



Town Council Regular Session

October 5, 2022 at 7:00 PM

Town Council Chambers

MINUTES

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Vice chair Conley convened the meeting at 7:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

Present: Council Vice chair Katanna Conley, Councilor Megan Brabec, Councilor Scott Blackstone, Councilor Brian Ward, Councilor Joe LaMattina, and Councilor Colin White

Absent: Council Chair Toni Weinstein

Staff Present: Town Manager Stephen Fournier, Environmental Services Director Sean Greig and Wendy Chase, Recording Secretary

3. Public Forum

Vice chair Conley opened the Public Forum at 7:01 PM.

Vice chair Conley closed the Public Forum at 7:02 PM without public comment.

4. Town Council to Consider Acceptance of Minutes

a. September 21, 2022 Draft Meeting Minutes

Motion: **Councilor White** made a motion to approve the September 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes as amended.

Second: **Councilor Brabec**

Discussion: Councilor Ward amended the minutes under Committee Reports to change the word *approved* to *recommended*. The CIP Committee *recommended* creating a new Capital Reserve Fund for \$75,000 for the Schanda Park living shoreline project.

Vote: **5-0-1** (voting against - **None**) Councilor Blackstone abstained.

5. Report of the Town Manager

a. Town Manager's 10/05/2022 Report

Solid Waste: Two bids have been received for curbside waste and recycling collection. A recommendation will be brought to the Council at its next meeting.

Town Valuation - MS1: The town valuation for 2022 has been set. Utility assessment changes are a result of newer state laws on valuation. Most of the other assessment changes are due to continuing residential construction along with site corrections due to subdivisions and lot-line adjustments. The other

change in the individual categories is mainly due to the upgraded CAMA software which reallocated assessments. The total exemption amount granted increased and, as such, the result is a net taxable increase of around \$7,400,000 or roughly 0.75%. This is a million dollars more of an increase than last year. In FY22, for every dollar on the tax rate, we were able to spend \$987,870. Now we would raise \$995,277.

FY24 Budget: The Department's Heads have proposed their FY24 budgets to the Town Manager and he is in the process of reviewing them and will have his proposed budget to the Town Council by October 15. The Town Manager reminded the Councilors that the Budget Workshop is Saturday, October 29 at 9AM.

The Town Manager worked with the Town Clerk on the proposed schedule for Town Meeting this year:

- Saturday, October 15, 2022, the Town Manager must Present the Budget to the Town Council
- Saturday, October 29, 2022, Town Council Budget Workshop
- Tuesday, November 15, 2022, Town Council must Approve the Budget and Send it to the Municipal Budget Committee
- Monday, November 28, 2022, the Budget Committee Reviews the Town Budget
- Monday, January 9, 2023, Town Budget Public Hearing
- Tuesday, January 17, 2023, Budget Public Hearing must be Held
- Thursday, January 26, 2023, Budget Committee Must Finalize the Budget
- Monday, January 30, 2023, Post Warrant
- Saturday, February 4, 2023, Deliberative Session
- Tuesday, March 14, 2023, Election Day

6. Committee Reports

Councilor Brabec reported on the Arts & Tourism Commission's October 4th meeting:

The Artist Among Us event was postponed from Saturday, October 1st to Sunday, October 2nd because of the weather. The event was well received. A painting was donated to the Commission and they raffled it off. The winner of the painting donated it to the Library.

The members discussed the Commission's charge and reviewed the original Resolution for guidance. The original Resolution doesn't describe the Commission's charge for tourism. They plan to meet with the Town Manager and do more information gathering to determine how they move forward as a Commission. There is one member seat available.

Councilor Blackstone reported on the Planning Board's September 13th meeting:

The Public Hearing on proposed amendments drafted by the Planning Board including the Accessory apartments ordinance was postponed to the October 11th Planning Board Meeting.

Councilor LaMattina reported on the Energy & Environment Committee's September

28th meeting:

The NH Button Up Zoom presentation had 14 zoom participants and was viewed live stream by 53 people. The Energy Aggregation plan will be presented to the Council at a Workshop meeting in December. They will hold two public hearings in January and hopefully have it presented to the Town Council by early spring for approval. The Town Manager and Council Chair received a PCP amendment request to be considered by the Town Council. Councilor LaMattina offered his assistance with any questions they may have.

Councilor Ward reported on the Budget Committee's September 26th meeting:

The school presented their 4th quarter financial reports and determined that they had \$610,000 left in the budget that will go back to the town toward reducing the tax rate. The food services fund has a positive balance of over \$100,000; this money will stay in the fund and used to purchase lunches. The school is applying for homeland security grants.

7. Old Business

8. Resolutions/Ordinances in the 2nd Reading

- a. Resolution #2022/2023-09 - American Rescue Act Fund Grant for Waste Water Treatment Facility Thickener
 - Motion:** Councilor Ward made a motion to approve Resolution #2022/2023-09 - American Rescue Act Fund Grant for Waste Water Treatment Facility Thickener
 - Second:** Councilor LaMattina
 - Discussion:**
 - Vote:** Unanimously Approved
- b. Resolution #2022/2023-10 - Senior Citizen Building Roof Replacement
 - Motion:** Councilor White made a motion to table Resolution #2022/2023-10 - Senior Citizen Building Roof Replacement
 - Second:** Councilor LaMattina
 - Discussion:**
 - Vote:** Unanimously Approved

Town Manager Fournier suggested the Council vote to table Resolution #2022/2023-10 due to lack of information about this Resolution.

9. New Business/Correspondence

- a. Closing Comments by Town Councilors
 - There were no closing comments.

b. Next Meeting

i. October 19, 2022

10. Adjournment

Vice chair Conley adjourned the meeting at 7:22 PM without objection.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy V. Chase
Recording Secretary