
MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION – October 13, 2020

ROOM 03 – TOWN HALL

7:00 PM

PRESENT: Chairman William E. Kingkade, Jr. and Selectmen Michael K. Walsh, Selectman Thomas J. O’Loughlin and Town Administrator Richard A. Villani.

Also present: Parks Director, Jim Assam, State Representative Brian Murray, Chair of the War Memorial Renovation Committee Peter Scandone and IT Director, Chris George.

1. Mr. Walsh moved, seconded by Mr. O’Loughlin: To sign the warrant, UNANIMOUS.
2. Mr. Walsh moved, seconded by Mr. O’Loughlin: To approve the Regular Session Minutes of October 5, 2020 as submitted. UNANIMOUS.
3. Invitation to Speak – NONE.
4. The Board reviewed the draft Special Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. O’Loughlin said he believes the Town should provide a 2 and ½ % retroactive pay raise to July 1, 2020 for Article 2 employees and for the elected Town Clerk and Highway Surveyor. Articles were included in the Warrant to fund the increase in pay. Mr. O’Loughlin questioned the Article submitted by the Board of Assessors seeking funding to cover the costs of legal representation and expert witnesses for Appellate Tax Board Hearings. He believes legal services should go through a “point person” which is Town Counsel. He said the Assessor did send a letter reducing the amount requested from \$100,000.00 to \$25,000.00. The letter also stated that since 2012 the Assessor’s Office has spent a total of \$6,920.00 for these services which averages \$865.00 per year. The Assessor also has \$10,000.00 encumbered within their budget for these services. He said to request \$25,000.00 is “inappropriate” and that the “taxpayers deserve better.” Mr. Kingkade said he agreed with some of Mr. O’Loughlin’s points, but feels the Article should be “taken to Town Meeting.” Mr. Walsh also said the Article should go to the “Town Meeting floor”. Mr. Walsh moved, seconded by Mr. O’Loughlin: To accept the Special Town Meeting Warrant as is. UNANIMOUS.
5. Jim Asam, Parks Director, State Representative Brain Murray, a member of the War Memorial Renovation Committee, and Peter Scandone Chair of War Memorial Renovation Committee were present to update the Board on the renovation of Draper Park and Calzone Park as well as their fundraising campaign. Mr. Asam presented a Power Point

showing the current conditions at both Parks which included trees, walkways, granite, monuments and lighting. He also reviewed the work to be done as well as work completed at both Parks. Mr. Scandone said the deadline for the Crowd Sourcing Funding Campaign has been extended to November 11, 2020. To date they have raised the sum of \$39,710.00 towards their goal of \$42,500.00. He then informed the public as to the process to donate to the campaign. Representative Murray praised Mr. Asam for the great work he has done on this Project. He also commended him for accessing key state money for the Project through the matching grant. Once the fundraising goal is met, the State will match the amount by adding \$42,250.00 for a total of \$85,000.00. He thanked Mitch Ruscitti for his work on accessing the Grant. He stated Draper Park was last renovated in 1992. In 1992 people donated to the renovation and had their names inscribed on the arms of the benches and in granite blocks. He believes the inscriptions should be replaced with something comparable in the new renovation. Representative Murray recommended the Board establish a Committee to completely renovate and restore Calzone Park. Mr. Kingkade stated there is an Article on the Special Town Meeting Warrant for an additional \$45,000.00 for the Draper Park project for a total budget of \$130,000.00. He also commented on the great work done on securing the Grant by Mitch Ruscitti. Mr. Asam said the Parks Department is doing some work such as cleaning and irrigation within their budget. He is also using ADA funds appropriated at a prior Town Meeting to do upgrades for access to the Park. Mr. Walsh commended the Parks Department and Highway Department for saving the Town money by doing work within their budgets. He also praised Representative Murray for his knowledge about the 1992 Project and Mr. Scandone for serving as Chair of the Committee. Mr. O'Loughlin thanked Mr. Asam for doing a "tremendous job" and applauded everyone working on the Project. Mr. Asam stated Mitch Ruscitti has been a huge asset on this Project.

6. Mr. Walsh moved, seconded by Mr. O'Loughlin: To adjourn the Selectmen's meeting at 6:34 PM, UNANIMOUS.

Richard A. Villani
Minutes Recorder

William E. Kingkade, Jr. Chairman

Michael K. Walsh

Thomas J. O'Loughlin