

TOWN OF PEACHAM
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING
Thursday, December 30, 2021
APPROVED

Selectboard Members: Beatrice Ring, Peter Craig, Richard Browne
Public: Town Clerk/Treasurer Thomas Galinat, Road Foreman Jeremy Withers

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair of the Selectboard Beatrice Ring at 2:10pm.
2. Additions to the agenda
 - a. No additions to the agenda.
3. Possible change in health insurance plans offered
 - a. The Selectboard discussed offering family health insurance plans to employees.
 - b. **Browne moved to add the family plan to the town's insurance options for employees. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
 - c. The budget line for health insurance will be increased by \$23,600 in 2022. Galinat pointed out that the increase may be different in the future depending on how many employees need family plans.
 - d. The change in health insurance plans offered will need to be reflected in the Personnel Policy.
4. Finalize 2022 budget
 - a. Discussion ensued on the road crew boot allowance.
 - i. **Craig moved to increase the boot allowance to \$300. Browne seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
 - ii. The change in boot allowance will need to be reflected in the Personnel Policy.
 - b. Discussion followed on specific lines in the budget.
 - c. With the changes in health insurance and boot allowance, the amount to be raised in taxes in 2022 will be \$893,311.60, which is an increase of \$69,108.10 from 2021.
 - d. **Craig moved to accept the budget as amended today. Browne seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
5. 2021 unexpended funds
 - a. There will be at least \$80,603.32 in unexpended funds in 2021. There are a few final deposits that need to be taken to the bank, which will increase that number.
 - b. Discussion ensued on using the unexpended funds to keep the amount to be raised in taxes flat between 2021 and 2022.
 - i. **Browne moved to use a portion of the unexpended funds to offset the increase in the amount to be raised in taxes and to transfer any remaining unexpended funds into the working capital fund. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
 - c. There is \$12,675 remaining in the Afternoon Childcare fund. Based on the understanding that the school district is resuming financial responsibility for the program, the money will remain in the fund for six weeks as a buffer during the transition, at which time the Selectboard will decide where to transfer it.
6. ARPA funds
 - a. The Selectboard reviewed a list of expenses that ARPA funds can be used for.
 - b. Potential funding options discussed were putting money towards expanding broadband through the CUD, the funding request submitted by the Fire District, and purchasing COVID supplies such as rapid tests.
 - c. No decision was made and the discussion will continue at the January 5, 2022 Selectboard meeting.
7. Town Auditor position
 - a. The Selectboard discussed potential candidates to fill the vacant Town Auditor position.
8. Review and approve bills
 - a. **Browne moved to approve the bills as presented. Craig seconded. All in favor. So moved.**
9. Review correspondence
 - a. The Selectboard reviewed the 2021 Equalization Study Results from the state.
10. Adjourn
 - a. **Craig moved to adjourn. Browne seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 3:36pm.**

These minutes were approved as written by the Peacham Selectboard at its regular meeting on 1/5/22.

Rebecca Washington, Selectboard Clerk


