

Town of Livermore Falls
Office of the Board of Selectmen

Jeff Bryant - Chair
Ernie Souther – Vice Chair
William Kenniston

Rodney Heikkinen
Jim Long

Select Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday February 15th, 2022
Livermore Falls Town Office
6:30 pm

ATTENDEES: Jeff Bryant; Chair, Ernie Souther; Vice Chair, William Kenniston, Rodney Heikkinen, Jim Long, Amanda Allen, Rebecca Harmatys, Bill Nichols, Mike Booker, Ernest Steward, Jr, Jay Nichols, Tom Barker, Gayle Long

6:30 PM; Board Chair, Jeff Bryant called the meeting to order.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of Minutes: February 1, 2022 Motion to Approve: R. Heikkinen; Seconded: E Souther; VOTE: 5-0

3. Old Business – Mr. Edward Symbal “ The Gas Station” The CEO has met with Mr. Symbal; reviewed the building and confirmed that the Site Plan Review Application for Retail Medical Marijuana is complete. Mr. Symbal has appropriate security plans and equipment. Mr. Symbal briefly presented his plans to the Board and attending residents. There was no discussion from the residents. J. Bryant asked for a motion to approve the license application . W. Kenniston made the motion, J. Long seconded; VOTE: 4-1.

4. New Business

- Budget Discussions
 - a. Fire Department –CHIEF M. Booker reported that there would be no budget changes from 2021. E. Souther asked why there aren't going to be changes. The Chief explained that Station Maintenance has gone down \$1440 which will balance the need for increase for hose replacement and tires for the ladder truck . Tires are \$800 to \$1,000. Fuel is locked at \$2.02 per gallon until renegotiated later this year. The Chief said that he applies for grants throughout the year to offset expenses.
 - b. Police Department Chief E. Steward Jr. reported that with the new contract, the budget increase is 2% for benefits. Payroll decreased as step raises have been discontinued.

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The two vacant officer positions were filled. One officer went to the State Police; the State compensated the Town \$30,000 for this transfer of staff. W. Kenniston asked why a half car purchase is budgeted. The Chief said that vehicle purchases are budgeted over more than one year. The oldest vehicle has 117,000 miles and each car does about 30,000 miles per year. It's a State law that the towns have to be reimbursed when staff transfer. J. Long asked about Special Events coverage; the Chief said they cover football games and other events which are usually reimbursed. Long asked about the staffing model; the Chief said that there's round the clock coverage with academy students covering on occasion. Long noted the professional line for 6 months is almost double for the remainder of the year. The Chief explained that there are expenses for polygraphs and physicals that may be required. Long asked if there's enough equipment. The Chief said all is OK. Long asked if the ammunition amount was appropriate; the CHIEF said that it's needed for training and certifications. W. Kenniston asked if crime is increasing, Chief said that domestic issues have increased as well as drug overdoses and drug crimes. Long thanked him for keeping the budget to 2% increase. The Chief said that they use a lot of grants and their percentage of confiscated money. A resident asked what the Chief's expense is used for, the Chief said it's for meetings, training, and travel, The Town Manager asked the Board to sign a requisition to accept \$1,230 dollars for the Police Dept, this is their percentage of confiscated money. A motion to accept by J. Bryant, E. Souther seconded.
VOTE:5-0

- c. Highway Department: The Public Works Foreman, B Nichols reported that payroll increased due to new contract. Mr. Nichols asked for additional hours so that a full time Utility position could be created. The position duties would cover the existing two (2) days for support for building/grounds; an additional two (2) days for highway; and additional 1 day for the Transfer Station. This will affect budgets for Highway, Buildings and Transfer Station. Fuel for highway will go up to \$2.75 and he has been told that SALT will have a significant increase. J. Long asked when do we buy sand

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and salt. The Foreman said that he works with AVCOG in June and SALT will be finalized in August. Sand is purchased with Jay and Wilton and will take delivery in October. E. Souther asked if everyone has the same internet service. The Foreman has Spectrum, he's not sure what everyone else uses. J. Long asked where tool expenses are budgeted. The Foreman said that small tools etc. were moved into Parts and Repairs Account. Long asked if they have the equipment they need. The Foreman said one plow truck needs updating and will need tires. Tire retreads used to be \$170 and now they are \$275. He hopes to replace an old truck and replace it with a super 150 that they can modify to meet their needs. E. Souther asked if the Town receives any recycling revenue. The Foreman said that the Town received \$3000 in 2021. Souther asked where is that money assigned. The Foreman said that it will go to road/sidewalk repairs, annual paint, pavement. R. Heikkinen asked about potholes on Park Street. The Foreman said the State is responsible for that street. The Town cannot touch the State roads.

- d. Transfer Station The Foreman said that household universal hazardous waste expense will increase over 20%. At this time the town pays for light bulbs. Fees for recycling are also increasing. Tipping Fee can only go up 7% and currently they have only increased 4%. The Trash quantity went up last year because of COVID, the numbers haven't been finalized for this year. E. Souther asked if anything had been done with a 2021 proposal to have all Livermore Falls residents have a Transfer Station Window Decal Permit rather than the current card. The Foreman reported that they are moving forward with a plan to design/purchase the decals. J. Long asked about the budgeted fee for mowing. The Foreman said that it is for mowing the landfill once a year. It is a State law that DEP approved staff mow it once a year. Long asked if the repair budget of \$6,000 will be sufficient. The Foreman said that the equipment should be fine for the remainder of the year.
- e. Buildings The Foreman has asked for an upgraded FTE Utility position that would clean building/grounds and do minor maintenance. This position would be shared with

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Highway and Transfer station. W. Kenniston asked what is being done at the rec field, The Foreman said that they are working with a company in Vermont to repair the tennis and basketball courts; funds have been allocated in a previous budget year. The work was postponed due to COVID and will start this year.

- f. Code Enforcement Officer – Jay Nichols reported that he will need an additional 8 hours added to his current budgeted 15 hours in order to be able to do the required work, meetings and necessary documentation. W. Kenniston asked the Town Manager if she anticipates that once all the current new businesses are up and running, will these additional hours be needed. The Town Manager said that, yes, there is a lot of work that needs to be done.

5. Warrants/Abatements/ Deeds/Quit Claim

6. Board Discussion/Department Head Discussion

- a. Tom Barker, Chairman of Budget Committee, asked if there is a target date for the Budget Committee report - The Selectmen said that it should be completed and available on the first Tuesday in April, the 5th. The Selectmen will vote on it April 5th; then there is a Public Hearing on April 15th.
- b. The Fire Chief asked if the Selectmen would like to know when he is applying for grants. The Chairman of the Select Board, Jeff Bryant, said to go ahead and do it and asked that he let the Select Board know when a grant has been received.
- c. Jim – NA
- d. Rodney – NA
- e. Ernie – NA
- f. Will - NA

7. Manager's Discussion

- a. The Town Manager reminded everyone that Monday, February 21, is President's day and the Town Office will be closed.

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- b. The next Selectmen Meeting is March 1. The Budgets for the Library, Elected Officials, Debt Service, Recreation, Agency Requests and Insurances (MMA) will be reviewed.
- c. There will be a Public Hearing for the former Tommy Randall barn. The new owner is applying for a liquor license for his Wedding Venue.

8. Adjourn

- a. 7:52PM - E Souther made the motion to Adjourn, J. Long seconded; VOTE 5-0.

