

**Town of North Yarmouth
Select Board
Meeting Minutes August 15, 2023, 6:00 PM**

Select Board Members

Amy Haile, Chairperson
Karl Cyr, Board Member

Andrea Berry, Vice Chairperson
Paul Hodgetts, Board Member

Katherine Maloney, Board Member

Call to Order (18:48-1:15)

Pledge of Allegiance.

Select Board Goals Workshop

Appointments (1:21:30-01:23:38)

Planning Board Resignation-Kimry Corrette.

Chairperson Haile, seconded by Vice Chairperson Berry moved to accept The Planning Board Resignation of Kimry Corrette. Vote 4 Yes/1 No. Selectperson Hodgetts.

New Business (1:23:39-1:29:42)

Fire Department Repairs-Discussion

Greg Payson, Fire Chief provided an update of the roof repair bids. The bids opening is scheduled for 08/29/2023.

The Fire Station oil tanks in the basement are leaking from the seams. Irving will not fill those tanks. Those tanks cannot be repaired and will need to be replaced for \$6,700.00. He does not have this in his budget. He did get a natural gas estimate, but it would cost \$38,068.11. He did look at heat pumps but was not sure how they would heat the bays. He felt the cheapest fix is to replace the tanks.

The cast iron from the Fire Station sewer lines is leaking. The repair cost is \$5,160.00 to repair. These are not budgeted and will need to be done soon.

Diane Barnes, Town Manager stated that there are enough funds in the Municipal Facilities Reserve account to cover the cost of the repairs.

Selectperson Hodgetts, seconded by Selectperson Cyr moved to authorize spending \$13,000.00 from the Municipal Reserve Fund to cover the cost of repair to the oil tanks and sewer line at the Fire Station. Vote 5 yes/0 No.

Schedule Public Hearing and Special Town Meeting for Fire Truck Bond (1:29:43-1:49)

E-51 Water Tank Repair that is unexpected and unbudgeted. Engine 51 water tank is leaking between the pump housing and the front of the tank. Allegiance has looked at the truck and I am awaiting a cost estimate back. While UPF has a lifetime warranty on the tank, the warranty does not include the labor to remove the tank from the truck. This will be the third time this tank has been repaired. Looking at past history, the tank will need to be removed from the truck to be fixed. Each time this has needed to be done in the past, it has been approximately an \$8000.00. E-51 Fire truck will cost estimated \$192,314.36 to repair it. It is 20 years old. Greenwood has a Fire Truck that will work for the town for \$750,000.00. They will hold the truck

until our special town meeting on 9/30/2023. This truck will work well for the town, and it will save the town \$250,000.00.

Chairperson Haile, seconded by Vice Chairperson Berry moved to schedule a Special Town Meeting on 9/30/2023 for the Fire Truck Bond. Vote 5 Yes/0 No.

Chairperson Haile asked when we would take possession of the Fire Truck.

Chief Payson advised 8 weeks after the special town meeting.

Selectperson Maloney asked if we have any assurance that the \$175,000.00 for improvements is locked in?

Chief Payson stated we have in writing that the cost of the truck and improvements is \$750,000.00.

Selectperson Hodgetts asked if it is a ten-year bond?

Diane Barnes, Town Manager stated we will go out to bid on rates. We can use some TIF money and finance less. We may be able to go with a 7-year loan.

Chairperson Haile asked the Chief if he thought the truck would meet his needs.

Chief Payson advised it would. He was impressed with the truck and equipment space. It fits in the Fire Station Bay.

Chairperson Haile asked if we would need to spend \$192,314.36 on Engine 51.

Chief Payson advised we would not need to spend that if the new truck was approved.

Vice Chairperson Berry asked Diane Barnes what the process would be.

Diane advised we will get the warrant ready, get out educational materials. Diane would like to do a informational mailer to the residence and hopefully they will attend the town meeting. If it is approved by the town, we would go out to bid for loan rates.

Old Business (1:49:01-200.52)

Fire Station Study-Next Steps

Staff would like permission to move forward with the station assessment study by completing phases 5-10 of the Public Safety Needs Assessment. The next steps would be further study, design, and costs of an addition to the existing building. Before we can complete these phases, we need to know if the selectboard will approve using some of the property on the Village Green. The cost to complete the remaining scope of work is \$20,255. This amount and use of TIF funds has been approved by the voters.

Chairperson Haile, seconded by Selectperson Cyr moved to authorize the Town Manager and Fire Chief to move forward with the study and to authorize a portion of the Village Green for the additional space needed for the addition. Vote 5 Yes/0 No.

Consent Agenda (200:53-20:01:27)

Payroll Warrants

#9 \$ 43,086.29

Municipal Accounts Payable Warrants

#8 \$ 15,675.22

#10 \$ 16,949.49

#11 \$547,517.25

Chairperson Haile, seconded by Selectperson Maloney moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Vote 5 Yes/0 No.

Public Comment – Non-Agenda Items (2:01:28-2:15:15)

Linc Merrill, 1572 North Road, stated that 65% of the land must stay as green space. Linc, though Greg gave a great presentation, and he appreciated finding savings for the taxpayers. Does purchasing this truck move the purchase of other trucks out additional years? He is glad parking will be reviewed. There is limited parking now. He worked on Yarmouth Public Works building and Port City did the planning. The cost was grossly underestimated, and bids came in way over. They had to cut a bunch of things out of the plans. Be cautious about that. He wanted to thank Clark and his crew for the work they did on the North Road. They did some ditching and tree removal. He wanted to thank them.

Chief Payson advised we would still need another fire truck replaced per the capital improvement schedule.

Judy Potter, Walnut Hill Road, stated that she thinks it is time to increase the tax relief amount. Cumberland is at 91,000 and Yarmouth at 101,000. We are at 40,000. She thinks it would help seniors if we had a higher rate. She would like to suggest holding two town meetings. One for the Finances and one for the Land Use Ordinance. Do it on weeknights because Saturdays are hard for residents to come to. She suggests trying it for a year to see if they would have a better turn out before proceeding to change to Town Council. She thanked Jackie for the Story walk. Thanks to Mary for painting the roots and rocks. They took their grandchild there and had a nice time.

Mike Malory, Walnut Hill Road, asked if the station that need to be done now need to be completely redone for the renovation?

Chief Payson advised the Station repairs are \$13,0000. It must be done. We may need plumbing and lines for the renovation, but we could still use the tanks.

Jeff Brown, 470 Mumford Road, Have there been any additional applications for the planning board? Where are we in the interviewing process? When can we expect a full planning board? Perceived Biase. How do we handle this? Can we expect a written statement defining the process for the board to follow? Can we board members, comprised of citizen volunteers, expect the town to protect us when legal council is needed to defend ourselves from complaints that have no merit. He realized the standard answer is that they did not have to hire an attorney and could have been handled in executive session. Will the town demonstrate that it supports its members and cover Mr. Whitmarsh and Mr. Hodgetts' legal fees?

Dan Merrill, Sligo Road, stated that his biggest issue is taxes. He moved from Portland. He has seen taxes increase. We talked about beautiful places to work and live. He does not enjoy those things. He does not use the sidewalks or go on hikes. He does not use the parks. He likes to play golf and pays for his own

enjoyment. He does not want to pay for other people's enjoyment. He just wants the board to know that there are people out there that think like this, and it is important to them. Please be mindful of tax increases.

Management Reports & Communications (2:15:16-2:25:16)

Select Board Committee Reports:

EDSC-Kit Maloney. EDSC elected Maureen Lucey and Richard Parenteau as new co-chairs and re-elected Ian Acker as secretary. They did create a candidate sub-committee because EDSC has 2 openings. They will bring recommendations to EDSC on 8/24/2023 and then to the Select Board. She feels the Select Board needs to close the charge and come up with additional charges. EDSC and Diane worked on the Community Resilience Grant. It was decided at that time that the EDSC would play a major role in the Climate Action Plan. Diane was clear that she needed committee support on the Climate Action Plan in order to move forward with the grant.

Recreation Advisory Board-Karl Cyr. They have not met.

Parks-Karl Cyr. He missed the park committee meeting as he was on vacation. They spoke of follow up to the benches approved.

School Fund Committee-Paul Hodgetts. Nothing to share as they have not met.

Joint Standing Committee-Amy Haile, Andrea Berry. Meeting on 8/24/2023 at 4:00 PM in Cumberland.

Prince Memorial Library-Amy Haile. Reached out to Paul Dexter and got updates on meeting. Two Applications have been submitted for the library board.

Waste Reduction Committee-Andrea Berry. They will not meet until September.

Walnut Hill Parkway-Paul Hodgetts. They have not met.

Town Manager's Report, Diane Barnes.

Toter Cart Purchases- Final amount is approximately \$11,000 under budget.

LRAP- Revised amount to be received from the State is approximately \$5,000 over budget.

Recycling Partnership Grant- Having weekly meetings in preparation for the automated services. The educational component (materials) will be done months in advance.

Town Senior Tax Program- 32 applicants qualified for the Senior Tax Program this year down two from the previous year's number of 34.

Senior Tax Stabilization-370 totaling \$156,089.87

Received a dividend check from worker's compensation in the amount of \$3,839.00.

Reminded the Select Board that Cumberland County will be holding a caucus for our district on September 11 at 4:30.

Financial Reports

FY 23 unaudited finance reports were presented. Solid waste and legal went over budget as expected. All other departments are in the black. FY 24 excise taxes are ahead in collectins.

Vice chairperson Berry has been asking a lot of questions on legal fees. She hopes to have an analysis of where those legal expenses come from and how we can manage them this year.

Any Other Business (2:25:17-2:39:36)

Selectperson Maloney suggested the Historical Society have a liaison. If the board wanted that she would do it. Vice Chairperson Berry advised we may want to call it something other than a liaison. Selectperson Maloney has not asked them, and she will see if they have any interest.

Selectperson Maloney asked how we are doing on the block party?
Chairperson Haile advised that Jackie's staff needs help with parking and cleaning.

Selectperson Maloney would like Diane to provide some type of regularity to FOIA requests. We would like a better understanding of how many are coming through and how much staff time it takes. Diane states they have been time consuming. She has another one to do and her main concern is getting the audit done. She estimated that the latest FOAA request should be done in 30 days.

Selectperson Maloney would like to work on increasing the earnings limit for senior tax relief program.

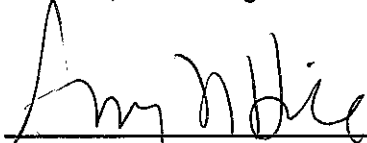
Selectperson Cyr thinks we need to discuss committee reassurance or protection.

Chairperson Haile thanked Judy for bringing up the Senior tax relief amount. She would like to tie committees more closely with goals and have committees come to meetings and support this work in some tangible way. Having an explicit literal face to face conversation about that would help some cohesiveness and drive some purpose around the goals. She put that out as something we can discuss and figure out how to operationalize.

Adjournment

Chairperson Haile, seconded by Selectperson Maloney moved to adjourn at 8:24 PM. Vote 5 Yes/0 No.

Karen Casale, Recording Secretary

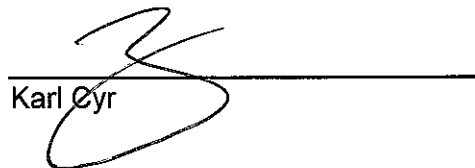


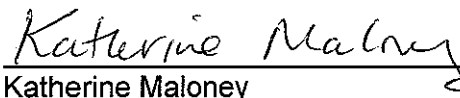
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