

January 2, 2014 Select Board Minutes, Groton Community Building (Approved)

Gary Lamberton, Peter Lyon, Nathan Puffer

Brent Smith: Road Commissioner, Roberta Dana: Treasurer

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM

Gary presented the proposed contract recommended by Kitty, as the town Lister, for mapping services by Cartographic Associates, Inc. for a yearly total of \$1,600.00 with payments of \$800.00 every six months. Peter moved, Gary seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to approve the first payment of \$800.00

Gary reviewed the proposed contract for dispatching from the Caledonia Sheriff. Peter recommended holding off on processing the contract until after his conversation with the Sheriff.

Gary reported that he had received the proposed Caledonia County tax for 2014 totaling \$14,817. Roberta reported that the tax for 2012 was \$8,626.46 and the tax for 2013 was \$16,879.81 with the 2013 increase being attributed to an error in the 2012 billing. The board requested the details on the methodology used for the allocation by Town.

Gary reported that Tim (Groton Garage) donated to the town and inspected the Town Cruiser at no cost. The Board expressed its appreciation and thanks for Tim's donation.

Gary noted that a large load of tires had been discarded on the Heath property off 232 and that he would be working as a volunteer to remove the tires.

Peter gave an update on the second constable position noting that the appropriate process to fill the position is through a vote at Town meeting.

The board reviewed the following proposals for the 2014 budget:

- Select Board: 2014 proposal \$5,697 (2012 was \$5,700)
- Office of Clerk & Treasurer: 2014 proposal \$7,750 (2012 was \$11,800)
- Current Tax Collector: 2014 proposal \$6,421 (the was not broken out for 2012, it is being treated as a separate line item for 2014 as Roberta does not plan on running again for this position).
- Collector of Delinquent taxes: No input received, will match 2012 if no input is received by the next board meeting. Annie has also given the board the heads up that she does not plan on running for this position in 2014.
- Auditors: 2014 proposal \$6,890 (2012 was \$6,550)
- Listers: 2014 proposal \$22,024 (2012 was \$20,250) Discussion & review of this category was put on hold for Kitty to come in and meet with the Board.
- PACIF Insurance: 2014 proposal \$11,348 (2012 was \$10,150)
- Legal, Professional Services & Audits: 2014 proposal \$8,800 (2012 was \$8,800) It was noted that the three year contract with the current auditor is up for renewal and that we will want to issue new bid proposals.
- VLCT & NVDA dues: 2014 proposal \$2,366 (2012 was \$2,098)
- Interest expense: 2014 proposal \$3,000 (2012 was \$3,000)

- Zoning: 2014 proposal \$1,671 (2012 was \$2,115) The 2014 proposal was created by the Board, will request Brads feedback for the next Board meeting.
- Town Clock: 2014 proposal \$450 (2012 was \$230)
- Field & Parks: 2014 proposal \$3,527 (2012 was \$24,785)
- Sidewalk & Maintenance: 2014 proposal \$2,853 (2012 was \$2,556) It was noted that Peter will incorporated into the overall building plan a solution for winter storage for Don's tractor.
- Solid Waste: 2014 proposal \$3,000 (2012 was \$4,000). General discussion took place on the proper location of the new recycle sign that was just received. Gary moved, Nathan seconded and the motion passed unanimously to post the sign at the East Ryegate recycle facility.
- Streetlights: 2014 proposal \$7,350 (2012 was \$6,500) Peter said he would contact Green Mountain power to confirm we were being billed properly as he noted that with the installation of the LED lights the cost should not have gone up. Brent stated that streetlights at intersections create sight problems for him and Phillip when plowing. Brent stated that the 2014 budget should be made the same as 2012.
- Community Building: 2014 proposal \$17,892 (2012 was \$17,350)
- Animal Control, pound keeper & supplies: 2014 proposal \$950. (2012 was \$950)
- Health Officer: 2014 proposal \$100 (2012 was \$100)
- Emergency Services Insurance: 2014 proposal \$11,445 (2012 was \$8,014)
- First Constable: 2012 proposal \$9,740 (2012 was \$7,485)
- Town Cruiser: 2014 proposal is to pay off the loan, need to confirm the amount by next meeting (2012 was \$6,575)
- Town Constable Insurance: 2014 proposal \$3,515 (2012 was \$4,985)

Peter moved, Gary seconded and the motion passed unanimously to approve with corrections the December 19, 2013 Board minutes.

Nathan reported that we continue to wait for the Engineers to resolve the billing issue on the Welton Road Bridge and also provide a proposed solution to the Hill's water

Gary moved, Peter seconded, and the motion passed unanimously to adjourn (at 9:50 PM)

Gary Lamberton, Chair

Prepared by Peter Lyon