

**TOWN OF CASTLETON
SPECIAL SELECT BOARD MEETING
MINUTES OF JANUARY 20, 2015
TOWN OFFICES**

MEMBERS PRESENT: J. Hale, R. Combs, J. Bruno

MEMBERS LATE: B. Spaulding (7:20 pm), T. Etori (7:12 pm)

OTHERS PRESENT: M. Shea, see attached list

Meeting called to order by Chairman J. Bruno at 6:37pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PURCHASE ORDER FOR APPROVAL FOR FIRE DEPT.

MOTION:

R. Combs made a motion to approve P.O. # 036344 from OSI INTL LLC for \$2,377.25 for 5 pagers for the Fire Dept. Seconded by J. Hale.

H. Goyette stated that we will receive 6 pagers for the price of 5. There will be an additional charge of \$80.00.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

All in favor. So voted.

FINALIZE BUDGET FOR FY 2015-2016 – REVIEW 2015-2016 WARNING

M. Shea stated that the items are self explanatory as the column on the far right has notes that refer to the item in question. There is a deficiency in the revenue; one item is the COPS program and before the new fiscal year begins a conversation about the transfer station and a price review. He continued explaining each of the department's budgets.

J. Bruno inquired about the Personal Services for the DRB and PC members as to how much they get paid as a stipend. M. Shea responded that there are 5 members on each the DRB & Planning boards. They meet twice a month and each gets \$20.00/per meeting, so it would be \$400.00/month times 12 months is \$4,800.00 and he knows one member does not accept the stipend.

J. Hale spoke about adding back some of the \$15,000.00 on hiring M. Crane to do marketing for our possible new proposed commercial re- zoning of Rte. 30 North.

J. Bruno stated that he agreed with the concept of trying to attract businesses but not sure is is a good gamble for \$15,000. There was also suggestions that we approach CSC and UVM to possible do the research and possible some marketing of possible uses of the area and the

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other suggestion is to use the Rutland Economic Development Board. We have already paid for a study which included information we already had. J. Bruno stated that the Board should be able to create and write our own zoning and do our own research and not spend the tax payer's money.

J. Bruno asked about the sidewalk project and its costs, we have spent \$2,974. And there is a minus \$70,000.00 was for sidewalk project. M. Combs stated that the money is in the Highway Maintenance fund.

J. Bruno states we do not budget for sidewalk maintenance, he asked if the plowing of the sidewalks comes out of winter maintenance. He suggested we should look at sidewalk maintenance in the future.

M. Shea noted that the minimum wage will be going up this year so that is why you will see an increase in the salary lines is to comply with minimum wage laws.

J. Bruno stated that because there is a well head at Dewey Field, the Recreation Commission should have a conversation with the District & state about what can be done and how to improve the field. He continued saying that it is not from neglect it is because of the well head.

J. Leamy asked about the stipends. He state he thought that when they hired the Recreation Director that the stipends would be eliminated. The board agreed that that was their thoughts, too.

T. Ettori asked about the General Govt. Buildings budget and why it was not lower since Bud Carpenter reduced the rent. He continued stating that the modular rent increased and the storage trailer was added, but still question remains. The board continued the discussion on cost of electricity, etc. T. Ettori questioned the Town Clerk's salary line item regarding elections and he thought it is more money than she needs.

M. Combs replied that her salary is split between two dept. Elections and Document Recordings. If you add those two together it should equal what her hourly rate is x 35 hours x 52 weeks per year.

R. Combs asked about the Auditing budget at \$18,000. Batchelder previous bid was less if they bid and their bid comes in less, are we going to take the low bid? M. Shea responded that it is depending on qualifications, and Bonnie Batchelder has done an excellent job and has made she available for questions.

J. Hale recapped the previous information; if the town gets the re-zoning on the Rte. 30 N and we will have the opportunity to attract new businesses & industry. We will have to get the best

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person possible to help us. He continued stating that he felt that the \$15,000 should be added back into the budget for economic development.

MOTION

J. Hale made a motion to add \$15,000.00 back into the Planning and Zoning budget for professional services. Seconded by T. Ettori for discussion.

T. Ettori asked if anyone had reviewed his resume and has he brought in businesses to a town. J. Hale stated that he has spoken with E. Bove at RRPC and he recommended him. T. Ettori asked how much discussion has the Planning Commission had with REDC. They had had none. T. Ettori stated he did not feel comfortable putting in the money until REDC had been contacted.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

J. Hale & R. Spaulding voted yes, T. Ettori, R. Combs, J. Bruno voted no. Motion failed.

MOTION

J. Hale made a motion to accept the budget as presented with corrections. R. Spaulding seconded.

J. Hale stated that he felt that every year if we try to have as little increase in the budget (tax), the services are going to suffer.

J. Bruno stated that we have some hurdles to get over, i.e., Police Station and the hope of a new town office. He continued that he felt it prudent to continue to level fund without cutting services. There are many in this town that are struggling to pay their taxes and we should consider that. He stated that we had a perfect opportunity in 1996 to purchase the old medical center and it was turned down.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

All in favor. So voted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION- REAL ESTATE

MOTION: R. Combs made a motion to enter Executive Session for a Real Estate matter including the Town Manager and abutting landowner at 7:55 pm. B. Spaulding seconded. All in favor. So voted.

MOTION

R. Spaulding motioned to exit Executive Session at 8:40 pm with no action taken. J. Hale seconded. All in favor. So voted.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION- REAL ESTATE

MOTION: R. Spaulding made a motion to enter Executive Session for a Real Estate matter including the Town Manager and Counsel (via phone) at 8:45 pm. R. Combs seconded. All in favor. So voted.

MOTION

J. Hale motioned to exit Executive Session at 9:00 pm with no action taken. R. Spaulding seconded. All in favor. So voted.

MOTION

R. Combs motioned to approve the municipal budget for FY 2016 for \$2,935,318. R. Spaulding seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

T. Etori asked about adding anticipated revenue. The board decided that anticipated revenue should be added to the Warning. T. Etori continued asking about the article for the bus money. M. Shea stated that if they had questions, please contact him.

ADJOURN

MOTION

R. Spaulding motioned to Adjourn at 9:46 pm. J. Hale seconded. All in favor. So voted.

Respectfully,

Valerie Waldron

Date of Approval