

Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 21, 2013

Present: Vice Chairman Darcy; Ebbighausen; Rideout; Schill; and TA Collins. Chairman Smith excused.

6:00 p.m. Vice-Chairman Darcy called the meeting to order.

Selectmen reviewed updated budget worksheets.

Health Agency – Ebbighausen made a motion to tentatively approve Health Agency in the amount of \$47,656.00, second by Rideout. Discussion: Darcy would like to have a breakdown of the agency being assisted for town meeting. Motion passes 4-0.

Welfare – Discussion: The Budget Committee has tabled Welfare because they wanted to revisit to see if there is a need to increase direct assistance. TA Collins had a suggestion to have a warrant article to raise and appropriate \$10,000 to be placed in an expendable trust to be used if the direct assistance line exceeds the \$60,000 and to fund the \$10,000 for the undesignated fund balance. If money is used from the expendable trust, then the following budget will raise the money replace what was used the prior year. The Selectmen were supportive of this idea.

Debt Service – The Selectmen revisited Debt Service. TA Collins noted the Well #2 Project bond was to be paid 50% tax funds and 50% user fees and the General Fund portion was not placed in Debt Service, therefore Debt Service has been adjusted accordingly.

Ebbighausen made a motion to tentatively approve Debt Service in the amount of \$165,458.00, second by Rideout. Motion passes unanimously.

6:40 p.m. Chairman Smith joined the meeting.

The Selectmen reviewed the warrant articles as follows:

Article 2 – tabled until after the public hearing of January 28, 2013.

Article 3, 4 & 5 – General operating budgets for Town; Water; Sewer already approved.

Article 6 – The purchase of a Utility/Rescue Vehicle for the Fire Department of \$80,000.00, of which \$50,000 will come from the expendable trust set up for this purpose and \$30,000 will be raised through tax funds which may be offset by any grant monies. Ebbighausen made a motion to tentatively approve Article 6, second by Rideout. Discussion: The Selectmen would like the language added to the article if this article passes, Article 13 will be passed over. Motion passes unanimously, 5-0.

Article 7 – To enter into a five year lease agreement in the amount of \$74,726 for the purpose of leasing a Ford F550 to be used by the Highway Department and to raise \$16,667 for the first year's payment. Ebbighausen made a motion to tentatively approve, second by Darcy. Discussion: Schill is concerned with leasing and rather place money in a capital reserve on a yearly basis to purchase instead of lease. The vote is as follows: Darcy – I; Ebbighausen – I; Rideout – I; Smith – I; Schill – opposed. Motion passes 4 – 1.

Article 8 – Purchase 12 Main Street, Lot/Map 47-15 in the amount of \$38,000 of which \$38,000 will come from the Wal-Mart Development Agreement Account. Ebbighausen made a motion to tentatively approve, second by Darcy. Motion passes unanimously 5 – 0.

Article 9 – To enter into a four year lease agreement in the amount of \$36,936 for a Ford Interceptor Utility Police Vehicle to be used by the Police Department. Discussion: Selectmen discussed lease versus purchase and the interest paid on the lease. The interest is built into the lease quote. Selectmen Schill made a motion tentatively approve the purchase the police vehicle, second by Ebbighausen. Motion passes unanimously 5 – 0. Collins will insert the correct amount into the warrant article.

Article 10 – To raise \$30,104 to install a perimeter fence at the North Hinsdale Well Site which will be paid by water user fees. Ebbighausen made a motion to tentatively approve, second by Schill. Motion passes unanimously 5 – 0.

Article 11 – To raise the sum of \$30,104 to update telemetry equipment for the Water Department this will be paid by water user fees. Ebbighausen made a motion to tentatively approve, second by Schill. Motion passes unanimously 5 – 0.

Article 12 – To raise the sum of \$25,000 to install a generator at the Glen Street Well Site. Discussion: The Selectmen discussed having the generator as a portable. Selectmen Schill made a motion to amend the warrant article to state a portable generator, second by Ebbighausen. Motion passes unanimously to amend the article. Schill made a motion to tentatively approve the article as amended, second by Ebbighausen. Motion passes unanimously 5 – 0.

Article 13 – To raise the sum of \$25,000 to be placed in the Fire Apparatus Fund. Discussion: Wording is requested to be added that the article will be passed over if Article 6 passes. Schill made a motion to tentatively approve with added wording, second by Ebbighausen. Motion passes unanimously 5 – 0.

Article 14 – To raise the sum of \$25,000 to be placed in the Monument Road Construction Fund. Darcy made a motion to tentatively approve, second by Schill. Motion passes unanimously 5 – 0.

Article 15 – To raise the sum of 25,000 to be added to the Highway Capital Equipment Fund. Ebbighausen made a motion to tentatively approve, second by Schill. Motion passes unanimously 5 – 0.

Article 16 & 17 – To be revisited.

Article 18 – To raise the sum of \$15,500 to continue transit service to and from Brattleboro to Hinsdale. Discussion: The Selectmen discussed ridership and placing stop signs at the scheduled stops for the public. Discussion took place regarding compressing the Saturday Schedule. Darcy made a motion to tentatively approve, second by Ebbighausen. The vote is as follows: Darcy – I; Ebbighausen – I; Smith – I; Schill – I; Rideout - opposed. Motion passes 4 – 1.

Article 19 – To raise the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the previously established Backhoe Expendable Trust of which 50% will be water user fees and %50 will be tax funds. Selectmen Schill made a motion to tentatively approve, second by Ebbighausen. Motion passes unanimously 5 – 0.

Article 20 – To raise the sum of \$5,000 from the 2013 undesignated fund balance to be added to the Community Center Building Expendable Trust fund previously established. Ebbighausen made a motion to tentatively approve, second by Schill. Motion passes unanimously 5 – 0.

Article 21 – To be revisited. Collins to scan information for Selectmen.

The Selectmen briefly discussed revenues; rate increases for water & sewer.

Smith requested information regarding the tax revenue being raised from campers.

Selectmen requested an update of funds in the TIF District that are available.

Rideout Report there is a budget meeting on January 23rd, and a Recreation Committee meeting on the 24th.

Discussion regarding the MS5 took place. Chairman Smith will contact the auditors to get a definite time when we can receive the MS5. Collins will email contact info to Smith in the morning.

Chief Faulkner reported that he several applications for FT and PT officers and he will need two Selectmen to serve on the oral board. Darcy and Ebbighausen.

7:55 p.m. Selectman Ebbighausen made a motion to adjourn, second by Schill. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Collins, Town Administrator