

TOWN OF HILL

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

November 21, 2023

Selectmen Present: Shaun Bresnahan Chairman, Frank Razzaboni, Stephen Thomson & Lisa Seymour (Administrative Assistant)

Selectmen Absent: None

Public: Shelly Henry, Niki Mahoney, Gerard Desrochers, Jamie Moulton, Paul Guild, Ellen Guild, William O'Conner, Eric Herr, Gregory Paradise, Joseph Guerriero, Joann Irving, Carl Rider and David Parks

Shaun Bresnahan brought the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

HIGHWAY DEPT:
No Report at this time

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Chief Jamie Moulton presented his budget for 2024. Shaun questioned that the prior year's expenses and budget is not reflected in the budget presented. The EMS contract had a slight decrease for 2024. Jamie stated that 2023 the costs was \$67,449 and in 2024 it will be \$66,918 Lisa Seymour mentioned that we have already received the contract. Jamie pointed out that the dispatch fees were increasing significantly over prior year. The dispatch fees for 2023 was \$15,155 and in 2024 it's going to be \$18,324 this increase was due to a new cad system and raises to retain the staff of the dispatch. The building supplies is budgeted for \$2,000 for the purpose of replacing glass or repairing widows. Shaun stated that this is really maintenance of the building. Jamie was debating to just combining the building maintenance with the building supplies. Stephen asked about the diesel line Jamie stayed with the \$1,000 no increase. Shaun asked if there a log going to track the usage of diesel and repairs on the trucks? Jamie said that he had started one but it isn't updated currently. Increase Stephen Thomson asked a question about equipment repairs you are requesting \$6,500 but currently you only spent \$414.56? Jamie stated that they currently still having issues with the trucks. Nathan Mills spoke with Frank Razzaboni and they are still having issues with the pump and they have a company coming to fix it and can we do this. Frank Razzaboni stated you will need a quote and the decision will need to be made by the board. Jamie stated that it's for repairing the tools on the trucks. Equipment testing, we are now following NFPA rules they need to be test every year and we are requesting \$6,500 for SCBA, Pumps and Ladders. Jamie will look into this and let the board know more details. With the upgrade to the heating to propane Jamie felt he could reduce that line by \$500. Lisa Seymour pointed out that we have contract pricing and the town currently pays \$1.56 per gallon for propane. Lisa Seymour pointed out when negotiating the contracts with Dead River they did a conversion from the fuel oil to propane at the fire station. Medical supplies were increase \$1,000 this line covers the AED pads and the supplies for the trucks and last year we went over budget. Training for the department has increased because the free training is tapering off. New equipment decreased slightly. Stephen Thomson asked why do you need \$10,000 because this year you only spent \$1,456.35? Jamie replied that we have not been invoiced for the Flir equipment and that costs was over \$6,000 and we have an invoice for \$1,700 for equipment from the Fire Store that was never paid from a year ago because the department never issued a PO for it. Frank Razzaboni asked if we get this this week because really needs to be paid. Jamie stated that he has two emails for the Town of Hill and really needs to delete one. He is trying to get everything changed to the town of hill email and cancel the outlook email because this is why he is missing emails. Protective Clothing increase to \$6,000 Jamie stated that the gear is going out of date and prices are going up and we have to be replaced gear. Vehicle Maintenance increased \$2,000 over this year budget because we keep getting more vehicles such as the ATV's and the UTV these add to the vehicle repairs. The wages stayed close to the same for 2024 budget.

Emergency Management budget increased \$400. The increases are in the Equipment/Generator maintenance for \$300 and the training for \$100.00. The question was asked about the generator at the emergency center? Is the generator run on a weekly basis? Jamie said that will test every Friday at 1:00 pm and will have a tracking log.

Shaun Bresnahan said with this all added up it looks like you're going to be under spent by \$20,000 this year. But you have an increase of \$13,019 in the 2024 budget. Jamie said the last time he checked the economy is not slowing down.

Shaun Bresnahan asked about the fire permits and where are we regarding the reimbursements. Currently we pay \$14.69 for a member of the Fire Department to issue these. Chief Jamie Moulton stated that he is currently working on this however it requires data entry of all the permits issued. Stephen Thomson asked is the town going to be reimbursed for these fees. Jamie Moulton said yes, we will. Jamie will be working on getting this caught up. Shaun asked would it be helpful to a line just for fire permits? This would be on the revenue side for tracking purposes. Lisa asked is this a full reimbursement or a portion? Jamie stated he believes it is a percentage. Stephen asked for clarification we are paying them through payroll and not being reimbursed currently. Jamie stated that is correct. Stephen just wants to make sure this is being done and correct going forward.

Chief Moulton asked how much money was in the capital reserve account for the fire department? Jamie stated he show zero in the account. This is because it has not been funded this year. Shaun currently there is \$188,750. after the 2023 funding. The interest earned income was \$2,600 making the total \$218,000. Should be about 220,000 after this year. This is the only capital reserve account for the Fire Department.

Chief Moulton is working on a grant for new Lifepack CR2 AEDs for the town this grant. Shaun Bresnahan asked is this a 50/50 match. Jamie stated that he believes it is but will need to check into this. These units are \$2,200 apiece and we need 11.

Mark Labonte had a few items. The heating system is complete and working great and is looking for a backup heating system if needed. The kids have been painting and the renovations are moving forward. Mark said that they will need to purchase some oil and washer fluid for the trucks. Mark will be available to help with the giving tree. Mark will be at the safety committee meeting in December. Mark said the Jaws of Life sign is up.

JoAnn asked what the proposed 2024 budget for the Fire Department? Shaun stated it is \$92,349 this is an increase of \$13,019.

POLICE DEPT:

Chief Joseph Guerriero we have 3 Tasers and cameras that don't work. Joe reached out to Wolfcom for a quote because that is where we had purchased them before. They replied that they could but it's a minimum purchase of 6 cameras at a cost of \$15,000. This option would not work for the town.

Joe is currently using equipment from another town until we can order them. There is a grant option for tasers and cameras through Axon this would be a 50/50 match. The Axon cameras plus software would be \$10,357 Stephen Thomson asked if this included a taser as well. Stephen Thomson asked if these were hard numbers. Joe said he will confirm this. Shaun Bresnahan stated that we will be in the office from 2 pm to 4 pm on the 22nd. Computer in the car we can also apply for a grant for this and it would be a 75/25% match.

TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR:

No report at this time.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Eric Herr Town Moderator will be unavailable for the January 23, 2024 primary election. Eric has asked Tom Seymour to be the Pro Temp Moderator for that election. Eric Herr wanted to float an

idea with the greater wealth of the town to have a trust fund private 501c (3). He is seeing if there is a need for Hill. This fund would be available as gifts to residents in need and not offset operating expenses. Stephen Thomson thinks this is a good idea.

Eric Herr asked if he could use legal counsel for guidance in researching the starting of a benefit charitable. Frank Razzaboni made the motion to allow Eric Herr to use legal counsel for this foundation. Shaun Bresnahan seconded the motion. All in favor

William O'Conner called into the meeting regarding his building permit. The issue with the permit is there is no road frontage in Hill the road frontage would be in Alexandria. Unique lots like yours don't fit in Hill because there is no road frontage in Hill. Stephen Thomson stated this is a mess because it's not a conforming lot per out zoning ordinances. Stephen Thomson reviewed the road frontage requirements between two towns but still has more questions regarding this. Stephen has asked for time to research this. Stephen cited RSA 674:53 land affected by municipal boundaries Section VI. The Selectmen and Planning Board from both towns will need to discuss this. William will be at the next Selectmen's meeting on December 5th for 7:15 meeting.

Shelly Henry had a couple of questions. The first one addresses the clarification of the snow removal at the town office which includes shoveling and having it open for business at 8:00 am in the mornings.

The second question is about the water department. The Water Commissioners are taking over the water system. Shelly stated that they will need a mailbox and are the bonded under the Town. Shelly is very concerned because January is only 5 weeks away and is looking for input and guidance from the Selectmen on this issue. There is a deed stating that it belongs to the Town of Hill. Gerry Desrochers stated that in 1912 Frank R. Woodard of Hill for consideration of the payment to him. All my right, title and interest in and to a certain water-works system located in Hill. All of the property for the Hill Water System belongs to the Town of Hill. This deed is recorded at the Merrimack Registry of Deeds. The question was asked who oversees the Water Commissioners? No answer. Before this can be changed do the Commissioners need to ask the public? Shaun Bresnahan will be attending the next Water Commissioners in December.

Gerry Desrochers from Twin Rivers Food Pantry came in to request a donation of \$500 to help the Pantry support Hill households struggling with food insecurity. The Twin Rivers Food Pantry for Hill served 220 households in 2022 and through October they have served 274 households in 2023.

Stephen Thomson made a motion to donate to the Twin Rivers Food Pantry for 2023. Frank Razzaboni seconded the motion. All in favor.

Shaun Bresnahan made a motion to fund \$500 to the Twin Rivers Food Pantry 2023 to be taken out of the Welfare budget line. Stephen Thomson seconded the motion. All in favor.

The Board of Selectmen recessed for 10 minutes and resumed the meeting at 8:18 pm.

Niki Mahoney presented the Parks & Rec 2024 budget. There is an increase of \$2,349.00. The equipment rentals increase because the TTCC will be using the ballfield for 3 months plus they are projecting 5 events next year. The Park Maintenance increases are for Rubbermulch, new equipment and mowing the ballfield area. The remainder of the increase is for the Pond area for mulch, flowers, loam and seed. The Tapply Thompson Community Center had a slight increase as we. They are requesting to fund the capital reserve fund \$1,000. Niki mentioned that they have received a donation of loam to repair the ballfield.

Niki Mahoney presented a PO to purchase snow fence for the pond area and the stairs to the ballfield. Also included in the PO was a request for a 10' x 20' popup canopy for their events. The total request was \$405.95.

Shaun Bresnahan made a motion to move forward with the purchase of snow fencing and a 10' x 20' popup canopy for \$405.95. Frank Razzaboni seconded the motion. All in favor

JoAnn Irving asked if the Selectmen if they have given any thought in increasing the income limits and asset limits for the Elderly Credit. Shaun Bresnahan asked JoAnn to look into this and provide thoughts on the poverty stats.

Carl Rider came in for an update on the lighting issue on Patten Road. He said that they have doubled the lights. The neighbor doesn't care because there is no follow-up. They have been sent the certified letter and has thirty days to respond to the board of selectmen if they don't there is enforcement with fines of \$250. Per day. Carl said that they added 24" floodlights that are only 1,000' away and are very bright. The Police Chief talked with them but it was not very effective.

The Guilds are still looking for the next steps in resolving the sewage issue. Paul Guild asked what step? Shaun Bresnahan stated superior court. Stephen Thomson stated we had a meeting 2 months ago. Stephen Thomson asked other question is this a civil matter if so when does it become civil. Collectively the three selectmen didn't follow through. Shaun Bresnahan asked which avenue are we going? Superior Court. Stephen Thomson made a motion to use option one to send a letter threatening legal action in the Superior Court if the property isn't immediately remedied. If the owner refuses to remedy within two weeks, the next step is Superior Court. Shaun Bresnahan seconded the motion. All in favor.

Selectmen Business

Building Permit: None

Driveway Permits:

Anthony Roberts 86 Currier Road Map R12 Lot 27 change to an existing permit. The current driveway has expired. Lisa Seymour will reach out to Anthony Roberts to fill out a request for a new driveway permit. Then we will have Gregg work with them on the culvert size and approach to the road. Stephen asked when a property is being logged do, we issue a temporary access permit and when they are done, they are required to remove the access and restore back to the original state or as close as possible. Shaun said that is correct. Stephen asked if the driveway was the temporary permit? Shaun said no that was a new permit for the previous landowner. Steve Robie owned the land when it was logged.

Intent to Cut:

Stephen Robie 364 Murray Hill Road Map R6 Lot 12 Logger Wesley Avery – Approved

Other:

The received a Hill Special One Time Highway Payment – in Accordance with House Bill 2 Payment for Maintenance, Construction and Reconstruction of Class IV and V Highways. Need to schedule a public hearing to accept the funding \$14,316.07. The Board of Selectmen talked about doing this at the selectmen's meeting on December 5th. Per the RSA 31:95-b states if the amount awarded is over \$10,000 or more, the governing board must hold a public hearing and after the public hearing vote to accept the grant. Notice of the public Hearing will be December 13, 2023 at 5:00 PM in the Selectmen's Office this allows the 7-day posting requirement.

Prosecution Services invoice for 2023 needs to be paid. Shaun Bresnahan made a motion to authorize the payment of \$1,265.00 for the 2023 circuit court prosecution fee. Frank Razzaboni seconded the motion. All in favor.

2023 Municipal Assessment Data Certificate – signed

Contract with Waste Management has been tabled until Wednesday budget workshop.

Building Permit revisit from Danielle Gabree she wants to have an indoor riding arena. Danielle will need to be notified to come to the Selectmen's meeting and discuss with them. Lisa Seymour will call her.

Tramp House located at the pump house update. Frank Razzaboni said the 3G Construction which is a restoration company came out to look at it and said it is in good condition and can be moved and they will provide a cost. The New Hampshire Preservation Alliance may have funding to help with the move. The tramp house will be moving to the ballfield for storage. JoAnn asked if we could use some place other than the ballfield because its not a safe area.

Niki Mahoney proposed Old Hill Village boat launch was discussed. Shaun Bresnahan stated that this would be a question for Army Corps of Engineering. JoAnn said years ago the town was promised access to the river via a boat launch.

With no further business to conduct, Frank Razzaboni made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Shaun Bresnahan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously motion at 9:23 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Seymour

Shaun Bresnahan, Chair

Frank Razzaboni

Stephen Thomson
