

BOARD OF ASSESSORS MINUTES

September 19, 2022

Present: Terry Bergeron, Chair; Tim DeMillo, Vice Chair; Tom Goding, Lee Ann Dalessandro, Gary McGrane, Shiloh LaFreniere, Town Manager; Raeleen York, Deputy Clerk

Guests: Trinity Smith (Mt. Blue TV), John Johnson (Public Works), Craig Boone, Donna Perry (Sun Journal), Charlie Woodworth (Greater Franklin), Adrian Foss (Daily Bulldog)

1. Pledge of Allegiance – 6:00 pm - Tim led the pledge.

2. Tax Abatements – Kevin Matthews – M/M/S Lee Ann/Tom to approve a tax abatement for \$5,800 in valuation in the amount of \$118.90 tax dollars for the 2022-23 tax year for Kevin Matthews at 5 Pleasant Drive. Vote 5-0-0. **James & Judith Giardino** – M/M/S Gary/Tom to approve a tax abatement for \$6,685 in valuation in the amount of \$137.04 tax dollars for the 2022-23 tax year for James and Judith Giardino at 2 Dale Lane. Vote 5-0-0.

SELECT BOARD MINUTES

1. Minutes – August 16 & 22, 2022 – M/M/S Tim/Tom to approve the minutes from the August 16 and August 22, 2022 Selectboard meetings. Vote 5-0-0.

2. Old Business – No discussion.

3. Greater Franklin Economic and Community Development Update – Charlie Woodworth gave the Selectboard an update on how they are helping the community and statistics on some of the social services provided to the residents of Jay. Charlie explained that the objective is to bring more people in to the area so the region can grow. They are looking for support from the towns and county. Gary asked what kind of return we are getting for our investment. Charlie said that return is \$13 for every dollar the county puts in. This year the county gave \$174,000.

4. Public Works Garage – ARPA Project – The town received one bid on the highway garage renovations from Thomas C. Goding, Building Contractor. The bid was \$263,000. Craig reached out to 5 local contractors to request bids but said that he only received one other response. He said that they are all too busy. Gary asked if this was a conflict of interest since Tom is on the Board. It is not a conflict. An employee or officer of the town is allowed to bid. As long as Tom abstains from voting on this as a Selectperson, there is no conflict. Tom also mentioned that he may have some ways to cut the costs, but that can be discussed later. Gary asked about bonding for the project. Craig estimated that this would cost the town an additional \$8,000. The Selectboard had previously discussed this and there was no request for a bond. Gary asked about getting references from Tom. Tom told him he could get some if needed and that the board could talk to Maurice Smith since he was involved in the Livermore Falls Sewer building project. M/M/S Lee Ann/Tim to approve awarding the bid to Thomas C. Goding for the highway garage renovations as submitted

for \$263,000 total with \$35,500 for the addition, \$175,500 for energy upgrades and \$52,000 for alternate #1. Vote 3-1-1 (Gary opposed, Tom abstained).

5. Livermore Falls Water District Rate Increase – We received a notice from Livermore Falls Water District proposing a rate increase of 24.67% for Public Fire Protection. We currently pay \$94,964 per year for the hydrants in the Livermore Falls Water District. The proposed increase would be \$23,428 more annually. This increase would take effect November 1, 2022. That would leave our budget short about \$12,000. We may need to go to special town meeting or include an article on the town meeting warrant to cover this amount. Gary asked if we could use ARPA funds. Shiloh said she would ask MMA about this possibility.

6. Planning Board Reappointments – Barbara Cook and Brandon Hobbs – M/M/S Lee Ann/Tom to reappoint Barbara Cook and Brandon Hobbs as regular members to the Planning Board with terms to expire September 2027. Vote 5-0-0.

7. Other Business – M/M/S Lee Ann/Gary to approve the Liquor License for LaFleur’s Restaurant. Vote 5-0-0.

M/M/S Lee Ann/Tom to post the Notice of Public Hearing for the Adoption of General Assistance Appendices A-G. Vote 5-0-0.

The Selectboard were in support of the Fire Department doing Trunk or Treat for Halloween. Their only concerns were regarding traffic control and lighting if they decide to do it at French Falls. Shiloh will talk with the Fire Dept. about these concerns.

Terry announced upcoming events and dates of interest. The first October Selectboard meeting will be on the 11th instead of the 10th due to the holiday.

M/M/S Tim/Tom to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Raeleen M. York