

Joint Board of Selectmen's Meeting

Minutes for

January 5, 2022

The Campton Board of Selectmen met at 3:30 pm Monday, January 5, 2022. Present were Chair Sharon Davis, Selectman Mort Donahue, Selectman Nik Coates, and Selectman Craig Engel. Other members of the Town present were Campton Fire Chief Dan DeFosses, Campton Town Administrator Corey Davenport, and Minutes Recorder Natasha Egger.

Members of the Town of Ellsworth present were Selectman, Debra Beech, Selectman, Steven Taves, and Ellsworth Town Administrator, Donna O'Brien. Members from the Town of Thornton present were Chair, Brad Benton, Selectman, Roy Sabourn, Vice-Chair, Marianne Peabody, Selectman, Peter Laufenberg, Thornton Town Administrator, Desiree Mahurin, and Transfer Station Manager, Jamin Levasseur.

Members on Zoom, Town of Thornton, Selectman, Joe Monti, and a member of the public, Sally Davis.

Call to Order: Chair Davis called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Fire Department Budget

Campton's Fire Chief, Dan DeFosses presented the Boards with his budget. Dan explained that emergency calls are up from last year; about 1,061 calls were received. This budget includes an 8% COLA increase. Dan explained that the department is still down two employees but is hopeful to be fully staffed by February 2023. There were a lot of equipment repairs last year that drove the cost up.

Ambulance Two- \$5,300.00 was above average spending for repairs. The ambulance needed breaks, an alternator, and new tires, and had to fix the "power load" on it.

Engine One- \$11,000.00 was spent, and \$7,000.00 in unexpected new tires were needed.

Engine Three- Roughly \$5,700.00 was spent, to replace the generator and \$300.00 in other repairs.

Engine Four- \$4,000.00 in repairs. The rescue tools needed updating.

Selectman Laufenberg asked Dan the difference between EMS calls and Medical Calls. Dan explained that most of the calls about (60%) were medical calls. EMS calls were non-medical emergencies, such as lift assists.

Thornton Selectman Monti questions:

Question One: Under Training/Education Selectman Monti asked why it is at a 40% decrease. Chief DeFosses explained that the State is using ARPA funds to help offset the costs of training.

Question Two: Selectman Monti asked about the fuel line being increased, Corey explained it was updated to 21,000.00 since the fuel price is so unpredictable from year to year.

Question Three: Selectman Monti's last question was about the vehicle repair line. He asked if the \$39,000.00 that was budgeted would be enough for repairs. Dan explained that the bulk of repairs were done this past year, so most vehicles should be ok for a while.

Thornton Selectman Laufenberg's question:

Question: Selectman Laufenberg asked if Chief Defosses had budgeted enough money for the Fire Department. Selectman Laufenberg's concern was that they would have gone over budget if the Fire Department was fully staffed. Chief Defosses explained that he monitors his budget and would have made some budgetary decisions if there was a risk of running over. Selectman Boynton explained that the Campton Board reviews the budget quarterly to make sure that does not happen. Peter asked the other Boards about a possible revolving reserve account to make sure that the budget under repairs does not go over budget. Selectman Coates was in favor of a revolving reserve account. Selectman Sabourn expressed that he does not like the idea of a revolving reserve account. The remaining board members from the three towns were not collectively in favor of a revolving reserve account.

Campton Selectman Engel made a motion to accept the Fire Department budget, and Selectman Donahue seconded that motion. The Campton Select Board voted unanimously in favor. Town of Thornton, Selectman, Roy Sabourn motioned to accept the Fire Department budget, and Selectman, Peter Laufenberg seconded that motion. The Thornton Select Board voted unanimously in favor. Town of Ellsworth, Selectman Steve Taves motioned to accept the Fire Department budget, and Selectman, Debra Beech seconded that motion. The Ellsworth Select Board voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed unanimously by all three select boards.

Fire Department Study

Campton's Town Administrator, Corey Davenport, was tasked to find out if there were other companies in the area that would do a Fire Assessment quote. After doing research, MRI (Municipal Resource Inc.) is the only company that provided the services that were outlined at the November 7th, 2022 meeting. Campton's Chair, Davis stated that she thought a sub-committee could perform the task and asked how the other Boards felt about paying for one of the quotes submitted. Thornton's Chair, Benton said he was not in favor and thought that the Boards had talked about a committee. Campton Selectman, Donahue felt it was a good guide and it is good information to bring to a sub-committee. Thornton Selectman, Laufenberg, did not want it. Thornton Selectman, Monti, did not want it and thought a sub-committee is a great plan. Fire Chief DeFosses agreed that it was too expensive Selectman Boynton agreed with the collective opinion to form a sub-committee but should include members of the public that has fire experience.

Selectman Coates made a motion to form a fire department study committee that will produce a report by next year. The report should address the fire insurance rating and look into the effect of closing a substation. The report is expected by January 2024. Selectman Boynton seconded that motion. The Campton Select Board voted unanimously in favor. Town of Thornton, Selectman, Roy Sabourn motioned to form a fire department study committee that will produce a report by next year and

Selectman Laufenberg seconded that motion. The Thornton Select Board voted unanimously in favor. Town of Ellsworth, Selectman Steve Taves motioned to form a fire department study committee that will produce a report by next year and Selectman Debra Beech seconded that motion. The Ellsworth Select Board voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed unanimously by all three select boards.

Thornton Transfer Station

Transfer Station Manager Jamin Levasseur presented the budget to all three boards. Currently, the Transfer Station has four employees. Jamin broke down the waste in tons and the recycling. Over the Christmas holiday it generated 20.83 tons in one day. The Transfer Station had to close early due to their dumpster being full. Jamin explained that there are always many residents who do not follow directions regarding recycling. Selectman Boynton asked Jamin about recycling paper again, and Jamin explained that they do not have storage for that at the current time. Selectman Boynton explained that paper takes up a lot of space in the trash bins, which could eliminate bins from filling up too soon. Selectman Coates wants to plan for the construction of storage as soon as possible. The Thornton Board also expressed the desire to pave the Transfer Station as soon as possible. Selectman Engel explained that there is a placeholder for paving on the CIP for the 2026 year. Selectman Sabourn felt that the Towns need to give Jamin some more time to get acclimated to his new position. Once he was able to identify the department's needs, he could present the towns with a plan. Chair Davis proposed a target date of July 2023 to present a plan. Selectman Coates asked Jamin if he could manage that, Jamin agreed he could.

Transfer Station Manager Jamin Levasseur was not in his position very long when a budget needed to be presented. The Transfer Station budget was compiled with the help of Thornton Town Administrator Desiree Mahurin. Desiree explained that electronics went up because they purchased a cell phone for Jamin. Chair Davis asked about a credit card machine (iPhone/Tablet) at the Transfer Station, since most people use a debit/credit card for purchases. Desiree has looked into that, but wanted to ensure that the internet was stable before purchasing a card reader. Jamin told the Boards that fuel costs were decreased due to their use of recycled oil to heat the bulk of the buildings. Selectman Boynton asked Jamin about using more used oil for fuel at the station. Jamin explained that they are only allowed to store so much oil in one location per DES (Department of Environmental Services).

Selectman Engel made a motion to accept the Transfer Station Budget. Selectman Boynton seconded that motion. The Campton Select Board voted unanimously in favor. Town of Thornton, Selectman Laufenberg made a motion to accept the Transfer Station Budget, and Vice-Chair Peabody seconded that motion. The Thornton Select Board voted unanimously in favor. Town of Ellsworth, Selectman Taves made a motion to accept the Transfer Station Budget, and Selectman, Beech seconded that motion. The Ellsworth Select Board voted unanimously in favor. The motion passed unanimously by all three select boards.

Boards Concerns & Directives

Neither of the Boards had any concerns or directives.

With no further business, Chair Davis adjourned the meeting at 6:31 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Natasha Egger

Minutes Recorder