

TOWN OF SEABROOK

SELECTMEN'S BUDGET MEETING

FEBRUARY 5, 2024

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

Mrs. Kyle opened the meeting at 9:34AM.

MONTHLY MEETING - RECREATION DIRECTOR

Cassandra Carter was present for her report (see attached). High school basketball program was discussed. This has been a popular program and Ms. Carter feels it will be even bigger next year.

Ms. Carter highlighted some of the programs that were run in the community center. A lot of the programs are growing in size of the participants. Ms. Carter discussed the upcoming programs including the February vacation camp.

Ms. Carter spoke about the basketball tournament. She said they have 52 teams registered for this event. Mr. Eaton said this tournament is hosted by Seabrook and this one event covers the cost of the basketball program.

Ms. Carter said they had an anonymous donation with 12 new bikes and 2 scooters. She has an idea of how to utilize the bikes. Ideas were shared on how the bikes could be utilized.

Ms. Carter went through the list of sponsors. The board thanked all the sponsors for helping the community center.

Mr. Eaton said there is a championship basketball this upcoming weekend. He urged residents to come out and watch and see what it is all about as he feels this is an asset.

MONTHLY MEETING - DPW MANAGER

John Starkey was present for his report (see attached).

Mr. Eaton said the leachate tank needs to be pumped. He asked if this could be directly put into the sewer system. Mr. Starkey spoke about the permit for the leachate tank. He said it is unknown as to what is in the garbage juice that goes into the leachate tank. This also gets mixed with the stormwater that goes in through the top of the tank.

Ravi questioned how the stormwater is getting into the tank and why not fix it. Mr. Starkey said it is actually a good thing as it dilutes what is in the tank. Mr. Starkey said other

communities have it go to the WWTP which then it becomes an issue for the sewer superintendent.

There was discussion on notification when the level of the tank is high. Mr. Eaton would like to investigate how many times they go to pump out the tank and if perhaps there may be a better way to handle this task. Mr. Starkey said they would need an engineer and a study to determine if there is a better way and really would be cost prohibitive.

Mr. Starkey said he has some concerns he would like to bring up to the board. He said the board has made a couple of decisions that affect the DPW, and his employees have pushed back, and he would like the board to know the concerns. Mr. Starkey said if the department heads could know of these ideas beforehand, he could share information that may or may not sway the vote.

In regard to the administrative staff, he would like the board to sit with the admin staff for 15 minutes so they can share the concerns. The second concern is the 2nd run for rubbish pickup at the beach. He said the foreman is very knowledgeable and if the board could sit with him for 10 minutes, he could share some insight.

There was discussion with debris on the beach. Mr. Starkey knows the interest is to pick up this debris and clean the beach. The staff feels between storms their time would be better suited to work on the aging vehicles. Regarding questions on Cross Beach Road is due to the fact that this is a through road. Residents need to get to work, put children on buses, etc. He said he is trying to make the best decision in the interest of the entire town.

Ravi commented that to clean the beach the DPW needs a tractor. There is an article on the warrant, and he just wanted the residents to understand this.

The cemetery foreman would request the board look to change the rules on burying be restricted during the winter months.

DISCUSSION - ANDOVER STREET WALKWAY

Mr. Manzi said they have the DES permit. They are looking at planting in March and for DPW assisting with the physical movement of the walkway. He would like some direction from the board on this.

Mrs. Kyle said that after the board agreed to not cut down any trees someone in that area cut a tree down. The roots for this tree were removed. Nothing that the board agreed to have been adhered to.

Ravi said the tree that was removed in the back of an abutters property but was still on town property. When there was discussion on this area the cost of planting the seedlings was quoted at about \$4K. Ravi said the volunteers are available for planting and that should not be an issue.

Mrs. Kyle said the \$4K is for someone to plant the seedlings and that was never discussed. Ravi said he respectfully disagrees. He said the board agreed to the \$400 application fee and spoke about the \$4K to buy the seedlings but the labor would be done with volunteers and with the guidance of Henry Boyd.

Mr. Eaton asked if UNH has been contacted regarding the seedlings. Mr. Manzi said he understood that Henry Boyd was going to look into this, but he would also reach out if the board would like. Mr. Eaton asked if there was a donation from the conservation commission for this area. Mr. Manzi said he is not aware of any donation for Andover Street dune grass. He doesn't feel there is any issue with the volunteers doing the planting. Mr. Manzi will check with town counsel to ensure there are no issues.

Bill Howley said the grant with the RPC and UNH has been kicked off and he feels they could be called in to help with the planting of the dune grass.

Mr. Manzi said they should lay out a plan for the seedlings are best suited in March. Henry Boyd will need to be contacted or invited to a board meeting, in order to schedule the movement of the boardwalk with DPW.

Mr. Starkey commented that a lot of the islands in Seabrook are dedicated to veterans and there should be no political signs.

The board discussed having a meeting onsite for Andover Street with DPW so he would know exactly what is needed and can begin to move forward. This would all be dependent on Henry Boyd's availability.

Mrs. Kyle talked about the comments on Facebook that \$25K was the entire budget for the beach. She said that was to get a revolving account established to start the repairs at the beach.

PREVIOUS MINUTES - NOVEMBER 1 PUBLIC, DECEMBER 4 PUBLIC, JANUARY 15 PUBLIC AND JANUARY 22 PUBLIC

MOTION: Ravi To adopt the minutes of 11/1
 Second: Harold F. Eaton public, 12/4 public with
 Unanimous amendment, 11/15 public and
 11/22 public.

TAX ABATEMENTS

- Kevin Picucci Rev. Trust - 7 Manchester Street - \$9,000
- NextEra Energy - Seabrook Station - \$2,359,076
- Bruce Brown Rev. Trust - 132 Lower Collins Street - \$3,295
- Laraine Kiluk Living Trust - 74 Marshview Circle - \$271.62
- B33 Seabrook Commons II LLC - 700 Lafayette Road #2 - \$46,407
- Norman & Debra Souther - 68 Farm Lane - \$261.10

MOTION: Ravi To approve and sign the
 abatement for 7 Manchester
 Street.

There was discussion on the agreement that was signed. Mrs. Kyle said she was not in agreement of this so she will not be signing this abatement. Mr. Eaton said this was something that was determined before he got on the board, so he was bound by this. Mr. Manzi explained the equity ratio for the town and why we are looking at this assessment value. Ravi said no one was particularly happy with the turnout but they were strongly advised by the attorney to agree to the settlement.

Second: Harold F. Eaton
 Abstain: Theresa A. Kyle

MOTION: Ravi To approve and sign the
 abatement for Seabrook
 Station.

There was discussion on the agreement agreed upon and how they came to this number. This is one reason why the taxpayers saw such a large increase in the tax bill for 2023.

Second: Harold F. Eaton
 Unanimous

MOTION: Ravi To approve and sign the
 Second: Harold F. Eaton abatement for 132 Lower
 Unanimous Collins Street.

MOTION: Ravi To approve and sign the

Second: Harold F. Eaton
Unanimous

abatement for 74 Marshview Circle.

MOTION: Ravi
Second: Theresa A. Kyle
Abstain: Harold F. Eaton

To approve and sign the abatement for 700 Lafayette Road.

MOTION: Ravi
Second: Theresa A. Kyle
Mr. Eaton recused himself as this is a family member.

To approve and sign the abatement for 68 Farm Lane.

2023 UNAPPLIED PREVIOUS BILLS - \$991

MOTION: Ravi
Second: Theresa A. Kyle
Unanimous

To approve and sign the 2023 unapplied previous bill.

3 ELDERLY EXEMPTIONS

MOTION: Ravi
Second: Harold F. Eaton
Unanimous

To approve and sign all elderly exemptions.

VETERAN EXEMPTION

Ronald Campbell - 11 Quaker Lane

MOTION: Ravi
Second: Harold F. Eaton
Unanimous

To approve and sign the veteran exemption.

WATER SERVICE APPLICATIONS

Tambo Development LLC - 32 London Lane
CJM Builders Inc. - 544 Hudson Street
CPF Builders Inc. - 98 Washington Street

Michele Knowles commented that 32 London still owes yield taxes. This application will be held until paid.

MOTION: Ravi
Second: Harold F. Eaton
Unanimous

To approve 544 Hudson Street & 98 Washington Street water applications.

SEWER SERVICE APPLICATIONS

Tambo Development LLC - 32 London Lane
CJM Builders Inc. - 544 Hudson Street
CPF Builders Inc. - 98 Washington Street

MOTION: Ravi

To approve 544 Hudson Street

Second: Theresa A. Kyle & 98 Washington Street sewer
Unanimous applications.

QUITCLAIM DEEDS - HILLSIDE CEMETERY

Shirley Boucher-Belanger - Section 33 Plots 43 & 44

Stacey Morse - Section 33 Plots 37, 38 & 39

MOTION: Ravi To approve and sign both
Second: Harold F. Eaton quitclaim deeds.
Unanimous

Mr. Eaton discussed the meeting held at the beach precinct building and the grant that was approved. He said there are other immediate needs in the town hall that need to be addressed. Mr. Eaton said there was \$40K in AARPA funds set aside for boardwalks and he would like to take \$30K of that and put it towards the immediate needs here at town hall.

Ravi said the grant money is going to be used for a study including elevated walkways, but it is going to be the best way forward for the walkways and dunes. He said the \$40K was taken from the fixing of the pickleball/tennis courts. Ravi said he is not in favor of taking the \$30K from this and should be quantified before they start taking money from others.

Mrs. Kyle said this is a major issue in town hall where water is coming in causing damage and mold in the town hall.

Mr. Manzi said they have identified the source of the leak, and a contractor has given a quote of \$8,500 to repair the water damage to the town clerk's office. He has asked for an estimate for all of the windows in the town hall and he will bring that forward once he has it.

Ravi commented they have more than the \$8K left in AARPA funds to repair the immediate need. Mrs. Kyle said she is worried about the employees and them getting sick from having mold in the building. Mr. Eaton said they have an immediate need and is blown away that they will have to use taxpayer funds when they have funds which the board could address right now.

Ravi would recommend using the available funds from the AARPA money for the immediate need. He is not in favor of moving money from other projects when there are available funds remaining.

There is about \$15K left in AARPA funds after the projects are already approved. This money is remaining from projects that do not have an exact cost associated with them. Mr. Eaton feels this should be taken from an existing project and leave the \$15K for the reserve.

Bill Howley asked why they need to take the money from the beach walkways when they have the \$8,500 available. He feels they should address the added expenses when those estimates come forward. There was discussion on the vote of the selectmen for the pickleball/tennis courts and the beach walkways. Mr. Manzi read the list of projects coming from the AARPA funds.

MOTION: Harold F. Eaton To take the \$8,500 from the \$40K for beach walkways to address the immediate need in the town hall.

Second: Theresa A. Kyle As long as additional funds are reallocated to the beach walkways.

Carole Howley spoke about the issue of using the \$15K to address the immediate need. They can file the insurance claim and whatever is given to the town for this claim they can put back into the \$15K as a reserve for the projects. If they get to a point where they need additional funds they can address at that time. Carole Howley explained the grant process and how it would work.

Opposed: Ravi

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Ravi said he attended the RPC meeting and also the beach meeting for the grant.

Ravi said they received a letter from NextEra, and he doesn't feel they hit the mark in answering the questions posed. He would like the board to take another look at the letter they were going to send to the NRC. Mrs. Kyle said she agrees with Ravi on this letter and was not impressed with it. The board is not happy with the 90-minute response time to address an issue with a nuclear accident.

Vicki Mitchell spoke about the issues coming from the changes with NextEra. Ravi said they need to have a public forum where they can state the concerns of the people. Unfortunately they are not obligated by statute to hold a public forum.

Mrs. Kyle said she would like to send the letter and visit the Portsmouth site. Ravi is tempted to send the letter as Mrs. Kyle suggested however, they are looking at going into negotiations with NextEra, so they need to be cognizant of that. Mr. Manzi suggested the board give him authorization to reach out and address the concerns the board has with the letter that was sent and see if they would like to further respond with a follow up letter. He will also ask to setup a meeting at Seabrook Station with a site visit to Portsmouth. The board is amenable to this recommendation.

TAN

MOTION: Ravi To accept and sign the T.A.N.
 Second: Theresa A. Kyle
 Unanimous

MOTION: Ravi To adjourn the meeting
 Second: Harold F. Eaton at 12:29PM.
 Unanimous

Minutes taken by Kelly J. O'Connor.

Approved and endorsed:

 Srinivasan Ravikumar,
 Clerk

Date: _____