

Alexandria Selectboard Meeting

January 16, 2024

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6 PM. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the minutes from the meeting of January 2 were unanimously approved.

A number of items were signed by the board:

Purchase order 92- Tapley Thompson Community Center

Tax map maintenance agreement with Cartographic Associates, Inc.

Quit claim deed accepting the donation of Tax Map 420, Lot 8, 0.62 acres on Smith River Rd, from Michael and Margaret Flanders.

The Conservation Commission proposed several changes in personnel. Tom Guillmette has resigned from the Commission because he has moved away from Alexandria. The Commission proposed as new members Douglas Sirotnak and Gabe Winant. The Board voted unanimously to accept these changes.

The Board reviewed the proposed warrant articles for 2024. Articles 1-5 and 7-10 were recommended unanimously by the Board as written. Questions from the public led to discussion of Article 6, which requests funding for paving in the amount of \$260,000. Road Agent Paul Sirard explained that the proposed amount was needed for work that was originally scheduled for 2023, the funding of which was instead used to replace pavement lost in washouts in the June flood. This article was unanimously recommended by the Board.

With respect to Article 11, referencing the proposed lease agreement for a new truck for the Highway Department, the Road Agent indicated that the request was intended to replace the Ford 550 purchased in 2007, which now is needing repeated repairs. This article was unanimously recommended by the Board.

Further discussion related to an additional proposed article which would allow the town to assume ownership of the Haynes Library by accepting it as a gift from the Library trustees. Members of the public representing the Library (Deb Glidden, Brian Lewis) explained the history of the Library and its current status, as well as what they see as the need for the town to take ownership. SB member Tuthill went over proposed language of the article, which was drafted by town legal counsel, and would read as follows:

WARRANT ARTICLE 11 - Haynes Library

To see if the Town will vote:

- (i) to authorize the Board of Selectmen to file a Petition with the Circuit Court – Probate Division in Grafton County, in conjunction with the Charitable Trusts Division of the New Hampshire Department of Justice, seeking the Court's authorization/approval to accept the land, building, books, and other associated personal property of the Haynes Library from the Haynes Library Trustees for the purposes of establishing a public library pursuant to RSA 202-A:3;*
- (ii) if the Court so authorizes/approves, to authorize the Selectmen to accept the land, building, books, and other associated personal property of the Haynes Library from the Haynes Library Trustees;*
- (iii) as part of the establishment and operation of this public library, to authorize the Selectmen to select the initial Board of three (3) Trustees of the Haynes Library as the governing body of*

- said public library, which Trustees shall serve staggered three-year terms and thereafter be subject to election at future Town Meetings, and*
- (iv) *as part of the establishment and operation of this public library, to raise and appropriate the sum of _____ Dollars (\$_____) for the operation of the Haynes Library after the transfer to the Town.*

Further discussion related to the ongoing financial obligation of the town, should it decide to take over the Library. In addition, there was discussion about the dollar amount that might be proposed in part (iv) of the above. After discussion with the representing Library it was decided to insert the figure of \$5000, which was arrived at by considering the immediate needs of the Haynes Library. The SB approved the article for inclusion on the warrant and unanimously recommended it.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.