

Board of Selectmen
Approved Minutes
Thursday, January 28, 2021

On Thursday, January 28, 2021, at 5:00 p.m., the Board of Selectmen met in Meeting Room A, at the Town of Bow Municipal Building, 10 Grandview Road, Bow, NH. In accordance with the State and Federal recommendations of social distancing, this meeting was held via Zoom Meeting Software for public access.

I. CALL TO ORDER

At 5:00 p.m. Chairman Nicolopoulos called the Board of Selectmen Meeting to order in Meeting Room A. Present: Chairman Christopher Nicolopoulos, Vice Chair Colleen Hunter, Selectman Michael Wayne, Selectman Matthew Poulin, Selectman Bruce Marshall, Town Manager David Stack, Finance Director Geoff Ruggles, Administrative Assistant, Tonia Lindquist and members of the public.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

III. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Bow Youth Center Discussion

Chairman Nicolopoulos gave a brief purpose for the meeting, which is to create a funding mechanism for the proposed purchase of Bow Youth Center, which would consist of the land, building and contents for \$1.25 million dollars.

One of the questions raised, was whether the purchase could take place over 2 years, which would require 2/3 of the votes to pass it.

Finance Director Ruggles stated the following in regards to funding options:

Option 1

If the Town was to pay for it all the first year, the Board could transfer the operation cost of Parks and Recreation Department from the general fund, into revenue, saving just over \$62,000 dollars. Then reduce the contribution to the Municipal Building Capital Reserve Fund by \$200,000. That would net an increase in the appropriations of about \$987,000.

Then withdraw \$328,000 from the Land Acquisition Capital Reserve Fund, that would bring the net appropriations to be raised by taxes down to about \$659,000. The effect on the tax rate if you apply the \$300,000 fund balance to the appropriation, would cause the tax rate to increase by \$.29 or 3.9%

Option 2

In the first year you would have a reduction in the Parks and Recreation Operating Budget, the reduction in the Municipal Building Capital reserve of the \$200,000, the appropriation you would need to raise that year for the building would be \$700,000 giving a net increase in the appropriation of about \$437,000, with the withdrawal from the land acquisition capital reserve fund of about \$327,000, that would reduce your net appropriation increase to about \$109,000 and by using an additional \$100,000 of fund balance, there would be a \$.01 increase in the tax rate.

In the second year's budget the purchase price of the building drops from \$700,000 to \$550,000 which is a reduction of \$150,000. With the revenue loss of the \$328,000 withdrawal from Capital Reserve that nets an increase of just under \$178,000 in appropriations. Increasing the amount from fund balance to \$275,000 will level fund the tax rate, which in summary the two-year option has no impact to the tax payer.

Town Manager Stack stated this would require two thirds vote to pass, and he and Director Ruggles will need to work with the Department of Revenue Administration on how to structure the warrant article.

Director Ruggles recommended that the Board present this article first, before the operating budget, so there is no reduction in the operating budget for parks and recreation, unless this passes, then the Board would make a recommendation to reduce the operating budget by the \$62,000. If the purchase of Bow Youth Center doesn't pass then you wouldn't need to amend the operating budget.

Selectman Poulin asked if the Board had to pick one option, Chairman Nicolopoulos recommended bringing forth one option, to bring to the Budget Committee it would be politically correct to do so.

Vice Chair Hunter asked where the school was at with their increase to the budget, Chairman Nicolopoulos stated about 3%, but the budget hasn't been finalized.

There was some back and forth discussion on what had to be in the Warrant Article.

A MOTION was made by Selectman Wayne and duly seconded by Selectman Poulin to move forward with Option 2 for the proposed purchase of Bow Youth Center, which would consist of the land, building and contents, contingent upon the vote of the residents of the same at Town Meeting. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

IV. BOTTOM LINES – None

V. NON-PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3, II (if needed)

At 5:30 p.m. a MOTION was made by Selectman Marshall and duly seconded by Selectman Wayne to enter into a non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (a) (personnel, discipline or compensation), and a roll call was taken: Chairman Nicolopoulos – yes, Vice Chair Hunter – yes, Selectman Poulin – yes, Selectman Wayne – yes, Selectman Marshall – yes.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:00 p.m. a MOTION was made by Selectman Poulin and duly seconded by Selectman Marshall to adjourn the meeting. MOTION PASSED 5-0.