



Town of Monroe
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Bond Public Hearing
and
Selectmen Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Oren Remick.

Selectmen Present: John Blanchard, Justin Bradshaw, Oren Remick

Public Present: PJ Blanchard, Russell Brown, Merle Jones, Keith Merchand, Wayne Fearon

1. Bond Public Hearing

Justin stated this hearing was for the proposed bond to help purchase a fire truck – new or used. He noted Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank was contacted about borrowing up to \$250,000. They provided information of a 5 yr loan at 2% APR and 7 yr loan at 2.25% APR. Justin noted with the 7 year loan the increase in interest is \$8,000 over the life of the loan.

A 5 yr loan would be a payment of \$53,040 per year; 7 year would be \$39,022 per year. Justin reviewed the even if the \$20,000 was continued to be placed into the Capital Reserve Fund, taxes on a \$100,000 home would only increase \$11.80/year (based on this year's tax rate) If we no longer put \$20,000 into the Capital Reserve Fund, the taxes on that same house would increase \$7.35/year. Total increased tax expense on a 5 yr loan would \$59.00 for that \$100,000 home.

Justin also reviewed figures on borrowing up to \$150,000 for a used truck. The difference over 5 years would total about \$23.60 under the new truck information. (All this information is available to be viewed at the Town Office.)

Selectmen recommend not putting the \$20,000 into the truck fund for the length of the loan. They also reminded everyone that utilities provide a large portion of our taxes.

Merle Jones questioned buying a new chassis and putting the body onto the new chassis. Justin noted the problem is the piping, wiring, etc. would not work.

Justin noted the life expectancy of a new truck is 30 years. He also stated that in 2036 he expects the town will need to replace the 2 older engines with 1 new one.

Wayne Fearon suggested it would be better not to buy someone else's troubles; the Town should purchase new. Justin stated perhaps a demo could be purchased

Hearing no further questions, the Bond Public Hearing was closed.

2. Approval of the minutes from 2/9/21 Selectmen Meeting. John moved to approve with one word change (house to hose) and Oren seconded to approve the minutes of 02/09/21 Selectmen's Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Input

- a. PJ stated there are still issues with the two streetlights in town. Justin stated we have been trying to obtain a list of poles and locations of lights to make it easier to report them. He stated he recently contacted NH Saves and Liberty Utility will be conducting an energy audit. Justin stated they may be able to help with obtaining the street light information for which we are looking. He suggested giving us another month to see if we can get the list.

Justin requested Diane to review oil versus pellet costs for the last few years for the Municipal Building.

4. Discussion items

- a. Aeration in the water is still an issue. One thing that needs to be done is to check the static level in pump #3. Also need to check all the pumps through the process of elimination to see which one is causing the aeration issue.
- b. Request for town water hookup south of town. Woodsville Water and Light will be contacted to obtain best way to hook water up to the property and approximate cost to the town for the curb stop. May also want to look at putting together a connection policy in the near future.
- c. Town recently underwent a safety inspection by the Department of Labor. A list of things to be corrected has been received and will be worked on. Saline solution in the Chlorine Shed needs to have the expiration date checked .
- d. Mandatory Pre-Bid meeting for the Coppermine Road project is Monday February 22, 2021 at 10:30. Justin noted road closures need to be addressed.

Road closure will be fine, but not over a weekend. Also need to let them know the culverts have been purchased.

5. Keith Merchant stated there are 4 or 5 trees to be removed on Smutty Hollow between the 2 culverts and wondered if it was okay to have a machine run on the dirt road to take out those trees. The decision was it would be okay to run the machine on the dirt road.
6. Items approved.
 - a. Payroll Manifest
 - b. Accounts Payable Manifest – General Fund/Water Fund
 - c. Engagement Letter for Auditors
 - d. Town Hall Usage form for School Basketball

Oren moved to adjourn the meeting and John seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Diane L. Gibson Smith, Administrative Assistant