

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 March 15, 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, Tom Barker, Kathy Langlin; Gayle Long

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

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of Minutes: March 1, 2022 (2)

- Motion to approve: R Heikkinen; Seconded: J Bryant; VOTE: 5-0
- Motion to approve minutes for Executive Session: J Bryant; Seconded: E Souther; VOTE 5-0

3. New Business

- **TIF (Tax Increment Financing)** – J Long reported from Business Recruitment Committee: After reviewing the comparison to five (5) other towns' use of TIF money, the Committee recommends a three (3) year spend down of funds at approximately \$60,000 per year. TIF funds could be used for:
 - Plow Truck Lease
 - AVCOG
 - Street Light Repairs
 - Chamber of Commerce
 - Street Striping and Signage
 - Fire Station Loan
 - Portion of Town Manager Compensation

Spending the TIF would benefit the greater downtown area and community within the TIF criteria. Though some of the defined uses are nebulous, the opportunities are broad. All Selectmen discussed and agreed with the recommendations of the Committee for use of TIF funds. J Bryant asked the Committee to provide their budget recommendations at the next Select Board Meeting.

The Committee recommended that the Greater Franklin Development Council be removed from the Budget (\$3,000). E Souther motioned to removed Greater Franklin Development Council from the Budget; Seconded; R Heikkinen VOTE 5-0

- **ATM** The majority of the town business is done with cash or checks. Rebecca has information about a system from Mainely ATMs that could be installed in the Town

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Office Lobby area. There would be no contract or expense for the Town, installation and maintenance is free. There are two (2) options for use;

1. Each transaction would be \$3 for the user and there would be a 25% quarterly return to the Town Office.
2. Each transaction would be \$2 for the user and there would be no quarterly payment to the town.

At this time, customers have to go to another location to get cash which is inconvenient and often causes delays in payments. Rebecca will check to see if there is a limit to what can be withdrawn at any time. After discussion, all Selectmen are in favor of installing an ATM.

- **Mowing Cemetery Bid:** Three Bids were submitted: Mike's Lawncare: \$4,800; Minuteman; \$3,900; JD's Lawn Service \$7,500. J Bryant made a motion to accept the Minuteman Bid; Seconded: E. Souther VOTE 5-0
- **Budget Discussions**
 - a. **Administration:** A. Allen reported that the biggest increase is due to benefits for health insurance to include a 'Family Plan'. There are 7 or 8 categories that could be moved to another cost center which will reduce the budget.
 - b. **Contractual:** The Fire Hydrant rental cost is fixed. The street lights will be counted next week in preparation for changing all lights to LED. The Town Clock is owned by the Town but the building that it's in is not. The annual cleaning and maintenance fee for the Clock is approximately \$1,000.
 - c. **Capital Improvements:** Chief Steward is asking for funds for a new cruiser. The Fire Department budget has been increased to accommodate the projected increase in fuel and equipment repairs. There will be a need for new equipment and there should be more money put aside for the next purchase. The Highway Dept will be replacing the 2001 truck. The Foreman has asked to change the parttime person to full time so that he could keep the position filled for highway and grounds.
 - d. **Code Enforcement:** \$16,600 – 2 days per week
 - e. **Health Officer:** No change
 - f. **Grounds Care:** It has decreased because of the new bid
 - g. **General Assistance** No change
 - h. **Debt Service** Minimal change
 - i. **Contingency** A Allen feels that the budget is good

4. Warrants/Abatements/ Deeds/Quit Claim

5. Board Discussion/Department Head Discussion

- a. J Long – NA
- b. R Heikkinen – NA
- c. W Kenniston – NA

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- d. E Souther – He asked the status and location of the Boston Post Cane Some towns are giving Certificates when a Cane is not available.
 - e. B Nichols asked for increase of hourly wage for the part-time Transfer Station Employees who are now at \$14.56/hr. to \$16.00/hr. J Bryant made the Motion to accept the increase. Seconded: W Kenniston VOTE: 5-0
 - f. Tom Barker reported that the fire station and the public works buildings are not well insulated and he would suggest that \$10,000 to be put away for the future maintenance.
 - g. In January, Amanda and Rebecca, the Town of Jay, the Water and Sewer Districts met with Revision, Inc about the benefits they could realize if they were participating in a solar power connection. The group is interested in working with a consultant who could research and define the benefits. Rebecca is asking for permission to spend no more than \$3000 (should be shared among the group) for a plan to be developed for a 20-year contract for the town. Rebecca has a meeting on Thursday, March 17th. The projected savings are significant. J. Bryant made motion to accept a commitment of up to \$3000 fee to develop a plan. Seconded: E Souther VOTE 5-0
 - h. Marijuana letters – The Select Board will send letters to the Medical Marijuana License Applicants confirming their application approval and acceptance.
 - i. A Allen requested permission requested to hire a new CEO and office staff –All Selectmen agreed§
- ✓ The Next Select Board meeting is Monday March 28 at 6:30
 - ✓ The Sewer Committee meeting is March 30 at 6pm (they received \$1.7 million grant)
 - ✓ The Fire Substation meeting is March 24 at 6pm

Rodney Heikkinen will resign his 3-year position on the Select Board on May 31st. There will be a need to fill his term, a 1-yr vacancy.

6. Manager's Discussion

7. Executive Session: J Bryant made the motion to enter Executive Session: MRS Title 1, Chap. 13 § 405 § (6) (E)

8. Adjourn

- a. Returned from Executive Session 8:00 PM - Motion to Adjourn: J Bryant; Seconded: J. Long; VOTE 5-0.