

TOWN OF SEABROOK

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

DECEMBER 4, 2023

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

Ms. Kyle opened the meeting at 9:39AM.

Human Service One Sky Community Service  
Billy from One sky was present for the discussion. One sky has been around for 40 years, the reason we are here to ask to be put on the warrant is because our budget cannot be stretched anymore for medical supplies, food, and dental. We cover about 24 communities in Rockingham County. The fund we are asking about is called readiness and it is funded from the outside.

The questions that the board asked Billy from One Sky Community Services are as follows. Once someone qualifies for developmental services you will provide them with help. Could you provide us with some numbers, can people donate directly to the readiness fund. Billy answered the questions, once we determine that the person qualifies then we will start the process to see what type of help they need. None of these funds go towards the salaries of our employees, they are used for direct service. Billy stated that people can send checks directly to One Sky, you will state on the check that it will be going towards the readiness program. Billy stated that they service 51 clients in Hampton, and they service 24 clients in Seabrook, they base it on 100 dollars per person. Ravi stated that he was hesitant to go through the warrant with these articles that are using the taxpayer's money but stated he is thankful for them servicing the 24 Seabrook clients, Theresa stated that they have been having companies report for the past 10 years to explain what they do.

MOTION: Theresa A. Kyle To put One Sky Community  
Second: Ravi on our warrant for 2024  
Unanimous

**Monthly Meeting Police Chief**

Brett was present to discuss his monthly report. He stated that it will be a brief report with partial October and Partial November. Officers did A-Cert trauma training, we have 5 Cert team members on the regional SWOT team. He wanted to mention that the training for the members is paid for by the cert team.

October was breast cancer awareness month and officers wore pink patches; October was also the annual beard for bucks that we raised a good amount of money for.

Harold stated that he would still like to have a community meeting so we can give them awareness about the grant, Theresa asked if this was a backward grant or a forward grant. Brett stated he was in favor of having the meeting and stated that this is a forward grant. Brett stated that they are still actively looking for their 5<sup>th</sup> dispatcher and that they currently have one fulltime police officer position. Ravi wanted to give credit to the police officers and stated that every time he is driving, he always sees a police officers patrolling.

Walker Stated that the overdose numbers for 2023 is 25 as of today and stated that there have been 6 deaths. He states that he is worried because it is the holidays, and this is when he usually sees a spike. He is hoping that this grant will help these numbers go down over the year. Walker wanted to let the community know that stuff a cruiser is this Saturday December 9, 2023, from 9AM to 10M at the big Market Basket or some people know it as Market Basket south.

Walker and the Selectmen had a conversation about the school and seeing if the SRO wants to switch from the DARE program to the LEAD program, walker stated that it needs to go through the school for the program to change or not. He also stated that the SRO is willing to get the training that needs to be done if the school decides to change programs. Walker stated that the program would be offered for all grades.

### **Scope of the Fire Department Study**

The board had discussion on the scope for the fire study. Harold had items that he wanted to be put into the scope the questions are as follows: Base on current staffing are their any safety concerns in the department, based on staffing is their safety concerns within the community, is there a better way to manage our overtime usage. Harold stated that these are his three major concerns. Harold did state that members of the community want to know if there is a way to manage repeat offenders. Edwards said that they do have frequent flyers but stated they can't not show up when someone calls because that time could be the real emergency. Theresa stated that the fire department hasn't hired a new firefighter since 2001, which means we have not had a new firefighter and that the population has doubled with the new businesses and we don't have adequate staffing. She stated that the study is a waste of money and that spending money on the fire study and on the reevaluation of the time where we could use that on adding firefighters. Kyle also stated that our

firefighters do double duty as they are firefighters, EMT's, and Paramedics.

Ravi stated he also looked into information and that he wrote his questions down. He stated that these are the questions he needs answers to be convinced that the fire department needs more firefighters. (Please see attachment of Ravi's questions). Ravi stated that this is the data he needs answered to about overtime spending and to increase the number of staff, he stated that if the answer to these questions shows the number, then he will feel happy to support. He stated he will let the data drive the decision. Harold stated that he wanted the minutes to reflect that Ravi hasn't mentioned safety within the department or safety within the community in his questions that he needs answers to. Harold stated that emergency response for medical safety isn't a concern of Ravi's, Harold also stated that Ravi mentioned population status but didn't take into consideration the business growth. Ravi stated he wanted the data from the different property classes. Harold asked if Ravi wanted to go off what you need for the scope and nothing about safety.

Selectmen Harold stated that the scope needs to be outlined today and that it must be a priority. Edwards said he agrees and stated that he's heard a lot about numbers and that they are important but didn't hear anything about safety of the firefights and community. Harold said that the study should be based on current staffing and do call volume. Ravi stated that if his questions aren't answered then he will not be convinced. Theresa stated she's here for everyone including elderly housing and apartments and stated that the elderly praise the work that the fire department does.

Fire Fighter Mawson was in attendance and stated that we have thousands of people coming into town that are using our businesses and affecting the call volume that come through with emergencies. Ravi stated that in the meeting today that the population doubled. He said he's stating that it has only gone up 0.1% cumulative annual growth rate according to the government stats. Harold stated that the overall growth of the community and that you can look at route one and that it doubled he stated that he thinks that it's wrong to say that the town hasn't grown. Edwards asked if the board would like them to deny calls.

Police Chief Walker stepped to the podium and talked. Walker stated that he does foresee that his department will endure this study at some point, but he wanted to reiterate that the town pays points, the fire chief and himself to look at these numbers. Walker also wanted to state that the people they are hiring are former police and fire chiefs and that 10 years down

the road they could be hiring both himself and Edwards to do this study in the future. Ravi asked Chief walker if he was done talking and stated he's not the one asking for the study. Harold stated that he wants the study to educate people and take out everyone's opinions. Edwards addressed Chief walker and asked if he had seen the fire department meetings and asked if the police department asked for an overtime increase and if they had to provide data. Walker stated that yes, they did ask for an overtime increase and yes that it was approved and that they had to provide some new information but not as much as the fire chief had to. Edwards has stated that Ravi didn't state anything about safety of the staff and community. Ravi stated that Harold can add his questions if he wants, Harold said that we are supposed to come up with the questions as a board and that it's not the Ravi study.

Deputy Fire Chief Lawrence Perkins attended the meeting and asked Mr. Manzi if there has been any other department that has gone down in their services this year with less usage of water and sewer or less calls. Manzi stated that no department has less demand and stated that there has been no studies requested.

Audience member Dale Beckman stated, Ravi I understand you're an engineer and you like numbers, but what you are asking for is impossible, I don't know what you have against chief Edwards, but you don't do this with anyone else in town, but you crucify him. Audience member Michele Knowles said Ravi you have your opinion and the other two have theirs its two against one so let's move on.

Harold Motioned that the study would consist of based on current staffing is there any safety concerns within the department, based on current service and staffing is their concerns of safety within the community. Is there a better way to manage overtime with the service and safety of our department. We want to make sure that the ISO and NFPA safety guidelines are taken into consideration.

MOTION: Harold F. Eaton Passed  
Second: Theresa A. Kyle  
Decline to vote: Ravi

Billy Edwards Fire Chief stated that he would like to put 8 Firefighters on the warrant for 2024. He stated that our job is to educate people and if we don't add them to the warrant then we are taking the decision away from the people. There is a group of people that are in favor of firefighters and then there is a group that is not, so I think that we should let the people

vote. Ravi stated that he didn't want anyone to leave the meeting and think that he doesn't support the firefighters and what they do. He stated that the issue is spending the money to grow the department. He stated he wouldn't support it because he doesn't think it will pass. He stated that he is willing to be convinced but needs answers. Selectmen Harold asked that the minutes state that Selectman Ravi has no concerns about the safety of the staff and community.

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

Add 8 Fire Fighters  
on the warrant at the  
request of the  
department head.

5 Minute Recess

MOTION: Ravi  
Second: Harold  
Unanimous

To push minutes till  
next meeting

Question of approving water service application for T. Park  
Realty-3A Street and Philip Franciosa-10 Groveland St

MOTION: Ravi  
Second: Harold F. Eaton  
Unanimous

Move to Approve

Question of approving sewer service applications for T. Park  
Realty-3A Street and Philip Franciosa- 10 Groveland St

MOTION: Ravi  
Second: Harold F. Eaton  
Unanimous

Move to Approve

Question of approving intent to cut for 32 London Lane, Intent  
to cut request and Intent to cut assessment.

MOTION: Theresa A. Kyle  
Second: Ravi  
Unanimous

Move to Approve

Question of approving yield tax levy for 32 London Lane Yield  
Tax Levy.

Ravi asked does the tax go to the state or town. Mr. Manzi  
stated that it goes to the town and the amount is 56,475.

MOTION: Theresa A. Kyle Move to Approve  
Second: Harold F. Eaton  
Unanimous

Question of discussion on business license fees.

MOTION: Harold F. Eaton To hold for future  
Second: Rave board meeting.  
Unanimous

Question of approving T.A.N application for \$6M

MOTION: Theresa A. Kyle Move to Approve  
Second: Ravi  
Unanimous

Question of discussion on request for Hampton Falls sewer Memo-Hampton Falls Sewer.

Mr. Manzi stated that he provided a memo to the board and is not looking for a detailed discussion but just to say that we have data on which the board can decide. Ravi stated that we should monitor access without any negative impact on Seabrook tax payers, he stated that if those are met than he is in favor. Harold stated that he is somewhat in agreement giving the proper guidelines and working with the sewer superintendent Curtis Slayton. Theresa stated that they should have further discussion and stated that she is not in favor of selling our storage or having them use our plant as they haven't worked with us in the past when we wanted to widen route one. She also stated that they made a complaint to the state that could of impacted our wells and now that they need Seabrook so they can use our waste water treatment plant. Theresa also stated that she heard that they want to do this so they can add a mini mall on route one plus condos and asked why we would want to give competition to our business in town. Theresa also stated that we have already committed to the Hampton Bridge project and that could take 3 years so she doesn't think we should burden the sewer plant and add extra stress as the plant is already 30 years old.

Discussion between Harold and Mr. Manzi happened about the Hampton water sewer agreement for the new bridge being built. Mr. Manzi stated that once the final development plan comes in than we will come back in front of the board for approval.

Question of discussion of human service agencies.

MOTION: Ravi Move to approve all  
Second: Harold F. Eaton

Unanimous

Question of approving selectmen's meeting schedule for 2024,  
2024 BOS meeting schedule.

MOTION: Ravi Move to Approve  
Second: Harold F. Eaton  
Unanimous

Question of approving closing town hall at 12PM on Thursday,  
December 21 for the Annual Holiday Party.

MOTION: Harold F. Eaton Move to Approve  
Second: Ravi  
Unanimous

Question of discussion on December 18 meeting.

MOTION: Theresa A. Kyle Move to Approve  
Second: Harold F. Eaton Removing the December  
Unanimous 18 meeting.

Harold asked if anything had to be done with the memo that was  
given to the board.

MOTION: Harold F. Eaton Move to Approve for the  
Second: Ravi warrant  
Unanimous

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

Theresa wanted to thank Harold for sitting in for her at the  
budget committee meetings.

MOTION: Ravi Move to adjourn  
Second: Theresa A. Kyle  
Unanimous

Minutes taken by Morgan L Cogdill.

Approved and endorsed:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Srinivasan Ravikumar,  
Clerk

Date: Feb-4-2024

1. The Fire Chief has said many times that no addition has been made to the Fire Department since 2003 to keep up with the growing population of Seabrook during the same period. . According to Granitestats (<https://www2.nhes.nh.gov/GraniteStats/SessionServlet?page=Population.jsp&SID=18&city=000835&cityName=Seabrook>), the population of has grown from 8,282 in 2003 to 8,432 in 2022, a CAGR of 0.1%, showing no justification for the Fire Chief's claims or reasoning. Explain.
2. The Fire Chief has been posting double digit CAGR on the call volumes into Seabrook Fire Station and citing that as reason for additional Fulltime Firefighters and double digit CAGR on Fire Overtime expenses. Yet in the past 5 years, the population in Seabrook has dropped from 8,843 to 8,438, a CAGR of -0.9%. Explain the disconnect.
3. What is the distribution of call types; Medical, Fire, other emergency, non emergency? How many of each type required dispatch?
4. What are the distribution of calls of each type above over the Property classes - Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Utility?
5. How many calls were made into the Fire Department in 2022 (full 1 year of data) by each of the top 10 callers in each of the property class, and how they break down into each of the 4 types of calls mentioned earlier?
6. Of the medical calls made by each property class, how many were billed, and of those billed, how many were collected, and of those collected, how much residual (charged over the insurance coverage) was forgiven?
7. How many off duty firefighters were called in for station coverage?
8. What is the min, max and average time spent at the Fire Station by those who provided station coverage per coverage call?

These are the questions I would expect the Fire Chief who costs \$353,000/year to the Taxpayers to provide without requiring additional taxpayer dollars to be spent on a Study by an external organization. These are the questions that would convince me that budget requests by the Fire Chief are justified. If I am not convinced, study or otherwise, I wont support the requests by the Fire Chief. Fundamentally, any study that tries to justify the budget for Fire Department in terms of money or manpower on the basis of comparison with other NH communities would be DOA for me.