

Town of Danville
Selectboard Minutes
Special Meeting – Budget - 1 VSA § 312 (c)(2),(5)
January 24, 2024
Danville Town Hall

Board Members Present: Eric Bach, Glenn Herrin, Alison Low, and Janice Ouellette

Board Members Present Using Teams: Peter Griffin

Others Present: Audrey DeProspero

Special Public Meeting called to order by Alison Low at 5:00 pm.

Order of agenda items changed during discussion.

1. Issues and Information (All)

- (a) **Budget** – Alison Low noted after the meeting on Sunday Janice Ouellette made transfer of ARPA out of the budget equation. Noted was it still balanced at \$646,899.93 with total expenses less appropriations at \$1,689,280.29. Discussed was non tax related revenue of \$1,097,836.65 with tax amount \$646,899.93.

Motion by Janice Ouellette, 2nd by Eric Bach to adopt General Fund budget with total expenses less appropriations at \$1,689,280.29. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carries

Assuming non tax related revenue of \$1,097,836.65 with tax amount of \$646,899.93.

- (b) **ARPA** – No discussion needed.

- (c) **Town Meeting Warning** – Glenn Herrin discussed article: Shall the Town of Danville allow individuals who are residents of the State, but not residents of the municipality, to be elected or appointed as Clerk, Treasurer, Lister, and Delinquent Tax Collector in accordance with 17 V.S.A. § 2646a. He thought this one should be put on annual warning. The new law allows for which position you want residents of VT and not of municipality.

Eric Bach thinks it is a good tool to have in our tool belt.

Alison Low concerned with the optics from a voter's standpoint who are not familiar with what we have gone through.

Janice Ouellette thinks timing is off for this.

Eric Bach noted he was ready to make a motion to add the warning wording.

Selectboard discussed optics of situation, wording, statute language, how this would be handled at Town Meeting, possible future execution instead and proposing to appoint rather than elect would be taking something away from voters.

Peter Griffin concern is if this goes out and posted will people think this is for this year and confuse the persons wanting to run.

Eric Bach noted he withdrew motion to return to this subject later in the meeting

Consensus to put off until 2025 for discussion.

Glenn Herrin inquired if the Selectboard wanted to move from elected to appointed Town Clerk and Treasurer. He noted he was not in favor of doing this.

Articles in question: 'Shall the Town of Danville authorize the Selectboard to appoint the municipal clerk? (ref 17 V.S.A. § 2651e)' and 'Shall the Town of Danville authorize the Selectboard to appoint the municipal treasurer? (ref 17 V.S.A. § 2651f)'.

Alison Low is not in favor of doing.

Glenn Herrin discussed default term for one year. Danville switched years ago to 3 years. He wondered if they should move to one year or leave as is. He feels that they should not do anything.

Eric Bach noted this would not be desirable position if person has to run every year.

Peter Griffin not in favor of doing to one year term.

Consensus is not to put either in Town Warning.

Glenn Herrin discussed Advisory Question for Warning: 'Advisory: should the Town of Danville budget for maintaining buildings and replacing major equipment through consistent annual contributions to capital fund (as opposed to bonding for large expenses)?'. He thought this would pertain to the fire station. If they were building new or were to renovate, would they put in capital project or bond it. He thought it was a good idea to bring to Town Meeting for people to discuss.

Alison Low wondered if they got overwhelming support would they have to come back the next year with capital plan.

Alison Low and Glenn Herrin discussed plan process.

Glenn Herrin thinks having a living document that they could update every year was good. He discussed having advisory questions on warrant to engage voters for their opinion.

Selectboard discussed advisory questions.

Peter Griffin thought people would not understand annual contributions would mean raising taxes and that Selectboard can do this without having an advisory question asked to voters.

Motion by Glenn Herrin, 2nd by Eric Bach to add question to Town Meeting Warning: 'Should the Town of Danville budget for maintaining buildings and replacing major equipment through consistent annual contributions to capital fund (as opposed to bonding for large expenses)?'. [Advisory Question Only].

Should vs Shall discussed, wording of should chose because the question non-binding.

Capital project fund discussed and potentially how the Town Meeting would go.

Peter Griffin thought they may be narrowing options for circumstances we don't know.

Alison Low suggested encourage ways throughout year.

Vote 5-0-0. Motion carries.

Selectboard reviewed and discussed 'Shall the Town of Danville transfer an amount up to \$637,433.44 to fund the Capital Projects Fund?'.

Alison Low suggested to add pending completion of an audit.

Janice Ouellette asked Michelle Leclerc for her opinion.

Michelle Leclerc replied no, on pending audit because it says 'up to'.

Peter Griffin thinks it should be left off.

Selectboard reviewed Articles 8-21 (appropriations).

Glenn Herrin suggested combing appropriations into one article.

Eric Bach does not like combining.

Janice Ouellette suggested to leave as is, as she thinks it allows voters to choose.

Anticipated wording discussed for Article #22 the proposed General Fund budget.

Motion by Eric Bach, 2nd by Glenn Herrin to approve as 'Shall the Town of Danville vote to adopt the proposed General Fund budget of \$1,689,280.29 with revenue of \$1,097,836.65 and with \$646,899.93 to be raised through taxes?'. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carries.

Anticipated wording discussed for Article #23 the proposed Highway budget.

Motion by Eric Bach, 2nd by Glenn Herrin to approve as 'Shall the Town of Danville vote to adopt the proposed Town Highway budget of \$2,161,155.66 with revenue of \$878,470.70 and with \$1,282,684.96 to be raised through taxes?'. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carries.

Peter Griffin exited Teams meeting at 6:32 and arrived at Town Hall at 6:40 pm

Janice Ouellette exited at 6:45 pm.

Motion by Eric Bach, 2nd by Glenn Herrin to approve the Warning for the Town of Danville Annual Town Meeting March 5, 2024 with edits made. Vote 4-0-0. Motion carries.

(d) Legal Requirements Regarding Town Report –

Michelle Leclerc presented Selectboard with Waste Water Comparative Budget Report – Sewer which needs Selectboard approval.

Motion by Eric Bach, 2nd by Glenn Herrin to approve Town of Danville Comparative Budget Report – Sewer. Vote 4-0-0. Motion carries

Selectboard discussed Statement of Assets and Liability not being available and posting only the last page in the report.

Vital records inquired about.

Discussion ensued about information being put in report as in prior years.

2. Adjourn - Motion by Peter Griffin, 2nd by Glenn Herrin to adjourn at 7:00 pm. All in favor.

Minutes taken by Audrey DeProspero submitted January 26, 2023 at 1:00 pm.