

Select Board Minutes

Date: January 11, 2022

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Multi-Purpose Room

Next Meeting: January 25, 2022

Minutes: Accepted

Present: Richard Doughty, Brian Haynes, Dina Walker, Michael Stephenson, Laurie Pratt, Colleen Stewart, and Carol Cochran

Department Heads:

None present

New Business Land Use Fee Schedule: Michael Stephenson – CEO - The current fees are not covering the cost of the CEO's & Planning Boards Stipends

It is costing the Town right now \$5,000 for the CEO and Planning Board and with the 63 permits for 2021 brought in \$1,485 with the present fee schedule.

The fees that Michael is suggesting \$30 hazardous trees, up from \$10; Land Use Permit \$100, up from \$25; Subdivision \$300, up from \$250; and Commercial \$200, up from \$50. Presently campers are \$10 and would go under the LUP at \$100.

Richard explained that in 2020 the CEO researched fees with other Towns and came back saying that we, in most cases were higher, therefore that is why we have the fee schedule that we now have. He also said that he doesn't think that we have to recover the cost.

\$100 for a 10 x 12 shed was thought to be excessive.

The activity based on income coming in for Commercial Storage Units and with the new Tower Ordinance it states that the CEO will be more involved in the application process. The present fee Schedule does not include Tower Ordinance application fee.

Mike said that he was going to bring this before the Planning Board meeting tomorrow night to see what their reaction is.

In some Towns Mike said that the permit fees depended on the cost of a home and a square footage of a shed.

Richard said the they would consider the fee schedule at a future meeting seeing what the Planning board has for suggestions.

New Business:

- Legal Budget Proposal for 2022 (\$10K)
 - New Town Ordinance
 - Amended Building Ordinance/Site Plan Review Ordinance
 - Amended Comprehensive Plan
 - Misc legal needs

WAC is asking for \$7,000, however Dina thought a more realistic amount would be \$10,000 and wanted to make sure that the Budget Committee has the correct figures.

- Tower Ordinance Drafting update and timeline

Dina sent out a draft of the Tower Ordinance and asked that those receiving it check out her comments and that within a week there would be a joint working session between the Select Board and WAC. The public would be able to attend the meeting but only to observe.

Dina will be traveling so the meeting will be done on Zoom.

At this time, they are not sure if the Tower Ordinance will be on as a Warrant Article at the annual Town Meeting on March 5th.

Some of the highlights of the Ordinance are that the threshold height of a tower will be 70', if over the 70' an application must be submitted.

Application will show visual and environmental impact if 100' the Planning Board would discuss the application and make a decision as to whether or not to approve it and a tower above 200' would not be permitted.

Richard said that it is not ready for Town Meeting that perhaps a straw poll at Town Meeting to see if those present are interested in WAC proceeding with it.

Either way information will be available in our Town Report.

- Discussion of Zoom Meetings during COVID resurgence

Select Board meetings may revert back to Zoom with COVID pretty rapid

- Two upcoming Seminars that may be of value to us
 - Maine Employment & Labor during COVID (B&S: Jan 13, 2022 & MMA: Jan 27, 2022)
 - Legislative Process (MMA Feb 8, 2022)

Dina is attending both meetings

Budget Committee Meetings:

Dina brought to the Boards attention that the Budget Committee Meetings must be put on the Website. The public must know when they are.

Old Business:

ARPA (America Rescue Program Act Funds) Update

New Guidance from MMA says the final rule to be finalized April 1, 2022. Categories of spending include:

- Public Health
- Economic impact
- Premium Pay – Addition to their regular pay
- Loss in Revenue - Excise money \$13,000
- Broadband –

Discussion of sample article to include APRA in Warrant for Town Meeting provided to us by MMA.

Town has been awarded funds total \$44,000+ from ARPA funds.

Richard said that the Budget Committee should offer suggestions on how to spend the money. The Budget committee make recommendations as to what money needs to be raised or appropriated and how to spend the money that is received meet the budget.

Laurie said that she felt some of the APRA money should be used for premium pay to those employees that worked through the Pandemic.

To also use it for the lost revenue of excise tax in the amount of \$13,000 and it's possible to replace the generator for this building.

Colleen will see if she can get an answer as to whether APRA money can be used to replace the Generator at the TOPO building. The Town has been told that the generator is due to be replaced as it was purchased in 2004. Dina will follow up if Colleen has a problem with conflicting information.

Colleen will compile a list of how many hours each employee worked during the dates that have been indicated starting on March 13, 2020.

Rachel DiMarco – TDS:

TDS is asking if the Town of Weld requires a permit when working in ROW (right of way).

The Select Board does not know of any permits that are required for buried facilities vs. aerial. For contact when work is to be done within ROW they are requested to contact the Select Board or the Town Office.

Town hall furnace:

Richard said that Chris of Webster Heating said that the duct work and the downstairs will have heat by town meeting and at the cost of the previous quote.

Broadband:

Charlie Woodworth invited Richard to attend a Zoom meeting on State wide mapping VETRO. It is an online platform through google maps and asking cohort volunteers to create reports for mapping. Richard does not see a valid reason why we should be collecting the data for someone else.

Chris Lynch of Matrix said the next step will be an internal move for Broadband to move forward.

Chris wants to do a mailing to all of the Tax Payers of Weld for an in person informational meeting in the Spring to tell them what is being proposed and encourage people to sign up. Carol will make contact with Chris to see what format he would like it in.

Executive Session:

Employees

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol J. Cochran".

Carol J. Cochran