

**Town of Auburn
Board of Selectmen
Town Hall
Stritch Meeting Room
January 8, 2024
Approved Minutes
7:00 PM**

Selectmen Present: Keith Leclair, Michael Rolfe and Tom Carroll

Others Present: Mike DiPietro, Budget & Finance Director Mimi Friolet, Library Trustee Marilyn Cavanaugh, Liz Michaud and Cindy Berling, Town Administrator Chris Sterndale, Nancy Hoijer, Recording Secretary, and persons unknown to the minute taker

I. Call to Order

Mr. Leclair called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Public Comments

Mr. Leclair asked if there were any comments from the public at 7:00 PM.

III. Consent Agenda

Mr. Leclair read out loud the Consent Agenda for the week of January 8, 2024 which included an Accounts Payable Manifest dated December 27, 2023 in the amount of \$165,877.49, a Payroll Manifest dated January 3, 2024 in the amount of \$75,295.11, an Accounts Payable Manifest dated January 10, 2024 in the amount of \$1,168,294.18 and a step increase for Firefighter/EMT Michael Laprade from Grade 6, Step 10 to Grade 6, Step 11.

Mr. Leclair motioned to approve the Consent Agenda dated January 8, 2024. Mr. Rolfe seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 3-0-0.

IV. Manifests

A. Highway 12/27/23 - \$4,610

Mr. Carroll motioned to approve the Highway Manifest dated December 27, 2023 in the amount of \$4,610. Mr. Leclair seconded the motion. A vote was taken, Mr. Rolfe abstained, Mr. Leclair voted aye and Mr. Carroll voted aye. The motion passed 2-0-1.

B. Highway 1/10/24 - \$10,210.24

Mr. Carroll motioned to approve the Highway Manifest dated January 10, 2024 in the amount of \$10,210.24. Mr. Leclair seconded the motion. A vote was taken, Mr. Rolfe abstained, Mr. Leclair voted aye and Mr. Carroll voted aye. The motion passed 2-0-1.

V. Appointments with the Board

A. Library Trustees

Marilyn Cavanaugh indicated that the Trustees provided changes in wording to the Warrant Article.

Mr. Leclair read the proposed Warrant Article out loud.

Mr. Rolfe motioned to recommend Article 20 Library Expansion and Community Center. Mr. Carroll seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 3-0-0.

Ms. Michaud asked when regular meetings would be held with the Selectmen and the Library Trustees. Mr. Leclair proposed meeting on February 26, 2024 from 6-7 PM and requested that Parks & Recreation Coordinator Amy Lachance be notified.

Mr. Leclair noted the change to Article 20 will be brought to the Budget Committee on Thursday and Mr. Carroll will attend in his place.

VI. New Business

A. 2024 Warrant

Mr. Leclair motioned to recommend Article 19, Operating Budget. Mr. Rolfe seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 3-0-0.

Mr. Leclair read out loud Article 21. Mr. DiPietro asked the balance of the surplus unreserved fund balance and Mrs. Friolet indicated it was between \$3 million and \$3.2 million dollars, approximately 15%.

Mr. Leclair recommended a presentation at the Deliberative Session. He recommended discussing use of ARPA funds, the storage facility, repairs at the Safety Complex, Station 2 and Town Hall, lease of Severance School, preparation for transition from Road Agent and purchase of Highway Department equipment, improved parking at the ballfield, the land swap with MWW including Depot Road and other road projects.

Mr. Sterndale will reach out to the Town Moderator to let him know they will need an additional ten minutes.

B. Legislative Session Preview

Town Administrator Sterndale provided the Board with legislative updates and explained HB 1479 and the impact it would have on municipalities who rely on NHMA because of the wording which will not allow the use of public funds to lobby the legislature. Municipalities pay dues to NHMA. The Board recommended sending a letter to all representatives and to have a discussion with Jess Edwards.

C. Abatement Request – Map 8, Lot 25-22

The Board reviewed the abatement request for Lot 8, Map 25-22 which was denied.

VII. Old Business

VIII. Committee Reports

Mr. Rolfe reported that the Planning Board met and discussed zoning amendments and approved the landscape plan for the storage facility on Hooksett Road.

Mr. Leclair reported that the Budget Committee met and held off on recommending warrant articles until Thursday.

Mr. Carroll reported that Highway Safety met and the stop signs have made an improvement.

IX. Minutes

A. December 18, 2023 Public & Non-Public Meeting Minutes

Mr. Rolfe motioned to approve the December 18, 2023 public and non-public meeting minutes, Mr. Carroll seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 3-0-0.

B. Consideration of Unsealing Non-Public Meeting Minutes

- i. April 18, 1994
- ii. May 9, 1994
- iii. August 29, 1994

Mr. Rolfe motioned to leave the minutes of the non-public minutes of April 18, 1994 sealed. Mr. Carroll seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 3-0-0.

Mr. Rolfe motioned to unseal the minutes of the non-public minutes of May 9, 1994 and August 29, 1994. Mr. Carroll seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 3-0-0.

X. Non-public Session 91-A:3(II)(c)and(e)

Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board, and consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed by or against this board or any subdivision thereof

By Roll Call, Mr. Leclair motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to 91-A:3(II)(c)and(e). Mr. Rolfe seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, Mr. Leclair voted aye, Mr. Rolfe voted aye, and Mr. Carroll voted aye. The motion passed 3-0-0.

The meeting room was closed to the public at 7:54 PM.

Mr. Leclair motioned to come out of non-public session. Mr. Carroll seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 3-0-0.

The meeting room was reopened to the public at 8:07 PM.

The Board reserved the right to seal the minutes of the non-public session at its next meeting.

XI. Adjournment

Mr. Rolfe motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 PM. Mr. Carroll seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Hoijer, Recording Secretary