

Selectboard
February 28, 2022
Remote Meeting Minutes

All minutes are draft until approved by the Selectboard; please check future minutes for approval of these minutes. Meetings may be videotaped and posted on YouTube; GMATV info: PO Box 581, Hyde Park info@greenmountainaccess.tv or 851-1592

Members Present: None
Members Virtual: Susan Bartlett, Chair; Roland Boivin; Brian Shackett; Chasity Fagnant
Members Absent: David Gagnier
Attendees Present: None
Attendees Virtual: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; Matt Morin; Ruth Hay; Marilyn Zophar; Paul Nesky; Samantha Peake; Jan Kuhn; Diane Szlachetka; Heidi Royer; Virginia Jenkins; GMATV did record this meeting.

Susan opened the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

1. **Welcome.** No changes to the agenda and no public comment.
2. **FY2023 Budget and Town Meeting Articles – Informational Meeting** – Ron reviewed the Town Report tax rate projection page showing major budget changes and a 4.97% tax rate increase above the current year if the Grand List increases by the projected 2.0%. The expense budget would increase by 5.89% if approved. The Town Meeting articles were reviewed, and Susan explained that the challenge of a quorum on the Board of Listers is partly due to the increased state demands on the town following the implementation of Act 60 which created the need for the local officials to follow state rules more closely and keep up with training. The Board noted they had reached out to the community to fill lister vacancies but were not successful.
3. **Bond Public Hearing** – Susan opened the public hearing at 6:40 p.m. The \$275,000 borrowing article to purchase the Manosh 25-acre parcel at the corner of Garfield and McFarlane Road was reviewed. Susan explained that the land could be used for a variety of municipal purposes and currently has an Act 250 permit restriction for agricultural use until 2035. Roland stated that other towns are hauling gravel long ways because they don't have a local source for materials like winter road sand. Matt Morin asked if the new ARPA funds could help and Ron said yes, as the restrictions on use have recently been made more flexible by U.S. Treasury. Susan stated that the existing ballfields are on top of sand and gravel resource and the town's extraction operation is gradually getting closer to the ballfields. Brian noted that the improvements at the current ballfield could be easily moved to this site since it is across the road. Diane Szlachetka asked if the purchase was intended to be used to relocate the ballfields to allow the current town gravel pit to expand. Susan explained that the purchase of the 25-acres is a unique opportunity with Howard Manosh offering it for \$250,000 and the additional for testing and permits to help the community determine its best use. Diane asked if the land had been appraised and Susan stated that it is a fair offer and Howard is selling this parcel and others he owns, so it will be sold to someone in the near future. The Board closed the hearing at 6:50 p.m.
4. **Finance** – Ron reported that he and Chasity had worked on the revisions to the Finance job description – revised title is Finance and Administrative Manager, with a pay range of \$21.00 to \$28.00 and weekly hours of 35 to 40, both depending on experience. Chasity reported that a new job description was prepared this past weekend and focuses on payroll, accounts payable and general ledger tasks. Ron emailed the job ad and job description to the board noting that the newspaper deadline is tomorrow at 1:00 p.m. Chasity asked that board members review the ad and job description and let Ron or Chasity know of any edits by tomorrow morning, noting she felt it was ready to advertise.
5. **Adjourn** – Motion by Roland to adjourn, seconded by Chasity, so voted at 7:11 p.m.