

TOWN OF TEMPLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

SELECT BOARD

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

**Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2019**

**Town Hall Annex**

**6:30 PM**

Select Board members present: George Willard, Bill Ezell, and Ken Caisse

Meeting called to order by Ezell at 6:30 PM and he announced that the Select Board would be meeting in non-public session after the public comment period under NH RSA 91-A:3II(c).

- **Public Comment:**
  - John Kieley referenced the prior year's \$5.91 municipal tax rate and the increased town-wide assessment increase of about 14 percent. Ezell said the town has a big problem in staff departures at the police department due to salary levels and soon the department will be down to the Chief and one officer. Ezell said the chief has told him the wages are the reason that he cannot find or keep officers. Gail Cromwell said she had come up with a simplistic, but perhaps suitable proposal to hold the average homeowner harmless from the increased property assessment increase. Ezell said the Board had already planned to use \$9,977 in new state aid to reduce the tax rate. Cromwell said that it's taken a couple of years, but the county and school tax rates are falling and she would like to see the town portion drop by 14 percent to around \$5.09 to provide some relief to homeowners who are seeing their assessments increase. Part of the reduction could come from using the fund balance to drop the rate, and she estimated that some use of the fund balance would be needed. She noted that the police department would show some savings in salaries. Ezell said that spending would increase next year once they add officers. Cromwell said her worry was not 2020. Discussion about having the Budget Advisory Committee look at her proposal ahead of the Board setting the preliminary tax rate.
  
- **Non-Public Session**
  - Ezell motioned to enter non-public session at 6:44 p.m., under the provisions of NH RSA 91-A: 3II(c), Willard second, all in favor. Caisse recused himself from the meeting.
  - Non-Public session minutes are sealed.
  
- **Return to Public Session**
  - Select Board reconvened the public session at 6:56 p.m., minutes recorded by Clifton-Waite.
  
- **Non-Public Session**
  - Ezell motioned to enter non-public session at 6:58 p.m., under the provisions of NH RSA 91-A: 3II(a), Willard second, all in favor.

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- **Non-Public session minutes are on file and not sealed.**
- **Return to Public Session**
  - **Select Board reconvened the public session at 7:05 p.m., minutes recorded by Clifton-Waite.**
  - Highway Department
    - **Ezell announced that the Board is setting new highway department salaries. Caisse motioned that because the highway department wages appear to be lower than surrounding communities, effective as of Monday, Nov. 4 the wages for the Road Agent will be \$28 an hour, wages for the No. 2 laborer/driver will be \$24, and wages for the No. 3 and a part-time person will be \$22 an hour -- all without any change in benefits, Ezell second, all in favor.**
- **New Business:**
  - Consideration of use for 2019 Municipal Aid
    - **Ezell motioned to apply \$9,977 in new state aid to reduce the town portion of the tax rate, Caisse second, all in favor. Ezell said the preliminary tax rate would be discussed on Wednesday with the Budget Advisory Committee. Caisse said he would act as the Select Board liaison. Ezell said the Board would need to act no later than next Tuesday to set the preliminary rate. Board postponed action to set the preliminary tax rate until Nov. 12. Discussion of overlay figure and recommendation from Avitar Associates for \$5,000 for future abatements. Clifton-Waite to confirm with NH Dept. of Revenue Administration if the \$5,000 will cause any change in the tax rate.**
  - Future Select Board meeting dates
    - **Discussion of meeting dates in November and December and that the Board will keep its Nov. 26 meeting and Dec. 10 meeting, but switch the Dec. 24 meeting on Christmas Eve to Dec. 17.**
  - Acceptance of Highway Block Grant
    - **Caisse motioned to accept the Highway Block Grant of \$22,657 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2019-20, Willard second, all in favor.**
- **Other Business:**
  - Request of waiver of Town Hall rental fee
    - **Discussion of a request for waiver of the rental fee for use of the Town Hall on Nov. 23 for a fundraiser to benefit Eric Beckmann, the son-in-law of Town Clerk Joyce Kullgren, who has suffered serious injuries in a recent motor vehicle accident. Caisse motioned to waive the fee, Ezell second, all in favor.**

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- LCHIP annual monitoring report for Town Hall
  - **Connie Kieley, chair of the Temple Town Hall Advisory Committee, presented for review the LCHIP Historic Resources Annual Monitoring Report on the Town Hall. Discussion of possible future maintenance needs for the building. Discussion of scratches in floors in wake of recent events at Town Hall. Connie Kieley suggested interim buffing of the floor might need to be done and that yearly refinishing of the floor might have to be considered. Ezell commented that wear and tear will happen. Kieley said she would pursue a quote on monthly buffing. Discussion of carpet cleaning in the Annex and that Kieley would work with the Town Hall rental schedule to fit that in. Discussion of band storage and need for reorganization of space in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Annex. Discussion of the need to ensure sufficient bathroom and kitchen supplies.**

**Meeting Adjourned:** 7:38 PM. Motioned by Ezell, Caisse second, all in favor.

**Next Select Board Meeting:** Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2019, at 6:30 PM in the Town Hall Annex.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Paul Clifton-Waite, Assistant to the Select Board.