-Fire/Highway renovations-Mr. Petraitis said we have time to work on the actual figure for this motion.

Article 15-Parks and Rec changes. Mr. Tripp said he doesn't want to do that, he doesn't think it will work. Mr. Petraitis said the town can decide.

Art 16-bylaw change for electronic voting at Town Meeting. Mr. Tripp doesn't like it and wants to remove it from the warrant. Mr. Petraitis said he's torn on the issue.

Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to sign the warrant for March 10, 2023 Special Town Meeting. So voted.

Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to sign the Forest Cutting Plan submitted for tree removal at the Water Department. So voted.

Mr. Petraitis moved, and Mr. Tripp seconded, a motion to ask Officer Martin to speak with the gentlemen regarding wood lot on Donovan Road Town property. So voted.

There being no further business, at 1:05PM, Mr. Tripp moved, and Mr. Petraitis seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Barre