

Selectboard Special Meeting
January 31, 2024

Selectboard participants- John Freitag, Brian Johnson, Hannah Levinger, David Paganelli, Jeff Solsaa
In person participants- Bonnie Bergeron, Lisa Bragg, Aaron Dotter, Rett Emerson, Paul Hardy, Nellie Pennington, Martha Walke

Participants via Zoom- Curt Albee, Karla Bushway, Kate Cassidy, Sue Coburn, Andrew Duncklee, Lisa Durstin, Rocky Fuller, Shawn Harlow, Kelly Harmon, Ed Huang, Peter Jefferies, Rachel Kurland, Sean Lewis, Mary Linehan, Toni Pippy, Mark Shaw, Andrew Silovich, Stephen Wilbanks

1. Call to order at 6pm. Reading of Selectboard guidelines.

2. Budget and Warning

After reading the Town Report aloud, John moved to approve it. Jeff seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion passed.

Fire Department/FAST Budget- Aaron Dotter explained increases in the 2024 budget including additional training for firefighters and covering a deficit in donations that occurred in 2023. John moves to fully fund the fire department. All in favor. The motion passes.

Road Crew Equipment- After discussion with Jeff Solsaa and PD Hardy, the 2017- T1 Ford line item remains at \$10,000.

Freeman Bridge- will likely cost between \$1.2 and 1.6 million to fully rebuild in the current location. The Board moves to put 12.5% of potential \$1.6 million into the FEMA Contracts line item to cover the Town's share of the bridge building costs (\$175,000). Jeff moves to decrease the Bridges Contract line item to \$25,000 for a total of the proposed \$200,000 in bridges for the budget. All in favor. Motion passed.

3. Budget Informational Meeting

Informational meeting held at the Newton School on February 17th in conjunction with the School Board informational meeting. Both meetings will be available via Zoom.

There will be an additional informational meeting on March 2nd in the Town House (and by Zoom). The meeting will likely begin at 10am with a PTA provided lunch and the School Board meeting to follow.

4. Recycling Permit

The permit has been taken care of thanks to Michael Scanlan.

5. Town Office Update

Curt Albee updated the Board on the work that the Town Office Committee has done in relation to the architectural plans for the Town Office project. They have decided to not put the warning in with the Town Meeting vote so that they can continue gathering information.

6. DRB Appeal

The Board approves the Municipal General Representation; Specific/Litigation Representation letter from the town lawyers.

David Mears came to discuss the process of appeal for the DRB and the Town.

The Selectboard went into Executive Session at 8:12 and ended Executive Session at 8:55 without having made any decisions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57.

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Levinger