

ATTENDING: Ruth Adams, Bob Axelsen, Emil Braley, Pete Childs, Doug Hubbard, Franz Jongerden, Bonnie Lord Laughlin, Calvin Lewis, Tammy Ramsdell, Chairperson.

ABSENT: Teri Anderson.

A quorum was present.

Attending from the Town: Selectmen Ray Cullen, Darryl Hubbard, Bruce Rozett and Selectmen's Assistant /Bookkeeper Roxanne Herrick

Tammy convened the meeting at 7:03PM and invited all present to salute the flag. Bonnie requested two changes to the April 8 minutes: p.1, "Snow and Ice Reserve account" instead of "Salt Shed Reserve Account" and p.4, add the sentence: "(The figure is actually 4.64% for the past 12 months according to the ecomaine website.)". Discussion about the April 8 minutes. Pete voted to accept with the changes, Calvin seconded, and all voted to accept the April 8 meeting minutes with the changes.

Old Business

New Snow Plow Truck

The new plow truck is here. The last payment of \$28,000 came from \$26,000 of insurance from the plow truck that was totaled this past winter and \$2,000 from the Snow and Ice Reserve account.

Compactor at the Transfer Station

Darryl said a glitch has developed. The compactor has to have a chute. Another company has been contacted to give a bid. Also there are some OSHA laws that have to do with the chute design. These things won't affect the cost; in fact, they may make the cost less. Darryl said ideally it would be best to build it the way it was originally designed on a slab, but that may not be feasible because OSHA says anything under 40" high has to have a hold button and an operator present (the transfer station attendant). So at this point it would be best designed if it were 40 inches off the ground. Bob asked if this is for recyclables only. Darryl said yes and it will give us 10 tons of recyclables a haul instead of one ton like one silver bullet gives. Bob asked about putting our trash and recyclables out for curbside pick-up like Hollis and other towns do. The selectmen said they had looked into this but it would cost too much. Bonnie had concerns about whether people would make the effort to bring their recyclables down the Pine Hill Road to the transfer station which is relatively out of the way when enough people don't bring recyclables now to the silver bullets where access is convenient.

SAD 6 Budget Meetings

Tammy asked whether there will be town to town presentations about the SAD 6 proposed budget. She wondered if any of our town's school representatives would visit this committee. Bruce said the schools would have to be contacted for an answer. Bruce said that the 2014 Limington town budget had been built with a 3.0%- 3.5% budget increase for schools for Limington, but it looks now that the amount will be under 3.0%. Bruce said there is a district-wide public meeting on May 22 at 7:00PM to discuss the SAD 6 budget. More discussion among committee members about the school budget. Bruce said June 10 is the date for the budget validation referendum vote. Polls are open 8AM to 8PM.

Members being Excused According to Committee By-Laws

Tammy said that she wanted a vote to clarify that Teri Anderson's recent absences from meetings have indeed been excused absences. Motion was made by Doug, seconded by Emil, and voted unanimously for Teri to have excused absences from our meetings.

Treasurer's Ledger

Tammy asked to clarify some of the ways that income comes to the town including: taxes from past years, Fire and EMS donation account, and reserve accounts such as Rescue Billing. Roxanne gave information. Bonnie asked if

some of the items on the Treasurer's Ledger could be made more uniform with the Monthly Budget Expenditure sheet for clarity; such as the fact that individual permit fees on the Treasurer's Ledger show up on the Monthly Expenditure sheet only as one lump sum in CEO income. Roxanne said she would look into it.

Capital Improvements Plan

Emil said last month he suggested that we talk about capital improvements and now might be a good time to do that. Emil said our by-laws say we are supposed to have a capital improvements plan including a 5 year plan. Ray said every time such a plan is presented people don't want to do it. Bruce said there was a 5 year plan put together in 2 consecutive years but the taxpayers chose not to create the capital reserve account to execute a 5 year plan. Bruce said without a mechanism to execute the plan, spending for the plan won't happen. Bruce said the first year the main reason it was turned down is that 2 individuals had their pet projects which they were unwilling to give up. The next year it was brought to the voters and turned down so the Finance Committee didn't continue to work on it. Bob said voters worried that by putting the money all in one bucket their money would be spent for other things, but that's not the way it works; you have to have a vote of the people to spend the money. Darryl said the only way he would go along with a capital improvement plan is if there was a provision that money raised for something has to be spent for that thing; it can't be put back into the general fund to pay down taxes. Ray agreed and said why raise the money if you never spend it. Ray said it would be a good idea to get a bond issue for about \$2 million dollars to get the roads fixed. The interest would only be about 2%/year. This approach (with a bond) would save us money in the long run. Bonnie said she thought some of this is being done already by the reserve accounts, such as how we set money aside over the past several years toward the purchase of the new ambulance this year. Emil and Ray said there should be one reserve account that identifies all the needs. Bonnie said there could be a lot of competition for what would be spent if there was only one reserve account; it would be better to keep putting money into individual accounts. Bruce said priorities could be juggled. Pete said no matter where you get the money it's taxpayers' money. Roxanne said when the salt shed was built, money was raised year to year and so money was available when it was time to build, even though some was taken from the transfer station account. Emil said that the people will still have to vote to spend money from the accounts. Bonnie said if the money is raised in the individual accounts people can see where the money is going, even if there is a vote at some point to transfer money from one reserve account to another. Bruce said there would be a warrant article for each capital expense that we would have that year. Tammy said if we were to look at a capital improvement amount of \$1.7 million over the next 5 years, we would have to put away over \$300,000 each year and would taxpayers do that. Discussion that we are already raising some money for capital improvements every year, such as the \$175,000 last year to tar and patch the roads. Emil said once our current reserve accounts dry up we won't have any more money for capital improvements unless we start to raise more. Bruce said Rescue 2 will probably have to be replaced in 5-6 years and will cost at least another \$150,000 or more. Emil said there is no fire truck replacement fund and in the future we will have to buy a new one for a couple of hundred thousand dollars. Bonnie asked some questions about some fund balances: in the 2013 town report, what is the Capital Improvements Reserve Fund that now has \$28,000 in it? Darryl said it's been there for a long time and was meant to use for things with this Municipal building. What is the \$20,000 income this past month in the Saco River Cable Fund? Bruce and Doug said it's a one-time infusion during our present 15 year contract; it's not the annual income from cable franchise fees. Emil said that in Standish they have bonds for capital improvements and when a bond gets paid a new one gets opened so there is always money coming in for capital improvements. Darryl said this might not be completely correct and cited a recent Standish issue. Tammy said raising the first year of taxes for a 5 year plan would have a big impact on taxpayers. Pete said we need to educate the taxpayers about the bond process. Discussion that this past year for capital improvements we spent \$175,000 for

paving, \$58,000 for the new snow plow truck, \$20,000 for the Moy Mo Da Yo boat ramp. Darryl said our annual paving budget should be \$700,000, not \$200,000. More discussion. Tammy asked where do we go from here. Bruce said normally the departments will come forward with their requests next fall. We could then recommend one or more warrant articles (about a capital improvement plan) to the selectmen to be put on the warrant. For background, Bruce suggested we look at the warrant for the 2009 town meeting; this was the last time a capital improvement plan was brought up for a vote. Emil said this is a topic that will take some work; it can't be done in just one meeting. It will be important for the town to see we are working on this along with the department heads.

ADJOURNMENT:

Pete made a motion to adjourn, Emil seconded, and all agreed to adjourn at 8:38PM.

Submitted,
Bonnie Lord Laughlin, Secretary