

NOVEMBER 20,2023

APPROVED

In Attendance: Chairman Tom Seymour, Secretary, Wendy Rosa, Selectman Ex-Officio, Frank Razzaboni, Joann Irving, Betty Hanks, Frank Simeone, Bruce Blazon, Joan Machado

Library Trustee: Frank Marsh,

Cemetery Trustees: Sean Bresnahan and Lisa Seymour

Absent: Charles Estes, School Board Ex-Officio exempt from excuse and Paula McDonough unexcused.

**Full names of speakers will be typed once and then initials used
(Ex Wendy Rosa...-WR)

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Seymour at approximately 6:30pm

Joann Irving voiced concern about the fairness of School Board Ex-Officio not being present. TS stated he did not need an approved excuse however, the Ex-Officio has the ability to send a substitute should they themselves not be able to make it. It is suspected that since his notification was last minute he may not have had time to or others may not have had time to make it in his stead.

Chairman began by noting that the Cemetery Trustees and the Library Trustee were here to present their budgets tonight. The Police Department was on for tonight but notified that the department, being so new, would like more time thus granted and they were not present.

-Library Trustee Frank Marsh came forward to present his budget proposal first. He began by saying he was only asking for \$800 more than last year inclusive of a 3% raise for the Library Head employee.

-JI noted that FM had given her a raise of 4% last year to which he replied No, I gave her 1% you guys gave her 3%. She works 31hrs a week with 3 vacations a year as well as sick time.

-Betty Hanks notes that with a 3% raise she would be at a yearly income of 29,741.

-FM also wants to decrease computers due to cell phone computer usage. Bruce Blazon noted data charges for communications each month, Library pays for a block of data that shows month by month which could include those outside using the wifi.

-Frank Simeone would like to see itemized data in regard to better understand the numbers to which BB states that isn't our purview to audit. Again, the argument was made for understanding how to recommend the bottom line.

-FM continued advocating for Library Head's raise stating that 7.15% comes out of her pay for Social Security and Medicare which is what his budget will pay to meet. She does not get medical insurance. He notes that the library pays for everything in regard to His employee.

-The Chairman notes that the Library Budget comes from the town.

The presentation and questions were then adjourned and FM turned to go. On his way out he turned and asked the selectman in attendance if Lights for outside the Library could be considered as it is very dark outside.

Cemetery Trustee Sean Bresnahan then came forward to present the Cemetery Budget.

Final workshop for final decision to approach mowing contractor to see if they're willing to do it next year (Bob Dupuis). Tree removal mowing and headstones handled by Steve Rosen and SB. Mark Labonte and his school kids worked with us and power washed the fence as well as put on a coat of paint. We need another coat and we're hoping to work with them again. we have left the budget at \$1000. Not asking for anything more.

No cemetery space left in the town owned cemeteries. Presently there is discussion with the Trustees of Pleasant Hill Cemetery to move over to the Town. Betty Hanks, a Trustee on that cemetery, states that upon doing so they would be forwarding what monies are in the budget for Pleasant Hill currently. So should this occur it will be a new account for the Town to handle. It would be taken up as a warrant article by the Town

Presentation and Questions were concluded. The Cemetery Trustees then left.

The remainder of the time was spent discussing the recorder that had been recommended and adopted for the Nov. 6 meeting with intent to go forward in this manner. However, it has been discovered that the time consumption to decipher all notes from the recorder is double the actual meeting time and therefore unrealistically cumbersome post meeting for the secretary to meter out. The proposal to accept the recorder as a supplemental tool was accepted with one member dissenting, Frank Simeone. The Secretary will resume taking hand notes with the recorder on as back up.

FS made a request for hard copies of Agendas and Minutes vs email versions as he does not refer to tech. copies. The Chair and the Committee agreed to that.

The discontent for the new format of allowing the Boards to present their budgets without interruption came up again per JI and FS. After further discussion it remains as decided previously, to allow. The concern is that without going over line by line, questions will get missed. It is therefore recommended that the lines will be included in the questioning after the Board Trustee has had a chance to make his/her full

presentation. This allows for continuity in content and doesn't "disarm" the presenter who may then be unable to fully make his/her arguments.

Soft Votes were taken on both the Library Budget and The Cemetery Budget Proposals. Both were unanimously approved by the Committee.

Rules for minutes are 5 days to get them done and presented to the committee for approval and then once published the recording can/should be deleted.

Meeting adjourned

~Wendy Fuller-Rosa