



Town of Dublin
Select Board Meeting
Monday, October 30, 2023

4:30 PM in person and via Zoom

In attendance: Carole Monroe, Susan Peters, Chris Raymond, Roger Trempe, Road Agent and Judy Knapp, Budget Committee

Select Board reviewed the correspondence file

CALL TO ORDER: Carole called the meeting to order at 4:30pm

SELECT BOARD'S BUSINESS:

1. Budget Presentation

Highway department: Roger reviewed the proposed budget line by line noting that expenses are up. A new line item will be added to this budget, Sand Blasting/Painting, this service will extend the longevity of equipment. Roger gave an account of department activities. They are: removing leaves to keep roadside ditches open for drainage, renting a stump grinder to remove stumps, grading of roads continues, plows/sanders and all drivers are ready for the winter months. The Repeater is repaired and the old Fire Department radios (which work but are not technically supported) have been installed in highway trucks allowing the department to hold off on this additional expense for the Town. Roger is working on a Warrant Article to pave parts of Goldmine Road and Paige Road.

2. **Sand Bids:** Three bids were received, opened and reviewed: Gordon Services: \$13.00 per yard, Francetown Sand and Gravel: \$16.00 per yard, Harrisville Sand and Gravel: \$14.50 per yard. Roger has worked with all three companies and can vouch that Gordon's Services provides quality materials and is accommodating to municipalities. Carole made a motion to accept the bid from Gordon Services at \$13.00 a yard, delivered. Susan seconded. Roll Call Vote: Susan, yes. Carole, yes. Chris, yes.
3. **Tree Removal:** Roger researched and obtained three bids on three individual projects - Town Hall, Police Department and Roadside - from each company: Potter Tree Care, Phil's Tree Service and McClure's Tree Services. Phil's Tree Service presented with the lowest bid across the board. Individual departments will cover the cost for their project. Carole made a motion to accept Phil's Tree Service for all three projects. Susan seconded. Roll Call Vote: Susan, yes. Carole, yes. Chris, yes. Roger also mentioned that

he had contacted Eversource concerning several roadside trees that needed to come down. Eversource came out to inspect, agreed with Roger, tagged the trees and will absorb the cost of those tree removals.

4. **Budget Presentation**

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: The Select Board reviewed the revised proposed budget with Judy offering how line items were accounted for. Discussion ensued about the need to offer residents the ability to pay fees with a credit card at Town Hall when this service is available to them on-line. The Select Board agrees that the public has become accustomed to paying bills, whether in person or on-line, with a credit card even knowing that a service fee will be added to their costs. Discussion ensued concerning breaking out postage fees from a tax billing service. It was decided that services for the vendor included postage and that the cost should reflect the contracted service in the single line.

5. **Tax Rate Setting:** All figures have been presented to the Town. Rates reflect the previous year's School District Audit and Dublin's Town Audit, therefore the figure is always a year in arrears. Discussion ensued about the ability of Dublin to pay down the assessed tax rate using Dublin's Unassigned Fund Balance. Carole made a motion to use resources from the Unassigned Fund Balance account to pay down the tax rate by \$150,000. Susan seconded. Roll Call Vote: Susan, yes. Carole, yes. Chris, yes. The Tax rate will be \$27.67 per thousand.

6. **Dublin Park:** Carole reached out to Jim Beeler to advise him that the Select Board has given permission for him to store the raft off-season on the bank of Dublin Park property provided that he leaves space for a person to launch a kayak at that site. In addition, if he should ever decide to no longer use the raft, he will remove it from Town property. Mr. Beeler indicated that he has pulled it in and is storing it at the high-water line.

7. **Building Permit:** signed by the Board

- Map 7 Lot 72 193 Cobb Meadow Road

8. **Cemetery Deed:** signed by the Board

- #393

9. **South Pack Solar-report of site visit:** Susan reported on feedback from Greg Blake (South Pack Solar) in follow up on recent site visits exploring possible sites for a municipal solar array - including the roofs at the Highway Barn and Fire Department. There was discussion of annual electricity usage at the Fire Department and Highway Barn, and how that compares to the electricity that could be generated from a solar array. The Fire Department's annual usage is roughly comparable to the proposed annual solar output at the site. The Highway Department's usage is much less than the proposed solar output so net metering would be involved (excess of solar output over on-site usage can yield a 70% credit). The Fire Department's roof was new in 2018, and the estimated cost for a roof array is lower at the Fire Department. These factors suggest that a Fire Department array may be preferable as a first municipal solar array in Dublin. Over

a period of years, the energy savings would pay for the cost of the array, and any proposal would need to be put out to bid by RFP. There was discussion whether to raise this possibility by Town Meeting warrant article for 2024, while also exploring grant possibilities to supplement the 30% Inflation Reduction Act rebate.

10. Approval of the Minutes of October 23, 2023- Carole made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Chris seconded. Roll Call Vote: Susan, yes. Carole, yes. Chris, yes.

11. Approval of the Non-Public Minutes of October 23, 2023- Chris made a motion to approve the minutes as written and that they remain sealed until after Town Meeting 2024. Carole seconded. Roll Call Vote: Susan, yes. Carole, yes. Chris, yes.

12. Miscellaneous:

- Carole attended the Select Board's School District Meeting on Oct 26th. 2.1 million dollars is being returned to the towns. The excess funds are due to teaching positions not being filled because there were no qualified applicants. The school district is still in the process of reconfiguration and will continue to present recommendations to the public. The teachers' contract is waiting on ratification by the teachers.
- Kate presented to the Board the end of year fund transfer to the Conservation Commission for each of the past five years. The average was \$1500 although there was no transfer for last year.
- The Housing Committee met last Monday where the question was raised that since the Town owns several pieces of property, why is that not being considered for affordable housing. It was explained that due to new legislation, taxes and penalties can be recovered if a property is sold. Any excess proceeds would have to be returned to the owner or estate.
- Susan will be attending an all-day Local Energy Solutions Conference on Thursday, Nov 2nd.

NON-PUBLIC: Carole made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:49pm and enter a non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (e). Chris seconded. Roll Call Vote: Susan, yes. Carole, yes. Chris, yes. A motion was made by Carole to re-enter public session at 7:28pm and that the minutes remain sealed. Chris seconded. Roll Call Vote: Carole, yes. Chris, yes.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Carole made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:30pm. Chris seconded.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Katherine M. Fuller and Pamela J. Celko

Carole Monroe (Chair)

Susan Peters

Chris Raymond