



**Select Board /Assessors Meeting Summary
March 23, 2022
7 p.m.**

Select Board members Present: Wes Daniel, Tom Johnston and Mitch Garnett

Others Present: Town Clerk/Treasurer Mary Anderson, Road Foreman Frank Jones Jr., residents Don Grinnell, Dave Williams, Peg Hobbs, Kathy Ocean and Wendy Carr.

Wes Daniel called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Approve Summary of March 16, 2022: Motion to approve summary by Tom Johnston, Mitch Garnett seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

Sign Treasurer's Warrants dated March 24, 2022:

P/R Warrant #24: \$5,189.84

A/P Vendor Warrant #25: \$9,799.13

Motion to approve by Tom Johnston, Mitch Garnett seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

Road Foreman Report: Written by Frank Jones Jr. and read by Wes Daniel

3/13: Frank, Steven, David and Ricky plowed snow

3/14: Steven and Frank sanded dirt roads; washed off trucks; fixed mirrors on P200

3/15: Steven and Frank replaced cutting edges on P600 and P100 plows; washed off loader so tire can be fixed

3/16: Frank called in Steven, David and Ricky to plow and sand, David left at 7 a.m., Ricky left at 1 p.m.; after washing off trucks, fixed springer and bed chain floor in P500

3/17: Finished P500 and checked lights on all trucks for inspection; washed garage floors; class was cancelled; tried to open stone and gravel piles but are still frozen

3/19: Called for sinkhole caused by someone dragging wood up Lenfest Road that also caused mud and ruts

CEO Report: None

Health Officer Report: None

Town Clerk/Treasurer's Report: Town Clerk/Treasurer Mary Anderson said a state revenue share check in the amount of \$9,848.69 was received, as well as a \$2,000 check for a safety grant that will be used for turnout gear for the fire department. A \$108.19 check was received from National General Insurance Co. for a yield sign knocked down by a driver.

The checking account balance is \$355,695.

Mary spoke with Sara Bullard and Sara has agreed to answer any broadband questions at town meeting. Select Board members agreed Mary could use the discretionary fund to purchase lunch for election workers on Friday. Mary has information about the Simple IRA plan included on the town meeting warrant but will present it later if the article is approved at town meeting.

Other Agenda Items: Select Board members signed the February bank statement.

Wes made a motion to move forward with repairing/replacing two damaged windows in the Bryant Room based on a \$575.87 quote received from Pen Bay Glass. Dave Williams asked what happened to the windows; Wes said probably BB gun damage. Tom asked if the whole windows will be replaced and Wes said it appears so based on the quote.

A notice from the state was received about the bid process for ordering salt. Wes said he would contact Andy Hart about what the county's plans are for salt, as Washington typically goes through the county. Frank Jones Jr. said the state often underestimates its need for salt and runs out.

Don Grinnell spoke about his concerns about article 20 on the town meeting warrant. He noted the Budget Committee has not met to discuss the article, so he, and others, spoke as residents of the town. Article 20 establishes a Road Maintenance Equipment Reserve Account and states any leftover funds from the Maintenance of Town Roads account would rollover to it at the end of each year. Don said, looking at the leftover funds for the past five years, that would have meant \$250,000 would have accrued in the new account rather than in the surplus/undesigned fund. As well, rolling over the money takes the Budget Committee out of the discussions on its use.

Wes said the prior five years may not have happened as predicted. Frank said the five-year amount is so high because some paving was not done. Don argued that money, if transferred to the new account, would be locked into equipment and could no longer be used for paving.

Kathy asked why the article was included in the warrant. Wes said it was at the request of Frank and he agreed Public Works needs to look toward future equipment purchases. If the account is not approved at town meeting, the money would have to come from surplus.

Dave Williams said he would prefer the article limit the amount of money going into the new account.

Don asked why a specific account is needed for road maintenance equipment, because there already is a Road Maintenance Reserve Account and Road Truck Reserve Account. Frank said the new account would be for something like a loader, which is not a truck.

Dave reiterated that he would like to see the amount of money going into the account capped. After some additional discussion about the money left from not paving, Wes said some of it also came from

LRAP. Don said it doesn't matter how money is shuffled between accounts, he is only concerned about the effect the new account might have on property taxes.

Wes suggested voting against the article but Kathy suggested amending it at town meeting instead. Additional discussion about what the amendment could be followed. Frank said he only hoped to establish the account, as the backhoe is an '84 and other equipment is aging as well.

Dave switched topics and asked Frank about a new driveway on Vanner Road that he feels is in a dangerous spot. Frank said it follows the town ordinance, with 200-foot visibility, and the property owner declined his suggestion to put the driveway in a different location. Wes said Frank should use his own discretion to determine if a driveway entrance is safe, even if it follows the town ordinance. Frank said standing in the new driveway and looking up the hill, the visibility is currently there – but leaves will grow on the trees and the shrubs near the road will fill in as well.

Don returned to the budget and said there is no way the town needs \$66,000 in overlay. Wes pointed out that is the recommendation of the auditors and the assessor's agent has a formula to follow to determine the number. He said he is concerned that money disappears from sight on Dec. 31 as well. Don said when the account was created, between \$6,000 and \$8,000 per year was being rolled over. Wes said the mil rate could have been lower last year but the town needs to start saving money. Tom said as a percentage of the budget, what is rolling over is the same. Don agreed with saving money but said he would like the process to be more transparent. Tom noted the same article is on the warrant each year and if anyone wanted to find out the exact number, it's included in the town report. Don said the exact number is known before the warrant is printed and he would like to see an actual number in the article.

Returning to a possible amendment on article 20, Dave said he would prefer Select Board members make the amendment at town meeting, rather than a resident or Budget Committee member. Peg said she can't make town meeting but was glad to be present for the discussion. Mary reminded Select Board members that if they wished to discuss amendment wording, it should be done at the meeting. Tom proposed capping the rollover amount at \$20,000; Kathy said that was too much and said \$5,000 to \$10,000 would probably be approved. Wes suggested \$10,000; Mitch added "up to;" and Tom said the amount could still be less, based on money left in the Maintenance of Town Roads account.

Other business: None.

Questions/comments: None.

Motion to Adjourn by Mitch Garnett, Tom Johnston seconded; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Grinnell