

TOWN OF EATON, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03832

EVANS MEMORIAL BUILDING

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

January 10, 2024

A duly-noticed Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen took place on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at the Evans Memorial Building. Present were Dick Fortin, Ed Reilly and Greg Grinnell. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm.

The Board reviewed and signed the Accounts Payable manifest and checks for \$5,217.40 for 5 items.

The Board began work on the proposed 2024 operating budget. Road Agent "Stubby" Heath met with the Board to develop the Highway Department budget. Road Agent Heath noted that he would like to purchase a plate compactor rather than renting as it is used frequently to install culverts. Road Agent Heath noted that a new backhoe will cost approximately \$140,000, which includes a \$30,000 trade-in for the current backhoe. It was noted that the cost of repairs has become very high and that the Board will monitor those costs this year.

The Board discussed the cost of an excavator rental and payroll costs, which will be applied to the construction project. Dick Fortin stated that salt storage needs to be addressed as the wooden shed will be removed. The Board identified items to be included in the price of the new garage: septic system, demolition of the existing wooden shed, site work, relocation of water and propane lines, surveyor and salt shed replacement. The Board discussed that if a smaller garage is constructed, the extra funds could be used to cover the cost of all the extra items. Road Agent Heath noted that once the garage is complete, he would like to pave the yard. Ed Reilly questioned whether the project will go out to bid and Dick Fortin explained that three requests were requested by the Committee and that only one company submitted an estimate.

Road Agent Heath questioned whether the Board will be pursuing enrollment in the NH Retirement System this year. Dick Fortin questioned whether the employees would be willing to compromise on other benefits to obtain the retirement. Ed Reilly stated that he was attempting to balance the increased cost for retirement. Dick Fortin raised the possibility of employees paying a portion of the health insurance. The Board agreed upon a 10% cost share for the insurance. Road Agent Heath noted that the residents should make the decision and stated that he was hired with the agreement of insurance paid by the Town at 100 percent. The Board will further discuss this proposal at their next meeting.

Ed Reilly made a motion, seconded by Greg Grinnell, to adjourn the meeting. Motion unanimously carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lianne Boelzner

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