

TOWN OF SEABROOK

SELECTMEN'S BUDGET MEETING

JANUARY 15, 2024

Theresa A. Kyle
Harold F. Eaton
Srinivasa "Ravi" Ravikumar
William M. Manzi, III

Mrs. Kyle opened the meeting at 9:36AM.

The board stated the DRA Kickoff Meeting would be held next Monday January 22 at 11AM. The tax abatements will also be held until that meeting.

MEETING - EXECUTIVE COUNCILOR JANET STEVENS

Janet Stevens was here to discuss the silent alarm system at Seabrook Station and what happened last year. She discussed the role of the NRC within the State of NH. Ms. Stevens said Next Era has submitted new regulations for 4 of their sites with Seabrook being one of them. She said members of the community can still submit comments and there is a limited time to do so.

Ms. Stevens discussed the impact these new regulations would have on Seabrook Station. She said it would reduce the staffing by 32% which would result in staff time for emergencies going from 60 minutes to 90 minutes. She discussed the proposed positions they are looking to eliminate. Next Era would also be looking to reduce monthly testing to once per year.

There was discussion on the licensed amendment and how the community can respond within 30 days to those amendments as well as request a public hearing within 60 days. Ravi asked how the public is notified so that they may respond. The technical error that occurred last year was not declared an unusual event and Ms. Stevens feels it should have been. This event caused major disruption to Seabrook and surrounding areas. Ravi commented that Ms. Stevens is speaking of one particular incident, and he is looking to find out how the general public is notified to make comments about the license amendments. He feels there needs to be a public education session to notify the general public of what is going on. Ms. Stevens said that by statute the NRC is not obligated to hold a public forum.

Joe Titone spoke and said Seabrook assists in the drills for the power plant. In regard to any changes in the regulations Mr. Titone said Seabrook is not involved. Any changes come to Seabrook through the State of NH. Seabrook has control over the evacuation plan within the town and can make changes to it through the operation plan. Ms. Stevens commented a document was sent to the fire chief asking for assent to receiving the

document. Ravi feels there is a disconnect that needs to be addressed.

Mrs. Kyle commented that they know living at the beach they are in dangerous territory. The power plant was here before many of the residents moved to the beach. She asked if there could be a meeting with them and the officials at Next Era to discuss the concerns.

Ravi asked if a letter sent to the NRC by the board could include the neighboring towns, so they are aware of what is going on. He asked if there is someone in town who monitors the website of the NRC and can report any changes or updates to the board. Joe Titone will monitor the website and bring reports to the board.

MONTHLY MEETING - WATER SEWER SUPERINTENDENT

Curtis Slayton was present for his monthly reports (see attached). He said there was a water main leak by Hillside Cemetery that was repaired with help from the police department and Salisbury, MA. All hydrants in town have been pumped down for the winter season. Mr. Slayton said the disc golf course is about 99% complete and should be ready for 2024. The updates to the WWTP have been put out to bid and the SCADA system upgrades at the water department are complete.

Mr. Slayton commented the water plant has pumped out a lot of water since the flooding. He reminded everyone that it is illegal to have a sump pump directly pump into the sewer system and causes the town more money. Mr. Eaton commented it is also dangerous as it can cause methane gas to come up from the sewer system into the resident's basement. It is best to leave the pump out and pump onto the ground.

Kudos given to the water department staff for hosting the 2nd graders at Seabrook Elementary.

PREVIOUS MINUTES - NOVEMBER 1 PUBLIC, NOVEMBER 6 PUBLIC, NOVEMBER 13 PUBLIC & NON-PUBLIC, NOVEMBER 20 PUBLIC & NON-PUBLIC, DECEMBER 4 PUBLIC, DECEMBER 7 PUBLIC AND DECEMBER 18 PUBLIC

Mr. Eaton asked to hold November 1 as he had a change on the discussion with the tennis courts. Ravi asked to hold December 4 as he had some additional comments.

MOTION: Ravi
Second: Harold F. Eaton
Unanimous

To adopt the minutes of
11/6 public, 11/13
public & non-public,

11/20 public & non-
public, 12/7 public and
12/18 public.

VETERAN EXEMPTIONS

Sean Gill - 10 Maple Ridge Road
David Saviano - 46 Suncook Street
Barry Durette - 65 Cynthia Circle
Lawrence Clothey - 13 Blueberry Lane
Clifford Bridges - 21 Pages Lane
Steven Elwell - 82 Elm Court
John Haughton Jr. - 2 Woodland Avenue
Warren Bennett - 8 Blueberry Lane
Robert Haas - 30 Folly Mill Road

MOTION: Ravi To approve and sign all
Second: Theresa A. Kyle veteran exemptions.
Unanimous

REFUND

Front-Line Fire Protection, LLC. - 570 Lafayette Road - \$50

MOTION: Ravi To approve and sign the
Second: Harold F. Eaton refund.
Unanimous

WATER SERVICE APPLICATION

Maria Brown - 16 Worthley Avenue

MOTION: Ravi To approve and sign the
Second: Harold F. Eaton water application.
Unanimous

SEWER SERVICE APPLICATIONS

Maria Brown - 16 Worthley Avenue
Arco Excavators, Inc. - 123 Ocean Drive

MOTION: Ravi To approve and sign both
Second: Harold F. Eaton sewer applications.
Unanimous

MORTGAGEE SEARCH AGREEMENT - SANDERS SEARCHES LLC.

MOTION: Ravi To approve and sign the
Second: Harold F. Eaton agreement.
Unanimous

DONATION

O'Brien's General Store - Police Department

MOTION: Ravi To accept the donation.
Second: Harold F. Eaton
Unanimous

SURPLUS - POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Eaton asked if any other department could utilize this before it goes to surplus. Mr. Manzi said they could look into it, but it does appear to be inoperable. Ravi asked if the high school could use it as a learning tool. The board agreed to hold until the next meeting to make inquiries.

2024 DRAFT TOWN WARRANT

Ravi asked about the note in article 7 and the "evergreen clause". He indicated there would be increases specifically the healthy buyout per this clause, but the article indicates no tax impact. Mr. Manzi said the attorney feels the note should be incorporated into the body of the article and that there are no changes based on the contract. The increase is due to the increase in the cost of the healthcare costs.

Ravi disagreed and said there are changes to the contract. He is okay with the wording that there is no change to the "other terms of the contract". Mr. Manzi commented that by definition of the change in contract it would be on the terms of the agreement which have not been changed. He said the only change by town counsel is to incorporate the note into the body of the article and that will be done.

Mr. Eaton said it is irrelevant as there is no cost to the contract. He said even if they didn't reach an agreement, they would still have the increase in the health insurance buyout. Mr. Eaton said the evergreen clause will always have an impact on increases but those increase are not contract related.

MOTION: Ravi To include the note
Second: Harold F. Eaton into the body of the
Unanimous warrant article.

MOTION: Ravi To remove "on any cost
Increase".

No second, motion failed.

Mr. Manzi said article 1 had a change to add 1 member of the budget committee for a term of 2 years.

Mr. Manzi said article 2 is the cannabis article and will be changed in some form. There are some edits made by the planning board attorney and a second public hearing is being held. Mrs. Kyle asked why this article is even on the ballot if the state hasn't voted on the bill. There was discussion on what could happen if the state approves the bill and what the terms would be of the state legislation as to what the town can do.

Mr. Manzi said article 31 for the lease of town land now have the land identifiers included in the article and a title search is being done. If there are any issues, he will bring it back to the board.

Mr. Manzi said he would recommend the board approve the warrant at the next meeting in case changes are made.

FIRE SCOPE STUDY

Ravi stated he had many other questions that he doesn't see in the study. He would like to see the calls broken down by medical versus fire calls. Mr. Manzi said there was an amendment he made and read what is currently in the scop for service. He feels those amendments will address the concerns made by Ravi. Mr. Eaton said he is satisfied with what was put together by the town manager with input by the fire chief.

Mr. Manzi said he doesn't have a cost estimate on the scope at this time. Ravi said the cost he has is about \$5K and hopes it is not over that amount. Mrs. Kyle said she heard a recent study cost \$25k and hopes it doesn't cost that much as we have many studies going on. Mr. Eaton said they cannot move forward in this department until the study is done as they need facts. Mr. Manzi said the study would be put out to bid and he will bring the numbers back to the board.

Mrs. Kyle stated she did not vote in favor of the study as she doesn't need a study to determine that this department is understaffed. Mr. Eaton said he understands she doesn't, but the residents do. He feels they are stagnant and cannot move forward until they have the facts.

Mrs. Kyle commented that a letter was sent out blaming her and Aboul Khan for the increase in taxes this year. She said they in fact kept the tax rate at \$13.25 and now the tax rate is up over \$15 per \$1K. She said without the increases in electricity, gas, etc. the buildings would have been closed down. Mr. Eaton said there was a letter that went out saying a bad decision was made in March of 2023, but he won't feed into that.

Ravi said a department head should provide data to indicate the needs for additional personnel within that department. He said if the data is good and credible nothing would be disputed. Mr. Eaton commented this is an independent study, so opinions are not used and they as a board can make an informed decision. He wishes the board could put aside their personal opinions and be more humble so they can move forward. Ravi commented he would abstain from the vote as the department should provide the information without using taxpayer dollars.

<u>MOTION:</u>	Theresa A. Kyle	To approve the study the
<u>Second:</u>	Harold F. Eaton	way it is written by the
<u>Abstain:</u>	Ravi	town manager.

OVERTIME COSTS

Mr. Eaton said in light of the letter that was sent out he feels the board is taking fiscal costs seriously. He thought long and hard about this and is requesting that administrative overtime be cut.

<u>MOTION:</u>	Harold F. Eaton	In order to contain costs I move to direct the town manager to restrict overtime for clerical staff without prior approval from the department head and town manager. Justification for the overtime request including quantity of hours requested, should cite the need for the work in question to be done immediately with an emphasis on why the work could not be completed within the standard work week. This order shall not apply to work done to support the operation of channel 22, ZBA, conservation commission and budget committee.
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There was discussion on the reasons why overtime would be approved and the budgeted overtime for the specific groups mentioned.

Second: Theresa A. Kyle

Ravi asked how this is different than what is now being done. Mr. Manzi said it is tighter control and involves approval by him which is currently not the case.

Unanimous

TRASH PICKUP COSTS

Mr. Eaton said being more fiscally responsible he looked at trash pickup and in other areas of town there is only 1 trash pickup. He feels the second run at the beach from July 4th to Labor Day should be eliminated. He said he spoke with many residents who live year-round at the beach, and they only use one of the days. He said it could be an opt in for the 2nd day and a fee could be charged. Ravi said he would like to know what the cost savings would be and how it would benefit the 2024 budget.

There was discussion on the property owners who rent their property and use this service. Mr. Eaton said Ravi sent out a letter they made a wrong decision in March 2023 as he "Harold" is not fiscally responsible so this should be an easy vote for him "Ravi".

Mary Messina - 219 Bristol Street - commented this is a good conversation but no one is receiving it. She said they need to see how it would be implemented before action is taken. She feels the garbage is really bad and would become a health issue so more research needs to be done.

Mr. Eaton said they rented a truck last season for \$25K so they know they would at least save that. Mr. Manzi suggested having the DPW Manager present at the next meeting for discussion on the cost benefits. Mr. Eaton commented they should be proactive on this issue and now is the time.

Justin Packard - asked what the selectmen are going to do if the voters don't approve the new vehicle. He feels this would be helpful to understand before they make a decision on the double trash run.

Mr. Manzi will have the DPW Manager present at the meeting on Monday, January 22.

MOTION: Ravi To adjourn the meeting
Second: Harold F. Eaton at 12:08PM.
Unanimous

Minutes taken by Kelly J. O'Connor.

Approved and endorsed:

Srinivasan Ravikumar,
Clerk

Date: _____