

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

January 23, 2013

Executive Board Attending: David Upton, Susan Hansel, Maury Collins, Edie Drinkwater, Admin. Assist.

Others Attending: General Public Attendance

The January 23, 2013 meeting of the Selectmen was opened at 7:01 PM by Chair David Upton.

David explained that this was a regular meeting of the Select Board but the agenda this evening would be an overview of the developing budget for 2013 with audience discussion welcomed.

As articles were read, department heads were given an opportunity to present. Questions and discussion from the audience then followed.

A question arose regarding an amount of approximately \$5000 over budget for Town Clerk/Tax Collector in the Town records allocation. This occurred when grant funds had been electronically deposited in the fall of 2011. The work was not completed until well into 2012. The bill followed still later in 2012. When 2011 closed the funds became part of the fund balance as they had not been encumbered toward this future bill.

Linda Cates spoke to the Library budget and explained the increase in the amount requested from the Town for 2013. She questioned the figures detailing the Town expended portions. This will be checked and clarified.

Article #5 deals with raising and appropriating \$5000 to be deposited into the Buildings Capital Reserve Fund.

Tom Buttrick suggested moving this article to follow all articles dealing with Town Buildings Projects as the outcome of those votes may have a bearing on this article.

The next article to draw discussion was article 7 which concerned increasing the amounts of the elderly exemption. The article as written increases the assessment exemption amounts as well as allows for greater income and asset amounts for qualification.

Margaret Schillemat noted that the increased burden would then fall to other tax payers and adversely affect the ability of young people to live in Nelson. At this time, of those providing completed documentation requirements, there has been only one denial.

It is uncertain how many more would qualify because individuals must first apply and provide detailed personal financial information for evaluation in order to be considered for the exemption.

Several more articles were read with little or no comment.

Article #13 was read. This article concerns the preservation and renovation of the Town Hall. Lisa Sieverts was asked to present this article.

Lisa detailed all the projects considered by the Town Buildings Committee including those not presented in the Warrant for this year.

In reviewing the article as written, Lisa explained that the Town Buildings Committee would suggest the amount to raise and appropriate should be \$300,000.

A preliminary estimate places the anticipated cost at approximately \$300,000. Many agreed.

The amount of funds available in the Silver Lake Fund (showing as \$190,171) was questioned as being inaccurate by Warren Hammack. This will be verified but Lisa indicated her belief that it was correct.

Mike Blaudschun expressed the opinion that the second floor of the Old Brick Schoolhouse should have been on the Warrant as that building sees a higher level of regular use.

Rick Church stated that, in fact, he was the one who suggested not putting the schoolhouse on the Warrant this year.

The Town Hall project continued to draw a great deal of discussion which included the possibility of a phased plan involving the Planning Board. With this concept a capital improvements plan would be developed and could include the three projects currently being considered.

Several people took part in this discussion, posing questions and concerns that there were no exact numbers and that a loan or Bond had not been considered for presentation.

A show of hands indicated a strong interest in researching a bond for these projects.

Review of the remaining articles continued.

Questions arose from the audience regarding the need for cyclical property assessing and the DRA requirements, the diesel allocation previously agreed to by the Highway and Fire Departments who share a single tank, the federal requirements for appropriating and properly expending social security and Medicare costs, and the gasoline allocations for all departments who use it.

David explained that the Highway Department's budget includes material costs to repair the Boat ramp at Granite Lake. This maintenance obligation dates back to 1958 when this access to Public Water was established by the State of New Hampshire.

After the Warrant and Budget review concluded most of the audience left the meeting. David called for order to complete the Selectmen's regular meeting.

All questions from the evening were revisited and listed. The Board agreed to address each question and to provide the information to those who brought these inquiries forward.

There was a quick review of the schedule leading up to Town Meeting.

With nothing further David made a motion to adjourn.

Maury seconded the motion.

The motion then carried by a vote of 3-0.

Meeting adjourned 10:20 PM.

January 23, 2013

David Upton, Chair

Maury Collins

Susan Hansel