

TOWN OF PEACHAM
MINUTES OF THE SELECTBOARD INFORMATIONAL HEARING
Saturday, February 26, 2022
APPROVED

Selectboard Members: Beatrice Ring, Peter Craig, Richard Browne
Public: Town Clerk Thomas Galinat, Selectboard Clerk Rebecca Washington, Moderator Tim McKay, many other members of the public

1. The hearing was called to order by Chair of the Selectboard Beatrice Ring at 10:00am. Ring gave opening remarks reviewing the past year.
2. Additions to the agenda
 - a. No additions.
3. Review and discuss articles 1 through 32 on the 2022 Town Meeting Warning
 - a. Tim McKay moderated discussion on various articles on the Town Meeting Warning.
 - b. Discussion included:
 - i. Article 2
 - a) McKay asked about the difference between the expenditures to be raised by taxes and expenditures raised by non-tax revenue. The Selectboard detailed the sources of non-tax revenue and Galinat explained that the amount to be raised in taxes was the total expenditures minus the non-tax revenue.
 - b) There is not an ARPA expense included in the budget.
 - c) The cost of the new defibrillator needed by the Fire Department was not included in the town budget. The Fire Department decided to solicit donations and to request ARPA funds. Joe Alper expressed interest in having the cost of the defibrillator spread out among the taxpayer because it is necessary equipment that will benefit the whole town.
 - d) The schedule for town equipment replacement and contributions to the equipment reserve were discussed. Laurie Kozar wondered if the reserve funds were making interest and suggested looking into CDs or investing with VSECU. Galinat explained that, because the reserves consist of taxpayer dollars and are part of a long-term plan, they are currently invested conservatively.
 - e) The plan for the management of ash trees in the right-of-way has not been finalized and is not included in the budget.
 - ii. Article 10
 - a) Dart Thalman explained that Peacham Community Housing (PCH) is looking into partnering with Rural Edge through a three-step process. Rural Edge will start by assessing the science building for potential rehabilitation for affordable housing and the Academy Apartments for potential upgrades. If Rural Edge has adequate funding and feels that they're worth rehabilitation and upgrade, Rural Edge would come up with a proposal. If there's general community support, if Rural Edge has adequate funding, and if PCH and Rural both agree to the proposal, then PCH would transfer the property to Rural Edge. PCH would remain as a liaison between Rural Edge and Peacham and would be an advocate for the residents.
 - iii. Articles 21 and 22
 - a) Kathy Corocoran expressed concerns that increasing the Town Clerk and Town Treasurer term lengths from one year to three years may become a problem if there are future Town Clerks or Treasurers that aren't doing a good job. Discussion followed on the mechanism for the Town Clerk or Treasurer to be stripped of their responsibilities by the Selectboard or changed to appointed positions by the voters at Town Meeting. Cathy Browne asked Galinat about the benefits of the change and Galinat explained that there would be more institutional knowledge, continuity, and the ability to focus on tasks other than getting reelected. Ring explained that the Selectboard included the articles on the warning and that three-year terms allow officials to be more committed and take more care with their jobs.
 - iv. Article 26
 - a) McKay explained that Jean Dedam is interested in being written in for the three-year Lister position.
 - b) Nathan Colpitts introduced himself and explained that he is also interested in being written in for the three-year Lister position.
 - v. Article 27
 - a) Joe Alper introduced himself and explained that he is interested in being written in for the three-year Auditor position.
 4. Discussion of other non-binding business

- a. The school's informational meeting is scheduled for February 28th at 7:00pm.
 - b. Kathy Corcoran explained that the donation request letters for the defibrillator are going out soon and encouraged those who want to see its funding in the town budget to speak up.
5. Adjourn
- a. **Browne moved to adjourn. P. Craig seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:05am.**

These minutes were approved as written by the Peacham Selectboard at its regular meeting on 3/2/22.

Rebecca Washington, Selectboard Clerk


