

TOWN OF HEBRON
SELECT BOARD MEETING 2024 BUDGET PRESENTATIONS
FEBRUARY 22, 2024

PRESENT: Paul Hazelton, Pat Moriarty, Rich James, and Karen Sanborn, Town Administrator

OTHERS PRESENT: Tracey Steenbergen (Town Clerk), Cindy Newton and Lynda Girard (Hebron Memorial Beach Committee members), Martha Twombly (Conservation Commission), Ivan Quinchia (Planning Board Chair), Fred Kohout, Paul Falzarano, Stephen Aprea (Common Landscaping Committee members)

6:00 P.M. **COMMENCED MEETING:** Chair Hazelton commenced the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

6:00 P.M. **TOWN CLERK:** Tracey Steenbergen approached the Select Board to present the 2024 Budget for the Town Clerk. Mrs. Steenbergen informed the Board that there was an increase to the postage account line for mailing absentee ballots. The total budget increase is \$500.00.

ELECTIONS: Mrs. Steenbergen presented to the Board the 2024 Budget for Elections. Mrs. Steenbergen informed the Board that there will be two check in stations for the primary and general election, which is a new requirement. The September and November election will be held at the Public Safety Building. The Newfound Area School District ballot voting will be held in the basement of the Hebron Union Congregational Church.

WEBMASTER POSITION: Mrs. Steenbergen discussed with the Board the way the Webmaster position is paid as a contracted position. Mrs. Steenbergen noted that she does this position because she has the ability but does not do this professionally resulting in a longer tax filing with the Internal Revenue Service. This year it has been proposed to be paid as an employee which would address this. The Select Board agreed to change the way the Webmaster is paid as requested.

MODERATOR PAY: Mrs. Steenbergen recommended to the Board increasing the hourly pay for the Moderator. The Board agreed to \$20 per hour.

6:17 P.M. **HEBRON MEMORIAL BEACH:** Cindy Newton and Lynda Girard approached the Select Board to present the 2024 Budget for the Hebron Memorial Beach. Mrs. Newton informed the Board that there were additional funds in the budget for cleaning up the leaves on the beach around the picnic tables and in the woods near the beach. Mrs. Newton noted that the Solid Waste Removal could be taken out of the budget as Casella Waste has been collecting trash weekly with the rest of the curbside trash collection in town and has worked well. Mrs. Newton handed the Board a picture of a floating debris barrier to consider to possibly address the leaves in the water along the beach. Chair Hazelton updated Mrs. Newton and Mrs. Girard on the proposed dredging of the mouth of the Cockermouth River and the lack of support from other organizations. A discussion was held regarding possible alternative solutions to try and address the excessive leaves building up at the beach.

HEBRON MEMORIAL BEACH SURVEY RESULTS: Mrs. Girard informed the Board that 70 individuals responded to the surveys on the Hebron Memorial Beach. Many people see the beach as one of Hebron's greatest assets. There were requests for handicapped access to the beach. Mrs. Newton felt this could be easily addressed with hard pack. Mrs. Newton informed the Board that the Beach Committee agreed to have a town clean up day on May 18, 2024.

NOTE: Any changes to the minutes will be reflected in the next set of Select Board Meeting minutes.

- 6:50 P.M. **CEMETERY:** Doug Merrill approached the Select Board to present the Cemetery 2024 Budget. Mr. Merrill informed the Board that the budget includes moving the water line, hiring Charles Beede to cut (4x4) granite markers, and fixing the fence. The balance of the Cemetery budget is mowing and fall/spring clean-up.
- TOWN COMMONS:** Mr. Merrill informed the Board that he usually does not prepare a budget as he would like to keep the budget the same. The budget is \$5,500. As the Hebron Common is being fertilized, mowing will happen more frequently with weather contributing to the frequency.
- ADDITIONAL SERVICES:** A budget of \$600 was included for setting up the voting Booth for elections and Town Meetings. A budget of \$1,500 has been proposed for shoveling the town building walkways.
- 6:55 P.M. **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:** Ben Hall approached the Select Board to present the proposed 2024 Highway Department budget. Mr. Hall relayed to the Board the two estimates received for the new dump truck. Mr. Hall is leaning towards the quote on the Ford F-550 in the amount of \$150,505. Selectman James inquired about the truck being serviced in Plymouth, NH. Mr. Hall is still looking into local service of the truck. Vice-Chair Moriarty inquired about the wait on a new truck. Mr. Hall replied that there are trucks on the lots. The Board and Mr. Hall discussed selling the two dump trucks currently owned by the town and how to go about selling them. The other increase in the budget is for snowplow fees. Mr. Hall would like to be able to offer an hourly rate for the private contractors that would entice reliable contractors. Vice-Chair Moriarty inquired about proposed paving in the upcoming year. Mr. Hall replied that he is obtaining a quote from GMI on the Town Office Building parking lot, the end of Hobart Hill Road, and a portion of Cooper Road to Sarah Lane. Mr. Hall stated that he did not have an estimate for the paving at this time because the contractor is on vacation. Chair Hazelton informed Mr. Hall that a committee is being formed to work directly with the Hardy Country Snowmobile Club to address issues that arise as they happen and hope to form a working relationship.
- 7:10 P.M. **CONSERVATION COMMISSION:** Martha Twombly approached the Select Board to present the 2024 Budget for the Conservation Commission. Ms. Twombly informed the Board that the proposed budget is the same as last year. Ms. Twombly asked about the removal of the pine tree on the gravel bar in the Cockermouth River near the Hebron Town Forest Bridge. Vice-Chair Moriarty stated that Chief Moulton and John Fischer (Emergency Management Director) are aware of it and were obtaining quotes for removal. Ms. Twombly is concerned with the more frequent heavy rains that continue to remove gravel at the entrance of the Hebron Town Forest as the banks of the Cockermouth River overflow. Ms. Twombly suggested hiring an engineer to review the site. Ms. Sanborn noted that the Town of Hebron did receive about \$48,000 in funds from the State of NH to be used for bridge repair. Ms. Twombly suggested a workshop meeting with Ben Hall (Highway Supervisor) and an engineer at the site. Chair Hazelton felt that this meeting could be done at the same time as the review of the Braley Road Bridge. Ms. Twombly informed the Board that the Conservation Commission would like to see vegetative swales utilized more in ditches that empty into brooks. It would be ideal to stop the practice of steering ditches into brooks. A discussion was held regarding the status of updating the Hebron Town Forest Stewardship Plan. Ms. Twombly informed the Board that she would be meeting with Tom Hahn of Forest Resources Consultants, LLC to update the trails in the forest.
- 7:20 P.M. **PLANNING BOARD:** Ivan Quinchia approached the Select Board to present the 2024 Budget for the Planning Board. Mr. Quinchia informed the Board that the budget proposed is for the

NOTE: Any changes to the minutes will be reflected in the next set of Select Board Meeting minutes.

same as last year. Mr. Quinchia informed the Board that there have not been any significant changes to the Capital Improvements Projects except to the Highway equipment and the ambulance. Mr. Quinchia informed the Board that the Planning Board is looking into addressing Airbnb's as many of the small cabins being rented may not even have an approved septic system as they may be rented for even more people than the number of bedrooms. Mr. Quinchia discussed with the Board the recent email regarding people staying in recreational vehicles in Hebron and some interpreted the zoning ordinance to allow the recreational vehicles to be stayed in for 180 consecutive days.

7:28 P.M. **COMMON LANDSCAPING COMMITTEE:** Fred Kohout, Paul Falzarano, Stephen Aprea approached the Select Board to present the proposed 2024 Budget for the Common Landscaping Committee. Mr. Kohout reviewed the proposed fertilization, tree planting, painting, and lawncare for the upcoming year. Mr. Kohout anticipates that once the Hebron Common is on a regular maintenance schedule the annual budget should be around \$12,000. Ms. Sanborn asked Mr. Kohout what should be deposited annually into the Common Tree and Landscape Capital Reserve Fund. Mr. Kohout replied \$2,500.

250th Anniversary of America in 2026: Mr. Kohout and the committee would like to update the 1976 plaque on the common for this celebration. Mr. Kohout informed the Board that the committee would like to start a campaign for new benches on the common with dedication plaques on the bench. Also, there was conversation about installing a granite base around the flagpole on the common with better lighting for the flag. The Select Board agreed the ideas were great and suggested that some input from the residents and taxpayers may be helpful.

7:45 P.M. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

- The Select Board agreed to hold the **public hearing on the 2024 Budget and Warrant Articles** on Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Hebron Community Hall.
- The Select Board signed the **letter to the registered voters** outlining the importance of HB349 and the impact on the three towns involved. Vice-Chair Moriarty asked Ms. Sanborn to insert another sheet of paper with the date, place, and time of the public hearing.
- The Select Board signed the **Notice of Intent to Cut Wood for Holt-Elwell Memorial Foundation** to harvest timber from Tax Map 7 Lot 006.
- Selectman James moved to **amend the health insurance policy** to be 90% employer contribution and 10% employee contribution, seconded by Vice-Chair Moriarty. The vote was unanimous.

8:05 P.M. **MEETING ADJOURNED:** Vice-Chair Moriarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m., seconded by Selectman James. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Sanborn
Town Administrator

NOTE: Any changes to the minutes will be reflected in the next set of Select Board Meeting minutes.