

Minutes of the Special Select Board Meeting
January 31, 2018

Members present: Toni Pippy, John Freitag, Stephen Marx, Brian Johnson, and Kate Siepmann
Also present were Town Clerk/Treasurer, Lisa Bragg, and Auditor, Nellie Pennington

John Freitag called the meeting to order at 6 PM

1. After discussing how to carry over balances from 2017 into 2018, Toni, Nelly, and Lisa all concurred that town finances are in very good shape. There will be a 2% increase in the amount the Select Board is proposing to defray budget expenses. However due to an expected increase in the Grand List fueled primarily by the solar project at the Elizabeth Mine, the actual town tax rate is expected to decrease by around one cent compared to last year. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to “appropriate the amount of \$1,018,215 to defray budget expenses in the 2018 tax year, and to approve the budget as presented.
2. The 2018 warning for Town Meeting was unanimously approved.
3. A quorum of our select board will attend a special meeting of the Thetford Select Board on Monday, February 5 at 7:30 PM to confirm the Elizabeth solar mine valuation agreement between the two Towns.
4. The Select Board Report for Town Meeting, penned by John Freitag, amended by Kate, was approved as amended.
5. The Board approved a pre-payment of \$20,000 to Bogie Farms for road sand, which will result in considerable savings over the long haul.
6. The Board approved an agreement delineating responsibilities and liabilities of having the Town Crew sand at Barrett Hall, at no cost to Barrett Hall. We will pass this agreement on to the Barrett Hall trustees.

Toni wanted to make special note of her gratitude to John Freitag for “being a champion” as acting chair while she recovered from physical difficulties. As of February 1, by prior agreement, Toni will re-claim her position as Chair of the Board. The rest of the Board likewise thanked John for his service.

The vexing problem of distinguishing between John Freitag and Jon MacKinnon in conversation was resolved by a decision to pronounce MacKinnon’s name, Jon and Freitag’s name as JuhHAHN.

The next regular meeting of the Select Board will be on February 14 at 6 PM in the town office.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM

Affectionately submitted,

Kate Siepmann, Recording Clerk