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Albany Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Albany, New Hampshire
January 13, 2021 at 4:00 P.M.



- 1. Call to Order:** Chairman Hiland opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Note: This meeting may be streamed at www.TownHallStreams.com and to participate you may call 1-480-660-5317. Use conference code 540682

- 2. Pledge of Allegiance:** Chairman Hiland led the meeting in The Pledge.
- 3. Attendance: In Person:** Chairman R. Hiland, Selectman G. Zeiders, Treasurer C. Merrow, Road Agent C. Coleman and Town Administrator (TA) K. Collins **By Phone:** Selectman J. Ferris (alone).

4. New Business:

- A. Approval of January 6, 2021 Selectmen's Meeting minutes, including (1) set of sealed Non Public Minutes**

Chairman Hiland made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 6, 2021 Selectmen's Meeting, including one set of sealed NP minutes, as presented.

Selectman G. Zeiders seconded. Roll Call Vote: Chairman Hiland – aye; Selectman J. Ferris – aye; Selectman G. Zeiders – aye. **Motion passed: 3-0-0**

- B. Approval of January 13, 2021 consent file**

Review & Sign manifest in the amount of \$ 5,875.93 this includes items from 1/13/2021 and payroll for 1/20/2021 (due to holiday on 1/18)

Selectman J. Ferris made a motion to accept the consent file, as presented.

Selectman Zeiders seconded. Roll Call Vote: Chairman Hiland – aye; Selectman J. Ferris – aye; Selectman G. Zeiders – aye. **Motion passed: 3-0-0**

- C. Review and discuss 2021 proposed budget, including financial and economical issues around proposed 2021 bond for paving project(s)**

The Board reviewed and discussed the 2021 proposed budget, including proposed 2021 bonding.

Selectman Zeiders was not in favor of the ten-year bond and was more in support of \$400 - \$500K for five years. Based on the new news from the SAU there are some increases on the school side and he thinks we should wait a year to possibly bond. Selectman Ferris believes a lot of the added cost at

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the school is for teacher's contracts. Treasurer Merrow was actually on the school board budget meeting call, last evening, and the reason for the increase is we are losing \$60K of adequacy grant related to the formula and school lunches. Albany's share is \$60K. Second, the tuition payment is going up \$65K next year and they offset this by voting not to put an extra \$15K in the special education trust fund. The biggest piece is that two years ago the direct costs returned about \$120K which was reflected in last year's tax rate, but this year it will be back to the full budgeted amount. We should expect the mid \$13 for tax rate going forward and it may fluctuate just on special ed costs.

Road Agent, C. Coleman thinks the costs for paving are going to go up. He asked about maybe looking at \$200K bond and scrapping the \$50K WA we usually do. He will make it work either way but we will have to shelve the Moats project for another year. For \$110K he could do some of Drake and get a start on Moats. If the match to the FLAP grant comes back at less than the \$1.3 million then our match would be less than what we have been assuming. Chairman Hiland was willing to do a \$500K bond for 5 years until he heard the news from the SAU for school costs.

Treasurer Merrow could be talked into the \$250K over 5 years bond as long that replaces the \$50K warrant article. Bald Hill Road needs to be ground out and a section of Drake Hill needs to be shimmed and oiled.

Chairman Hiland suggested maybe doubling the WA for paving to \$100K and then increasing the operating budget by \$10K and also using some of the expendable trust fund. Chairman Hiland also suggested maybe trying to get a 3 year construction loan vs. bonding.

The Board reviewed the draft budget and warrant articles, as provided by the TA. Any budgets not yet submitted were funded at last year's rates.

Chairman Hiland made a motion to not bond for this year and see if we can get to do it out of this year's money. Selectman Ferris seconded. Roll Call Vote: Chairman Hiland – aye, Selectman Ferris – aye; Selectman Zeiders – aye. Motion passed 3-0-0

5. Next Meeting: January 20, 2020 at 4:00 PM at Albany Town Hall

6. Non-Public Sessions: as necessary

7. Adjournment: *Chairman Hiland made a motion to adjourn at 5:44 p.m. Selectman Ferris seconded. Roll Call Vote: Chairman Hiland – aye, Selectman Ferris – aye; Selectman Zeiders – aye. Motion passed 3-0-0*

Submitted by: Kelley A. Collins/Town Administrator