

Campton Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

The Campton Board of Selectmen met at 5:30 pm Tuesday, January 24, 2023. Present were Chair Sharon Davis, Selectman Mort Donahue, Selectman Nik Coates, Selectman Daniel Boynton, and Selectman Craig Engel. Also present were Campton Town Administrator Corey Davenport, Campton Police Chief Kevin Foss, Road Agent, Ron Farnsworth, Police Chief, Kevin Foss, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Hannah Joyce, and Minutes Recorder Natasha Egger.

Members of the public present were Ryan Erazo, Matt Abear, Ron Goggins, Mary O'Brien, Nancy Donahue, Jim Butler, Karen Renzo, Lisa Vincent, Danny Desrosiers, Janet Lucas, and Sherrell Howard.

Members of the public on zoom were: Gale Johnk, Kerrin Randall, and Gene Marchese

Chair Davis started the Budget Hearing at 5:30 pm

Budget Hearing

Chair Davis welcomed everyone to the 2023 Town Budget hearing. She advised that the budget was developed over the last four months by the Board of Selectmen led by the Town Administrator and with input from the Department Heads and Town Committee members.

Chair Davis commented that 2022 was an extremely challenging year with the continuation of the "Great Resignation Era" having an impact on our ability to hire and retain staff. Accordingly, wages had to be constantly reviewed and adjusted upwards to hire and maintain adequate staffing. The departments most impacted were Fire and Safety; police, fire, and road department. The economy and the high rate of inflation have impacted this year's budget significantly. Cost of fuel, electricity, and supply chain interruptions push the prices of supplies higher – that is if you could even get the equipment or parts needed. The biggest challenge was the damaging rains in March which made many of the roads impassable. That storm event cost the town \$500,000 in road repairs, but fortunately, the town was able to pay most of the expense out of the town's undesignated fund balance so the town did not have to borrow to pay for repairs. Upgrading and maintaining town roads are still very much a priority of the Board of Selectmen which can be seen throughout the proposed budget and warrant articles.

The Selectmen and Town Administrator took turns reviewing the entire proposed budget. The budget saw some general themes throughout each department's budget. The 2023 proposed budget saw a majority of its increase in employee pay, insurance, electricity, heating fuel, and gas for vehicles. A few employees were found to be under the minimum salary during the wage study, and those employees saw their pay adjusted accordingly. There was a question about the Planning Board secretary line. The question was why we are paying for a Planning & Zoning Coordinator and having secretary lines. Corey responded that those lines are used to pay the Planning & Zoning Coordinator for their overtime hours that are generated

from meetings. There was another question about the separate line for merit under the Fire Department budget. Corey explained that the Fire Department merit was split between the three towns and is tracked separately. A discussion was started around the addition of a full-time recreation director. The Select Board has recommended that a full-time position be created to lead the recreation department going forward. There was a question about the hours for the after-school program with the addition of a full-time staffer. Chair Davis answered that the addition of a full-timer would allow for programs to expand and new programs to be added. Campton Recreation has seen massive growth during the last few years. There were no additional questions about the budget.

Corey went over the Capital Reserve accounts for the Town. There were no major changes, and there were no questions from the audience. Corey next explained the projected revenues for 2023. There were some changes in revenues, as the Town saw significant contributions from the State and Federal governments. The projected revenues are less than the previous year, but there are several areas that might see an increase. Finally, Corey went over the various graphic that indicated the tax rate, department breakdown, and district breakdown. There were no additional questions about the graphics.

Selectman Boynton motioned to close the budget hearing at 6 pm, and Selectman Engel seconded that motion. Roll Count was as follows, Chair Davis, Aye, Selectman Coates, Aye, Selectman Boynton, Aye, Selectman Donahue, Aye, and Selectman Engel, Aye

Consent Agenda

The Board reviewed the minutes for the following dates. Selectman Boynton Motioned approved the consent agenda, and Selectman Coates seconded that motion. All were in favor.

November 28, 2022-Non-Public Meeting
January 5, 2023, Public Minutes
January 9, 2023, Public Minutes
January 9, 2023, Non-Public Minutes

Privilege of the Floor

There was none

Public Session

Recycling Outreach & Education Grant: Selectman Coates found a grant that has been forwarded to the Town of Thornton. Selectman Coates explained that this grant could provide funds to help educate the public about recycling, among many other informative toolkits. Corey thought maybe all three towns could apply, and he will look into that further. Chair Davis asked Corey to talk to the Thornton Town Administrator about a grant writer. The deadline for this grant is February 15, 2023.

Road Bond Discussion: Corey explained where he is at and wanted to see what direction the Board is going. He explained that if the Board wants to move forward with this, he has to hire a bond lawyer and

start the process since the first deadline is January 31, 2023. Various board members had some questions or issues with the bond. Selectman Boynton felt there needed to be more planning done before a final decision was made. He recommended a work session to discuss the issue in some depth. Selectman Donahue agreed with Selectman Boynton and has some questions on drainage and ditching. There was some discussion about doing a separate ditching and drainage project. Selectman Engel feels that HEB presented all its findings and that the Board has enough information to act. Selectman Engel feels that the Board should move forward with a bond. Selectman Engel is not in favor of a ditching and drainage project only. He feels that the ditches would not solve many issues and would likely fill up before we get around to fixing roads. Selectman Coates questioned the price vs. what the Town could accomplish with that bond amount. Selectman Coates is very concerned about the potential tax hike for the Town. The bond schedule that was presented was for both the road projects and a town-wide drainage project. The Board asked for a bond schedule for just the road project for the work session.

Selectman Boynton mentioned to Chair Davis that he would like to schedule a work session in the next couple of days to discuss this. He also would like to invite Road Agent Ron Farnsworth to get his opinion and information on the roads.

The next BOS Work Session will be held on Monday, January 30, 2023, at 4 pm.

Selectman Boynton motioned to go into a Non-Public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II (a) at 7:00 pm. Selectman Donahue seconded that motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Selectman Engel, Aye; Selectman Coates, Aye; Selectman Boynton, Aye; Selectman Donahue, Aye; Chair Davis, Aye.

The Selectmen came out of non-public at 7:15 p.m.

Board Concerns, Committee Updates & Directives

Chair Davis asked the Board if any of them had any concerns. Some concerns from the Board were as follows:

Selectman Donahue- He would like to start to discuss the Beebe River issue again. He had mentioned that things could wait until after Town Meeting in March.

Selectman Engel- He mentioned some interested members for the CCDC Committee. Those interested members were, Mary O'Brien and Sherrill Howell. Craig had asked Corey to reach out to Mary O'Brien and Sherrill Howell.

Selectman Boynton- Selectman Boynton wanted to see the committee appointment letters sent out earlier so that the Board can appoint members during the March meeting. Dan had asked Corey about the application process for joining town committees. Corey explained that applicants usually send a letter of interest. The Board agreed that a letter of interest should be required and a CD or resume can be submitted if the applicant wants, but it should not be required.

Corey had previously presented to the Board the proposed IT contract for 2023. Corey had reviewed the proposals, and Lakes Region was his recommendation. Selectman Boynton reviewed the contracts with Corey and agreed with his recommendation. Selectman Boynton motioned to accept Lakes Region Computer Services, and Selectman Engel seconded that motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

Corey also recommended a change in the cleaning company for 2023. The town staff is unhappy with the current cleaning company because of the inconsistency in their cleaning. Corey and Lisa recommended Cater Cleaning, a two-person local company. Corey explained that the gentleman Mr. Carter was willing to do other general maintenance projects for a small fee. The Board discussed this matter, and Selectman Coates made a motion, and Selectman Engel seconded that motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor.

Selectman Coates motioned to go into a second Non-Public Session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II (a) at 7:40 pm. Selectman Boynton seconded that motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Selectman Engel, Aye; Selectman Coates, Aye; Selectman Boynton, Aye; Selectman Donahue, Aye; Chair Davis, Aye.

The Board came out of non-public at 7:50 p.m. There was a discussion with regards to logging permits and probable damage to town roads because of the warm weather this winter, and that the Town could require a bond for the logging operations that could be used to do any road repairs caused by logging equipment.

Upon motion duly made by Selectman Coates and seconded by Selectman Engel, it was

Voted: that all logging operations be required to provide the Town with a one million dollar bond to cover potential damage to the roads until further notice.

The Board voted unanimously in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm

Tasks Required

- Grant Writing with the Town of Thornton for EPA
- Dates are scheduled for all Boards/Committees
- Work Session for Monday, January 30, 2023

Respectfully Submitted
Minutes Recorder

Natasha Egger