

Alexandria Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2021

In attendance: George Tuthill, Robert Piehler, Chet Caron

- ❖ **Members Present:** George Tuthill, Chet Caron and Robert Piehler
- ❖ The meeting came to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- ❖ The minutes for January 5, 2021 were approved
- ❖ **Items Reviewed and Signed**
 - Upper Valley Humane Society 2021 Contract for Services
 - Excavated Material Tax: Map 414 Lot 33 Morrison
 - Excavated Material Tax: Map 418 Lot 224 Morrison
 - Notice of Intent to Excavate: Map 414 Lot 33 Morrison
 - Notice of Intent to Excavate: Map 418 Lot 224 Morrison
 - Notice of Intent to Cut: Map 410 Lots 24-1, 24-2, 24-3, 24-4, 24-5
 - 2021 MS-DTB Default Budget of the Municipality
- ❖ **Appointments**
 - Kimberly Bliss, Chair SAU4 Budget Committee
 - Ms. Bliss was present to review concerns that she has regarding the proposed budget for the Newfound School District. She said that there are legal, contractual obligations that resulted in an increase in the budget for the next year and that with those increases cuts had to be made to other areas to stay within the current tax cap in place. Some of the contractual obligations include contract payroll increases, health insurance cost increase, and a reduction in revenue from State of NH. The proposed budget cuts include no new library books, no field trips, no middle school or JV athletics, staff cuts and decreases in technology and facilities budgets. The default budget is larger than the proposed operating budget due to the legal obligations mentioned above and the tax cap in place.
 - Mr. Tuthill asked what impact COVID has on the budget; Ms. Bliss said that most items were purchased through grants.
 - Ms. Bliss said that the middle school ventilation project was partially funded by a grant and that students are expected to return with a hybrid schedule on February 1st.
 - Mr. Piehler asked if there was any decrease in budget for fuel that buses didn't use. Ms Bliss said that a portion of that was adjusted out of the contract but that buses still run to deliver lunches and pick up some students.
 - Mr. Tuthill asked whether Ms. Bliss thought they may see a rebound of state aid. Ms. Bliss mentioned an ongoing lawsuit regarding state education funding not providing enough for an adequate education. Ms. Bliss mentioned that she had reached out to Representative Josh Adjutant with state education funding concerns
 - Conservation Commission
 - The Selectmen approved a request to appoint Audrey West to the Alexandria Conservation Commission
 - First Session on Annual Meeting (Deliberative Session)
 - 2021 Warrant Articles
 - The Selectmen reviewed the draft of the 2021 warrant. The Selectmen voted on 3-0 to recommend the warrant articles on the draft.
 - Date/Time/Location concerns
 - The Deliberative Session has been scheduled for February 6, 2021 at 10:00 am. Due to safety concerns, the Selectmen are looking at alternative locations, including Newfound Regional High School, to hold the deliberative session.
 - HAYNES LIBRARY
 - The trustees of the Haynes Library Association have all resigned. The Selectmen are receiving guidance from the town's attorney regarding what should be done. The Selectmen will keep the public apprised of what needs to happen.

Public meeting adjourned at 6:51 pm.

The Selectmen participated in the Transfer Station Siting Committee that began after the Selectmen's Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Dostie, Administrative Assistant