

**Board members present:** Chair Kasper, Vice-Chair Hawthorne and Selectman Bugbee

**Others present:** John and Anne Tappan, Jim Brady, Caren Rossi, Tom Dronsfield, Steve Bullek, Town Administrator Andy Robertson and Asst. Town Administrator Denise Duval.

I. Chair Kasper calls the Select Board meeting to order at **6:00pm**.

II. Public comment

John Tappan, Stepping Stones Road, asks in preparing the proposal for the office building, how many other town offices did the Board visit? Chair Kasper says that she has been to about 15. Mr. Tappan asks again in preparing the proposal did you consider what the other buildings have, what they cost to build and to run. She said she looked into the floor plan, layout, where it's located in the town and the condition of the building. Mr. Tappan says that doesn't sound very useful. Chair Kasper says that is his opinion. Vice-Chair Hawthorne says that she did her research online. She did not physically go to any buildings to research. TA Robertson says that he went to the Barrington Town Hall and discussed the project on at least 2 occasions with their Town Administrator who served as the clerk of the works for their new building project which was built by the same contractor that we have engaged. Mr. Tappan is concerned with what might go into the Voters Guide. He says that there was a 2-cent discrepancy on the cost of the first payment for the bond in the deliberative session presentation material. The NHMB bond schedule shows the cost as 5 cents. He said that NHMB is correct. Mr. Tappan says that this makes him wonder what else is not accurate. There was very little in the presentation to explain how the payments change. Previous committees have presented a chart (he holds up a picture of a chart). Chair Kasper says that public comment is 3 minutes and if he would like to submit something for the Board to look at then that would be fine. She points out that it would be an interest only payment in the first year. She asks Mr. Tappan to wrap it up. He says that the tax impact for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year is not shown. TA Robertson is working on a similar chart for the bond table and is also working with Mr. Gasowski on some publication materials to distribute. Selectman Bugbee is still waiting to have something set up for him and anyone else to go take a tour of the Barrington building. He would like to speak with Connor, the Barrington TA at that time. TA Robertson says that he will look into this. Vice-Chair Hawthorne asks TA Robertson to look at 3 cents per thousand that is in the article because the NHMB does say it is 5 cents. TA Robertson and Chair Kasper start to explain the math but Vice-Chair Hawthorne says that this explanation is not the problem; the problem is the tax rate increase is 5 cents per thousand. She actually thinks it is 4.77. She just want the tax impact to be correct. TA Robertson says it is an educated guess. Vice-Chair Hawthorne asks if there is a formula. TA Robertson explains that there are 3 things that you have to consider; revenue, property valuation and what you take from the unassigned fund balance in order to reduce the rate. Selectman Bugbee says that he got a call from a citizen saying that the deliberative session materials were not on the website. Asst. TA Duval says that they were on the website and explains exactly where. She says she can show him. He says that he believes her but if he and the gentleman calling couldn't find it then they must not be easily found. Selectman Bugbee says that the citizen is someone who works in the IT world so they are very tech savvy. Vice-Chair Hawthorne shows Selectman Bugbee on her tablet where it is and how easy it is to get there. Selectman Bugbee says he did not see the materials at the bottom. TA Robertson says he will be reposting the budget and the warrant from the deliberative session tomorrow when the Town Clerk returns to the office. Asst. TA Duval says that she cannot move the materials up on the page. It is where the program puts it. Selectman Bugbee says that it wasn't there when he looked at the page. Vice-Chair Hawthorne says that there is actually as date stamp on the posting that says January 30, 2024 at

3:36pm. Selectman Bugbee still insists it was not there before. Vice-Chair Hawthorne circles back to the issue regarding the tax rate impact from the bond. She says that there is a financial note that says the tax rate will be going up. Mr. Tappan says yes, but it does not say the exact amount of taxes that will be needed to pay the bond in the following years. TA Robertson says that Caren Rossi and Denise Duval pushed him on adding that financial note.

- III. a. Chief Dronsfield reminds the Board that they have been severely short-handed since the first of the year. He says that it has been a daunting task to cover all the shifts with just 4 of them and there are still 3 more weeks until the officer that is out on paternity leave returns. Chief Dronsfield tells the Board that he would like to give them each a bonus. He says he has been covering the majority of the open shifts to save on overtime so there is plenty of money in the overtime line to pay 3 officers a \$750 bonus. Vice-Chair Hawthorne asks if there is a reason he is only asking for the 3 officer. Chief Dronsfield says that he believes it is his job to take care of the officers and he wouldn't feel right asking for himself to get something. He believes that it would be up to the Board which is his boss. Caren Rossi and Steve Bullek support the Chief getting a bonus. Chair Kasper says she is going to abstain from this vote because she feels like this is a precedent setter and so she thinks it should be the other two Board members that makes this decision. She will not be around for when the next department comes in to ask the same. TA Robertson says that he believes the personnel policy would have allowed him to go ahead and do this but he wanted to come to the Board for its blessing. The Board agrees that if he has the money he can do this but Vice-Chair Hawthorne asks Selectman Bugbee if he thinks that everybody who is working all of these hours should get it. Selectman Bugbee does not answer this question. Vice-Chair Hawthorne tells the Chief that he should get the bonus as well.
- IV. a. 1. TA Robertson says that he was surprised to get the email that he got last week. Dean, MTAC Chair, would like to have complete control of the SharePoint space for all town committees. He thinks that this would enable him to enhance usage, help other groups and make the best use of the SharePoint space. Steve Gagnon says its ok if all the committees and commissions are ok with it. TA Robertson says the only concern he has is that the MTAC has existed for 2 years now and there doesn't seem to be a lot of progress. Vice-Chair Hawthorne doesn't think there is a problem with this since there is no sensitive information stored on the SharePoint site. Chair Kasper thinks that this will move things forward and along faster than she is in favor. If the Board does not object then the TA will give Dean Rubine and Chris Haller full administrative access. The Lee Greeters are the most active users at this time. Selectman Bugbee says that they will need to get everyone on this. The goal was to get people off of individual Google accounts.
2. The Red Cross has lost their storage space in Hampton. They keep a truck here now and would like to store a trailer on the PSC property. Chief Dronsfield said it would be ok to use a sally port for emergency storage. TA Robertson brings up their request to use the PSC for meetings. Asst. TA Duval is handling that application with the Red Cross. Their legal department wanted one sentence removed from the room use application. The Town Attorney is going to look at it for free because it's for the Red Cross. The Town Attorney that the language pertaining to worker's compensation should be stricken from the application. The Board will have the application to act on at the 2-20-24 meeting.
3. The coverage for the March 12<sup>th</sup> election will be: Selectman Bugbee 7am – 11am. Chair Kasper 11am – 4pm. Vice-Chair Hawthorne 4pm – close.

## SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 5, 2024

PAGE 3

4. TA Robertson says his intention is to get the floor plan and any other information out there tomorrow as widely disseminated as possible. Paul Gasowski has video equipment available to do small non-bias videos and nothing would get published before it goes through the TA's office.

New Building meeting on 2/12/24. The voter's guide will go out to the Board as soon as it is completed.

TA Robertson says that the Deliberative Session went well and the breakfast for the Sawtelle's was heavily attended.

b. Chair Kasper moves to accept the consent agenda as presented. Vice-Chair Hawthorne, seconds. All in favor. Motion Carries.

V. No old business.

VI. No new business.

VII. Chair Kasper moves to enter into a non-public session RSA 91-A:3-II (a) and (l) at **6:32pm**. Selectman Bugbee, seconds. **Roll Call Vote. Vice-Chair Hawthorne, yes. Chair Kasper, yes. Selectman Bugbee, yes. Motion Carries.**

The Select Board returns from non-public session at **6:58pm**.

b. Selectman Bugbee moves to seal the nonpublic minutes. Vice-Chair Hawthorne, seconds. **Roll Call Vote. Chair Kasper, yes. Selectman Bugbee, yes. Vice-Chair Hawthorne, yes. Motion Carries.**

IX. Chair Kasper adjourns at **6:59pm**. All in favor. Motion Carries.

Minutes transcribed by:



Denise Duval, Asst. Town Adm.

Minutes accepted by The Lee Select Board:

  
Katrin Kasper, Chair  
Rebecca Hawthorne, Vice-Chair  
Scott Bugbee, Selectman

4/11/24  
Date