

Town of Danville
Selectboard Minutes
Public Informational Pre-Town Meeting
March 4, 2023
North Danville Community/School Building, 4215 Bruce Badger, North Danville
(7:00 pm)

Board Members Present: Alison Low, Peter Griffin and Glenn Herrin

Board Members Absent: Eric Bach and Janice Ouellette

Others Present: Eric Hewitt, Bruce Melendy, Phyllis Sweeney, John Colgrove, Karen Colgrove, Bill Bailey, Jeffrey Paquet, Elizabeht Ferraro, Cheryl Heath, Marvin Withers, John Bowler, Kelly Sinclair, Dave Towle, Mike Boudreau, Dayna Boudreau, Laura Goguen, Michelle Leclerc, Sharon Daniell, Molly Gleason, Sarah Welch, Natalie Conway, Clayton Cargill, Ken Linsley, Joan Legendre, Lee Beattie, Liz Sargent and Audrey DeProspero

Others Present Using Teams: Deb Marrier and Maryellen Griffin

Meeting called to order by Alison Low at 7:04 pm.

1. Public Informational Pre-Town Meeting Budget Hearing – TOWN

Open positions:

Town Moderator – Toby Balivet running.

Town Clerk – 3 year and Town Treasurer – 3 year – Michelle Leclerc is running for both vacant seats. She is working in Cabot as Assistant Town Clerk and Treasurer. She has lived in Danville all her life. She has been working in Danville for 8 weeks.

Selectboard – 3 year – Eric Bach is running for reelection.

Selectboard – one year – Glenn Herrin is running for reelection. Glenn Herrin has worked with the town and has learned a lot. He plans to run again for another one-year term.

Selectboard – one year – Alison Low is running for reelection. Alison Low lives in the Danville Village and is currently on the Selectboard. Her current one-year term is up and she plans to run for another one-year term. She has been with the Regional Planning Commission for years and has a background in municipal business. She currently serves on the Dog Park Committee, Train Station Committee and the Town Meeting Day Committee.

Lister – 3 year – John Blackmore is running for reelection.

1 year Delinquent Tax Collector – Ed Ledo is running.

Peter Griffin noted he is in his second year of his three-year term.

Phyllis Sweeney noted she has been the School District Treasurer for 25 years and is re-running.

General Budget:

Alison Low discussed Town operating on a cash basis and reimbursements that don't get done in 2023 even though it looks like deficit, doesn't mean we spent more money than we had, we just had to carryover. For example: Highway budget is waiting on FEMA reimbursements. The General Fund is up and major cost drivers are Calx and realignment in Town Clerk Office. Calx operating costs increased, they are paying personnel if they come out and it is not a transport then they cannot bill so those calls are 32% of the calls in Danville. County tax is a cost driver which is to support the courthouse and sheriff's office. We have a separate contract with sheriff for patrols. Train Station funded by grants and private fund raising. Previous Selectboard decision was to set aside money in General Fund. Nothing in the project is coming from taxes. Reserve funding from ARPA funds discussed. The funds needed to be committed by 2024 and work completed by 2025. There was nothing shovel ready so the funds were used to replace salaries

which then created a surplus at the end of the year. The excess funds will be put into a capitol project fund with no claw backs.

Ken Linsley inquired about the 8th Article which talks about establishing the fund and wondered how that will be done as per VSA 2804 a plan needs to be established or goes to voters.

Alison Low discussed Selectboard being able to make the decision per VLCT.

Ken Linsley discussed reserve fund created in a separate account and suggested to bring to voters.

Alison Low discussed holding public meetings and dialogues.

Peter Griffin discussed prior survey work that has been done by Selectboard.

Audience Member - Anything that lasts longer than one year would be a capitol project fund. Discussed was capitol project, budget, terms and threshold needing to be set.

Audience Member 2 - It is no longer ARPA funds and now falls under VT statute which defines what you are going to do with funds.

Alison Low noted Appropriations were largely the same. Upper Valley was not in last year but they are requesting the same as the previous year, \$500.

Ken Linsley inquired if they had to go through petition process.

Alison Low noted they did not as they were not new and the amount did not change.

Glenn Herrin discussed bar chart. He looked at last 20 years and wanted to know why increase. He discussed inflation adjustment, general rises and drops, health care up 7.2% last couple of years, and added one additional full-time employee with benefits. He noted some things drive it up and some things drive it down. He discussed tax increase in 2005 and current, Grand List and reappraisals. He noted the bottom line is that it is actually relatively stable.

2. Any Other Business that legally comes before the meeting

Audience - What are the biggest costs to face the Town.

Glenn Herrin discussed what to do with reserve fund, projects we have, FEMA money, Train station project, Planning Commission writing Town Plan and Fire Station – should we renovate or rebuild.

Alison Low discussed municipal parking lot and completion of preliminary engineering report we are doing with Dufresne Group. She spoke of desludging and user fees noted the cost of the system is born by users but we all benefit because of the down town.

Pete Griffin noted roads - mud season three or four times a year will be a cost driver.

Alison low discussed roads brought up to MRPG standards are handling the weather well.

Audience Member - Parker Road is terrible (old Route 2) are you going to do anything.

Alison Low noted they could possibly put into next year budget.

Glenn Herrin noted the Highway Foreman discussed paving part of Parker Road this year.

3. Adjourn – 7:44 pm.

Selectboard adjourned for School Board Pre Town-Informational meeting to take place.