

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

Others present: John and Anne Tappan, Jim Brady, Jennifer Stone, Reuvin Woodrow, Judy Belanger, Annie and Paul Gasowski, Hayley Van-Gils, Paula Tate Moreau, Scott Moreau, Richard Hebert, Erick Sawtelle, Town Administrator Andy Robertson and Asst. Town Administrator Denise Duval.

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

II. No public comment

III. Chair Kasper opens the public hearing to accept unanticipated funds from NH the Beautiful at 6pm. The Town has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$5k to be used toward the purchase of a Kubota skid steer. Selectman Bugbee asks that when the warrant is done next year that this \$5k is put back into the fund that the payment come out of. Chair Kasper moves to accept a \$5000 grant from NH the Beautiful, a private non-profit charitable organization trust, for the purchase of a Kubota SVV75 skid steer. Selectman Bugbee, seconds. All in favor. **Motion Carries.**

IV. Chair Kasper opens the public hearing to accept unanticipated funds from the American Library Association at 6:05pm. Hayley Van-Gils, Library Director, explains to the Board that the Library applied for the Libraries Transforming Communities grant round 2. In round 1, they received \$20k and for round 2 they are getting \$10k. This money will pay for making the front door automatic and ADA compliant. Chair Kasper moves to accept a \$10k grant from The American Library Association to be used toward improving services, facilities and programs for people with disabilities in the town. Vice-Chair Hawthorne, seconds. All in favor. **Motion Carries.** Chair Kasper closes the public hearings.

V. a. Judy Belanger, Co-Coordinator for the Wilkinson Food Pantry, says that last year the other coordinator rented a plot of land in Dover to grow food for the patrons of the Wilkinson Food Pantry. Their numbers have gone up and now they may feed 35 families. This plot in Dover doesn't make sense and was an inconvenience for the other coordinator. Today, Ms. Belanger is asking for permission to use town property; more specifically, to put raise bed gardens on a 20 x 20 concrete slab where the Parish House garage used to be. Two Eagle Scouts will raise the \$100 or so to build the 4 raised beds and pay for the soil. Seven volunteers and patrols will care for the gardens. Karen from Blue Bell Nursery would like to donate the vegetables for the garden. They will use the hose and water from the Church. Selectman Bugbee asks about liability. TA Robertson says he is not aware of any but can check with Primex. This is not a community garden so they will not use those words. They will call it the Food Pantry garden. Anne Tappan says that this sounds interesting but they need to keep critters out such as small animals and deer. Ms. Belanger says they are going to see how it goes. The garden is going to be up and near the parking lot. Chair Kasper says that they would consult with Pawtuckaway Gardens for some advice. Vice-Chair Hawthorne asks if this is going to interfere with the proposed New Town Center project. TA says no. Chair Kasper moves to grant permission to the Wilkinson Food Pantry to use town property located near the Parish House for a vegetable garden. Said veggies to be harvested and given out to patrons of the pantry. Vice-Chair Hawthorne, seconds. All in favor. **Motion Carries.**

b. Stephanie Couturier, the Regional Executive for the northern New England region of the Red Cross. They are looking for the use of some meeting space in the Lee Public Safety Complex

for some of their disaster action team members to meet in on a regular basis. Richard Hebert says that between 10-15 people meet once a month from 6-8pm to talk about what they need to do. He has discussed the possibility of the first Tuesday of the month. Chair Kasper moves to grant permission to the American Red Cross to use the Lee Safety Complex on a monthly basis for their team meetings. Said use is based on availability and may be subject to change. Vice-Chair Hawthorne, seconds. All in favor. **Motion Carries.**

- VI. a. 1. TA Robertson presents the design build proposal for the new office building. It has 3 major changes in it. 1. They would need to reduce the size of the new building by 600 square feet; 2. They have replaced all the electric heat with propane and moved electric heat as an upgrade and 3. They have ruled out using concrete fiberboard (or Hardee Board) for the outside of the building and propose vinyl siding. This news was not made public until tonight. Chair Kasper does not want to take anything off the table right now before they have funding figured out. Design Build is constantly changing. TA Robertson has applied for congressional funding. TA Robertson reviewing the 12/4/23 minutes when Careno presented the project and Ben had estimated between \$1.5 and \$1.9 million for the building that we were proposing and he predicted coming out somewhere in the middle of that. TA Robertson says that he doesn't consider \$1.8 with a reduction in items in the middle. Apparently, the number without the reductions was \$1.9 million. At that point, there was no increasing the cost number. The budget and warrant has been done with \$1.7 million as the highest cost number. Careno's response was to make cuts. Chair Kasper says that she will do anything within her power to get the money for energy efficiency. Selectman Bugbee agrees and says that this is a concept and prices change. There is still the chance of getting funding if the voters approve it. TA Robertson says that he received these changes and the final number at 4pm on March 1<sup>st</sup>. He did not feel he could publically announce this without speaking to the Board first. Chair Kasper says that they need to have faith that there are enough people to vote in favor of this. Selectman Bugbee says to remember if we did get more money than we would have to go the legislative body for permission to spend over \$1.8 million. Paul Gasowski ways this is stunning and bad timing. He asks if the Board is obligated to tell the people before tomorrow. He didn't know about the grant applications and asks if we should let the people know about these as well. He understands that the Town will be voting on a bond and to build a new building.

TA Robertson explains that the Pappas and Shaheen grant applications were one pagers and done online. The one thing that Barrington did to help with its success was to identify the Town Hall as one of their primary emergency operation centers. They too had a safety service complex that is also listed as an EOC. Selectman Bugbee says that the applications are first narrowed down and then the finalists do a 30 second narrative. The decision is made in November. Mr. Tappan, Stepping Stones Road, says that our situation is not anything like Barrington. Their warrant article was approved and then it was held up by permitting and then Covid happened. Following Covid, Careno came back and said that the project had increased in cost by a ½ million dollars. This is why Barrington was able to ask for the money. In addition, Mr. Tappan reads several other things that Careno cut for the Lee project and says that it never would have been \$1.9 million. He says that it would have been well over \$2 million. He adds that as a voter he says it looks like a bait and switch and now the day before the election this information about the cuts is not out there. He says that the PSC was built with insufficient funds. Chair Kasper stops him and asks what he would like them to do about this unfortunate news. Mr. Tappan says that the town should not vote for this. Chair Kasper says that is his option, she appreciates his comments and asks him to sit down. She adds that there are many

phases that they need to go through and many choices need to be made but they have a clear goal. She closes with the fact that they haven't negotiated or spoke to Careno about this. She believes that they can still work this out and get what the town wants. Selectman Bugbee asks to put the new information in the form of an attachment onto the website.

Erick Sawtelle, North River Road, asks about if it is possible to have a special town meeting to vote on this project later. TA Robertson says yes you could request a special town meeting, but he suspects that if it gets voted down tomorrow the Board would try again next year. Selectman Bugbee says that they could go to Superior Court to ask to use \$100k out of the unassigned fund balance if need be. Paul Gasowski, Lamprey Lane, wants to confirm that Selectman Bugbee said to let the people know about this on the website. Selectman Bugbee asks that the TA and Asst. TA put it on the website and send out notices to all those that they can.

4. TA Robertson brings up a request from the Division of Children, Youth and Families to use the pavilion at LRP and asks if the usage fee can be waived again this year. They are looking to have a picnic for foster children. The Board agrees to let them use the pavilion this year for free and if nothing changes with their request that they can use it every year for free.

TA Robertson acknowledges that the Transfer Station TV is still not working. He needs to get with BackBay to figure out why it is not working.

2. TA Robertson says that with Katrin leaving the Board they need a Select Board member to come into the Town Office to review the manifest every other week. There is a short discussion. If Vice-Chair Hawthorne cannot make it then Selectman Bugbee could make it in around 3pm. TA Robertson says he is typically in the office on Friday until 3pm.

3. Selectman Bugbee will be at the Elections from 7am – 11am; Chair Kasper will be there from 11am – 4pm and Vice-Chair Hawthorne will be there from 4pm – close.

b. Chair Kasper moves to accept the consent agenda as presented. Selectman Bugbee just points out a type o that he has changed on the original. Selectman Bugbee, seconds. Vice-Chair Hawthorne abstains from voting because she did not finish reading them. All in favor. Selectman Bugbee and Chair Kasper, yes. **Motion Carries.** The minutes presented for approval and signatures were from November – March.

Vice-Chair Hawthorne presents a plaque to Chair Kasper for her work on the Select Board over the last 3 years. Chair Kasper loved this experience and thanks everyone.

VII. TA Robertson gives a recap on the meeting that the Lee Select Board had with the Madbury Select Board. He says that the conversation centered primarily on fire and waste disposal issues. Madbury does not have any full-time employees. TA Roberson says he has had and will continue conversation with the parties involved. Selectman Bugbee says that Madbury will get back to Lee in April sometime with what they would like to pursue. He says that they are looking Lee's DPW people doing their hauling up to Waste Management for a fee. It needs to work for both parties. The Board will involve the public in this decision. He would like to see more revenue produced.

VIII. No new business.

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IX. Chair Kasper adjourns at **7:30pm**. 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

4/15/24

Date