



## **Minutes of the Board of Selectmen**

Date: November 21, 2022  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Place: McCourt Social Hall  
Present: Chairman Woodbury, Vice-Chair Howard, Clerk Grigg, Selectman Hicks, Selectman Pepe and Administrator Bridges  
Remote: None

### **Call the Meeting to Order**

At 6:00 pm Chairman Woodbury called the Selectmen's meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance

### **Announcement Any members that are participating remotely in accordance with Regulation 940, CMR 29.10 of the Open Meeting Law**

None

### **Public Hearing Continued from November 14, 2022 – Review and Act on Tax Classification for FY2023**

The hearing was continued from November 14, 2022.

Principal Assessor Linda LeBlanc reported that the FY2023 tax rate is set at \$12.06 per \$1,000 of home valuation, which is \$1.09 lower than last year's rate. Ms. Leblanc presented options for consideration for the FY2023 Tax Classification which include 1) Minimum Residential Factor/Single or Split Tax Rate; 2) option to grant an Open Space Discount; 3) option to grant a Residential Exemption; and 4) option to grant a Small Commercial Exemption

*A motion to keep the tax rate for Minimum Residential Factor of One / Single Tax Rate (Grigg/Hicks) passed 5/0*

The hearing was closed at 6:07 pm. All were in favor.

### **Review & Possible Action on Allocation / Expenditure of ARPA Funds**

Chairman Woodbury suggested beginning the process with the category of premium pay for employees. He recommended having one or two Board Members get together to work out the details.

Dr. Hicks made a motion to fund some items now: the Board of Health request, the Fire Department parking lot paving and restroom renovation; LED signs for Town Hall and public safety buildings; Police Department light tower and batteries.

Mr. Bridges noted that some additional funds are needed: the Board of Health needs an additional \$7,720 to pay for the public health nurse, an additional \$9,000 is needed for the LED signs, the total request for the Fire Station restroom renovation is \$345,000, and the cost for Context Studios to prepare the bid for the demolition of the Lake Street School is \$24,000; he requests the Board vote to approve funding for those items as well.

Dr. Hicks amended his motion to include the items as requested by Mr. Bridges. The motion was not seconded and was later withdrawn.

Administrator Bridges said approximately \$2,088,000 has been allocated to date, which includes \$500,000 for businesses and \$500,000 for homeowners. With the addition of the Fire Station project at \$345,000, the remaining uncommitted fund amount will be under \$1 million.

Chairman Woodbury would like a study on the LED sign at Town Hall to determine safety at the intersection and he said the HVAC for the library should wait until after the building study is complete since it may change the scope of the building. Funds should be reserved in the event other building priorities become necessary.

Selectman Howard suggested voting on the items individually. Dr. Hicks withdrew his motion.

*A motion to approve the Fire Department restroom upgrades for an amount not to exceed \$345,000 (Hicks/Grigg) passed 5/0.*

*A motion to approve \$24,000 contract for the demolition of the Lake Street School (Grigg/Hicks) passed 5/0.*

*A motion to approve up to \$35,000 for the Police Department equipment (Grigg/Hicks) passed 5/0.*

*A motion to approve up \$7,720 for public health (Grigg/Hicks) passed 5/0.*

After discussion on the paving of the Fire Station Parking lot, Mr. Bridges asked the Board to allocate an amount for engineering

Selectman Grigg moved to allocate \$100,000 toward engineering for the Fire Station parking. The motion was not seconded.

A motion to allocate \$50,000 toward engineering for the Fire Station parking lot. (Pepe/Howard) (Selectman Pepe retracted this motion after discussion on allocating the full amount for the paving).

*A motion to allocate \$375,300 for the paving of the Fire Station Parking lot (Grigg/Hicks) passed 5/0.*

*A motion to approve \$55,000 towards the LED sign for the public safety buildings (Pepe/Grigg) passed 5/0.*

There was discussion on working out the details on premium pay for employees.

*A motion to nominate Chairman Woodbury and Selectman Grigg as a subcommittee (to review premium pay) (Howard/Hicks) passed 4/1; Pepe opposed.*

Mr. Pepe indicated that the full Board should be responsible for determining the details and breaking the information into sections.

Mr. Bridges relayed that the application for the Paycheck Protection Program was included in the packet and could be modified and used for businesses and homeowners. He advised the Board to review the checklist to help determine applicable uses for businesses and homeowners. After the criteria is established, an independent committee should be created to work with an outside auditor or accountant to review the applications.

Mr. Bridges asked the Board to consider a portion of the \$150,000 funding request to assist U & F Superintendent Bill Cundiff with engineering support. Chairman Woodbury said Mr. Cundiff indicated he is checking with local colleges to find a suitable intern. Dr. Hicks would like Mr. Cundiff to provide an update on the status of potential interns.

The next ARPA workshop will be held on Dec.8<sup>th</sup> to review criteria for businesses.

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie  
Executive Assistant

Referenced documents: Administrator's Memo/ARPA funding report