TOWN OF PEACHAM Selectboard Special Meeting Monday, December 30, 2024 @Town Offices

Attendance

<u>In-person</u>: Alfred Dedam, Selectboard, Peter Craig, Selectboard, William Kempton, Selectboard, Christian Snow, Selectboard, Molly Willard, Selectboard, Rebecca Washington, Town Clerk, Jeremy Withers, Road Foreman, Anna Carvalho, Selectboard Clerk

Minutes

- 1. Call to order by Alfred at 03:44pm, on Wednesday, December 30th, 2024
- 2. Additions to the agenda
 - a. Approve and sign APs
 - i. Peter moved to approve all bills as presented by the treasurer, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.
 - b. Transfer excess general funds to capital building funds
 - i. Peter moved to transfer \$86,590.45 from the general fund to the capital building fund, seconded by Molly, all in favor, so moved.
- 3. Finalize Budget
 - a. Discussion about unexpended funds. \$65,000 is the pre-payment for state highway aid, \$56,000 is for new truck that has been delayed and will end up falling under the 2025 budget, and a large chunk is the second portion of grants-in-aid payment (that runs on a fiscal year) that we received early and won't receive again next year. If all of those funds continue where they are allocated, and putting FEMA aside, we were under budget approximately \$8,000. As the majority was allocated towards highway related projects, the board agrees to put the 2024 unexpended funds back into the highway budget.
 - b. Jeremy provided an estimated breakdown of buying out trucks and equipment over the coming years. It would take a few years to adjust, but once we have transitioned, we are close where we would need to be in terms of yearly budget allocation. We have generally budgeted \$45,000 for the capital equipment fund each year, but the board agreed to bump it up to \$50,000 per year to help with purchases that will need to happen over the next few years.
 - c. Discussion of allocating \$100,000 of the retreatment fund towards the 2025 paving project. Jeremy budgeted \$130,000 for restructuring the 700ft of Danville-Peacham Rd and \$150,000 for a mile of paving in South Peacham, totaling \$280,000. The other \$180,000 would have to be raised by taxes. We currently put \$45,000 into the retreatment fund annually, but the board agreed to bump it up to \$50,000 for future projects. Discussion of how the price and actual work might vary, but that the money will be used to provide the best possible outcome.
 - d. Discussion about cost of living, at 2.5% and merit pay raises for the road crew. The board agrees to bumped up payroll from \$250,000 to \$255,000. We don't usually come close to this, but this past year we came close due to all the overtime from the flooding.

- i. Peter moved to approve a 2.5% cost of living increase plus \$1.50 an hour increase to the road crew employees, seconded by Christian, all in favor, so moved.
- e. Rebecca confirmed a few smaller items with the board, including a budget of \$2000 to have the gym cleaned every other week.
- f. Remodeling will remain what we have available, plus the line of credit that has already been approved.
- g. The final budget comes out to a 32% increase overall. The majority comes from the new annual paving expense, the extra paving expense for 2025, the new truck, health insurance plan increases, and the fire department fund for their new equipment. Molly requested that Rebecca provide a breakdown, so taxpayers will know what this means for their individual tax payments. Most of the cost is deferred maintenance and infrastructure.
- h. Rebecca will have final numbers for the regular meeting on 01/01/25.
- 4. Alfred moved to adjourn at 4:57PM, seconded by Molly, all in favor, so moved.

Documents provided to the Selectboard and discussed at this meeting are available by request to the Town Office.