

**Town of Auburn
Board of Selectmen
January 22, 2018**

Selectmen Present: James Headd, Richard Eaton & Dale Phillips

Also Present: Susan Jenkins, Tax Collector; Loren Martin, Avitar Associates; Alan Villeneuve, Keith LeClair, Michael Rolfe, Tom Lacroix, Paula Marzloff, Sue Goodhue and Russ Sullivan, Residents; William Herman, Town Administrator; Kathryn Lafond, Recording Secretary

Non-Public Session

Mr. Eaton moved to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A 3, II (c) & (e) Consideration of pending negotiations of claims or litigation, and matters which could affect the reputation of someone other than a member of the Board; Mrs. Phillips seconded the motion; A roll call vote was taken; Mr. Headd – yes, Mr. Eaton – yes, Mrs. Phillips – yes. The motion passed and the Board entered into Non-Public Session.

Meeting in Non-Public Session with the Selectmen was Town Administrator Herman, Secretary Lafond, Tax Collector Jenkins and Loren Martin of Avitar Associates.

Mr. Eaton moved to exit Non-Public Session pursuant to RSA 91-A 3; Mrs. Phillips seconded the motion; A roll call vote was taken; Mr. Headd – yes, Mr. Eaton – yes, Mrs. Phillips – yes. The motion passed and the Board exited out of Non-Public Session at 8:10 P.M.

Mrs. Phillips moved to seal the minutes of the Non-Public Session; Mr. Eaton seconded the motion; all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Headd called the public meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Accounts Payable for Week of January 15th, 2018

Mr. Eaton moved to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest in the amount of \$266,190.33 for the week of January 15th, 2018; Mrs. Phillips seconded the motion; all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Payroll for Week of January 22nd, 2018

Mr. Eaton moved to approve the Payroll Manifest in the amount of \$43,396.28 for the week of January 22nd, 2018; Mrs. Phillips seconded the motion; all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda – Week of January 22nd, 2018

Tax Collector Warrant/Yield Tax

Raymond Road (Tax Map #10, Lot #3) - \$6,806.70

Raffle Permits/Auburn Historical Association

26th Annual Duck Race Event – September 8, 2018

Raffle of Hand-Made Quilt – September 8, 2018

Raffle of Various Gift Certificates – September 8, 2018

NH Department of Revenue Administration / 2018 MS-DTB

2018 Default Budget for Town of Auburn - \$5,346,125

Correspondence

10 Letters of Donors concerning Skate Park Donations

Letter to Auburn State Representatives concerning HB 413

Abatement/Refund Request

593 Chester Road (Tax Map #5, Lot #65-Yel16) – Camper vacated in May - \$40.00

Pistol/Revolver License

Five (5) License(s)

Mr. Eaton moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; Mrs. Phillips seconded the motion; all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

NHDRA Equalization Ration for 2017

The Board reviewed the town's 2017 equalization ratio determined by NH Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) based on assessed property values as of April 1, 2017. NH DRA has determined the 2017 equalization to be 85.6%. Mr. Herman noted that this is below the required range of 90-110%, however, the town has contracted with Avitar Associates of New England to perform a statistical revaluation this year to bring property assessments to 100% of market value. Mr. Villeneuve asked if the allowable range is 90 to 110% do they shoot for 100%. Mr. Eaton stated yes if they were only shooting for 90% so that property owners did not see full 15% increase to their property values the equalization could dip back down below the range almost immediately which would cost the town more in time and money in the long run. Mr. Eaton added that Loren Martin from Avitar had suggested that the ratio could dip down to approximately 80% prior to the revaluation so it was deemed best to shoot for 100%. Mr. Villeneuve clarified that property owners could see their property values increase by approximately 20% this year. The Board confirmed yes. It was noted that this does not necessarily mean that property owner's taxes will increase as a result of the revaluation.

Fire Department Command Vehicle

Mr. Herman informed the Board that the Fire Department Chevy Tahoe has been deemed a total loss by the insurance company due to a fire in the engine area. Primex is reimbursing the town a total of \$34,625.00 which is the appraised value of the vehicle minus a \$1,000 deductible. The Fire Chief has researched replacement options and MacMulkin Chevrolet in Nashua holds the State Bid Award for Chevrolet Tahoe police vehicles which is comparable to the vehicle to be replaced. Mr. Herman noted that the 2018 Tahoe that MacMulkins has in stock is black which is not uncommon for fire and police command vehicles. Mrs. Phillips asked if the town would need to also pay for the replacement of the lights, etc. that fire apparatus are outfitted with. Mr. Herman indicated that the insurance company will pay for those things separately.

Mr. Eaton moved to authorize the purchase of a 2018 Police Vehicle Chevrolet Tahoe 4x4 SSV from MacMulkin Chevrolet at the State of New Hampshire bid price of \$33,880 to be used as the Auburn Fire Command Vehicle; Mrs. Phillips seconded the motion; All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

2018 Paving Prices

The Board reviewed the quoted paving prices from Advanced Excavating & Paving. Mr. Herman noted that he believes that this company has held the same rate for the town for the past two years.

Mr. Eaton moved to accept the 2018 rates for paving proposed by Advanced Excavating and Paving; Mrs. Phillips seconded the motion; all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant Application Authority

The Board reviewed a memo from Mr. Herman which explained that the grant application for the Wayne Eddows Memorial fields is being diligently worked on and one of the required documents is a certificate or letter documenting that a town representative has been authorized to sign for and submit the grant application.

Mrs. Phillips moved to authorize Town Administrator William G. Herman to submit an application for the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Round 29 on behalf of the Town of Auburn and to provide the Town Administrator with signature authority for this process; Mr. Eaton seconded the motion; all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

FY 2018 Budget and Warrant

Finalize FY 2018 Warrant

The Board reviewed the draft warrant. Mr. Herman indicated that the deadline to post the warrant is one week from today. Mrs. Phillips stated that while much time, effort and money was put in, she would like the Board to collectively consider removing article #6 from the warrant. Mrs. Phillips continued that the police & recreation garage/storage building was not recommended by the Budget Committee, who brought up some valid questions that remain unanswered. Mrs. Phillips thought that questions need to be answered before putting forth an approximately \$300,000 building to the voters. Mrs. Phillips added that the proceeds from the sale of the former fire/police station remain in the fund balance and can still be used in the future however she would like the Board to reevaluate the Parks and Recreation department, their needs and the building proposal as a whole. Mr. Eaton echoed that a lot of time and effort was put into this proposal and he did not agree with all of the comments made by the Budget Committee. Mr. Eaton continued that he is disappointed that he could not persuade the Budget Committee to change their recommendation, the Board of Selectmen had set goals at a work session last year and they accomplished all but this. Mr. Eaton concluded that upon the sale of the former fire/police station the Board told the Parks and Recreation Commission that they would provide them with storage and this still needs to be done.

Mrs. Phillips moved to remove Article six from the 2018 Town Warrant; Mr. Eaton seconded the motion; all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

January 8th, 2018 Public Meeting

Mrs. Phillips moved to approve the minutes of the January 8th, 2018 public meetings; Mr. Eaton seconded the motion; all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

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Mr. Headd moved to seal the minutes of the Non-Public Session; Mr. Eaton seconded the motion; all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Phillips moved to adjourn; Mr. Eaton seconded the motion; all were in favor, the public meeting ended at 7:36 p.m.