

**Town of New Haven Selectboard
Budget and Regular Meeting
6:00 pm
Tuesday, December 6, 2022
Town Offices**

Selectboard: Chair, John Roleau, Vice Chair, Bruce Many, Kathy Barrett, Taborri Bruhl and Steve Dupoise (via Zoom)
Treasurer, Danielle Hubbell
Selectboard Assistant: Pam Kingman

The Selectboard went through the General Fund and Road Fund budgets with the Treasurer from 6 – 7pm. ** Danielle Hubbell left after the budget meeting ended.

Visitors: Robert Harnish (zoom), Al Wakefield (via zoom), Julie Bessette and Dean Gilmore

**** Open Lawn Maintenance Bids, these bids are for 2023 and three bids were received:**

1. **George Crane:** Bid for Riverside Cemetery only: Mow & Trim **Total: \$4,000**
2. **Allen Swain:** mow, trim, weed, mulch - Town Offices/Library, Village Green/Memorial Park, DeMers Park, Brush hog Sleeper property (twice a year).
Total: \$6,480
3. **Scenic Valley Landscaping, LLC:** mow, trim, weed, mulch - Town Offices/Library, Village Green/War Memorial, Riverside Cemetery, DeMers Park
Total: \$17,200

John Roleau made a motion to accept George Crane's bid for Riverside Cemetery at \$4,000, and Allen Swain's bid for Town Offices/Library, Village Green/War Memorial, DeMers Park and brush hog the Sleeper property, \$6,480. Both bids are for the 2023 season. Motion seconded by Taborri Bruhl. Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA: Beeman Mentoring Program / Bike Scoping Study on Munger Street

VISITORS BUSINESS:

1. **Robert Harnish and Al Wakefield** asking the Selectboard to consider a Declaration of Inclusion, which is a Vermont Diversity, Equity, and Inclusive

Initiative, to allow and unbiased place for all to belong. Several area towns, including Bristol, Middlebury, Vergennes and Brandon have adopted this statement. 84 towns across Vermont have adopted the statement. The Board agreed it sounds like a good idea, however at this time they would like more time to study and discuss it. The Board thanked Robert and Al for attending the meeting.

2. **Beeman PTO Representative, Julie Bessette** is here on behalf of the Beeman PTO to inquire about funds to help the Beeman kids go skiing this winter. The price for kids to ski has doubled and even tripled in some instances. Grades 3-6 would go to the Snow Bowl twice, cost for both trips and bussing totals \$3,080. K-2 would go to Rikert (cross country skiing) three times, cost for bussing totals \$2,640. Not every single child is going to ski, they are given the opportunity to try it or stay in the lodge with supervision. The skiing will take place in 2023, and payment is due after service is rendered. Julie explained in the past the cost was \$10 per student; cost is now \$30 per student. Taborri Bruhl made a motion to allocate \$3,000 of the Sports expense line to the Beeman PTO to support the Skiing program. Motion seconded by Bruce Many. Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
3. **Dean Gilmore** met with Robert Clark from Otter Creek Engineering to go over plans for the proposed new fire station. The building would be one story and be approximately 12,000 square feet. Dean encouraged the Board to write a letter to Senators Sanders and Welch in support of the S-4690 Bill – Fire Station Construction Grants Act.

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA:

1. **Beeman Mentoring Program** would like to use the gym on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, from 3- 5 pm, for fun and games between mentors and mentees. The Board agreed it is a school function, and no application is necessary.
2. **Bike scoping on Munger Street update given by Kathy Barrett:** Foss & O'Neill came up with different scenarios to make biking safer along Munger Street. **1)** do nothing, **2)** widen the road 4' on either side, **3)** widen the road by 7' on either side. The Board discussed this and agreed there is no way to widen the road by 4' – 7' on either side without having to move culverts and utility poles. No action taken.

UPDATES ON:

1. **Roads:**
 - Plank Road and LeDuc Road will get graded once grader has been repaired.
 - Grader is having the turbo replaced.

- Road Foreman, Eric Boise found 4 used snow tires for the 1 ton, saving the town money since this truck will be replaced with the new truck approved in 2022 for delivery in 2023.

2. Town Buildings and Land:

- **Train Depot update given by Steve Dupoise:** Steve has spoken with Ben Waterman who will do Phase 4 on the Depot, which includes water, sewer, and utility hook ups.
- **Vermont Integrated Architecture proposal re:** Town Hall RFP will cost and an additional \$2,000- \$3,000. Kathy Barrett made a motion to accept the quote from Vermont Integrated Architecture to oversee the RFP for the Town Hall front porch, for approximately \$3,000. Motion seconded by Taborri Bruhl. Vote by roll call 4 yes / 1 abstention (at this time Steve Dupoise lost connection)

AUTHORIZATIONS:

1. Taborri Bruhl made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 11/09/22, in the amount of \$4,047.59, seconded by Bruce Many. Vote by roll call 4 yes / 0 no
2. Kathy Barrett made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 11/26/22, in the amount of \$4,098.37, seconded by Taborri Bruhl. Vote by roll call 4 yes / 0 no
3. Taborri Bruhl made a motion to approve the payroll for the week ending 12/03/22, in the amount of \$4,790.85, seconded by Kathy Barrett. Vote by roll call 4 yes / 0 no
4. Bruce many made a motion to approve the pay orders for the week ending 12/06/22, in the amount of \$508,158.28, includes Plank Road paving and Depot expenses. Motion seconded by John Roleau. Vote by roll call 4 yes / 0 no
** Steve Dupoise was able to rejoin the meeting**
5. Kathy Barrett made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the October Bank Statements and financials. Motion seconded by John Roleau. Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
6. Kathy Barrett made a motion to accept with regret the letter of Resignation from Town Moderator, Pam Marsh. Motion seconded by Taborri Bruhl. Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
7. Taborri Bruhl made a motion to accept the petition from the **New Haven Mentoring Program**, to appear on the Town Meeting ballot. Motion seconded by Bruce Many. Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
8. **Appointment:** John Roleau made a motion to appoint Rhiannon Johnson to the Conservation Commission for a 1-year term ending in 2024. Motion seconded by Bruce Many. Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no

- 9. **Town Hall Application:** John Roleau made a motion to approve the Town Hall Application for our Town Librarian to host two Open Art Studios in the gym on December 7, 2022, and February 1, 2023, in the gym from 1-3pm. These are early release days for school kids. Estimated attendance: 25-35. Fee waived. Motion seconded by Bruce Many. Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
- 10. Steve Dupoise made a motion to approve the minutes from 11/15/22, seconded by John Roleau. Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no

OTHER BUSINESS:

- 1. **Boards / Commission Absenteeism discussion:** There has been concern with members not consistently showing up to meetings and therefore not being up to date. The Selectboard will send out a letter reminding members of Boards that once appointed they are expected to attend meetings for continuity and to be sure there is a quorum.

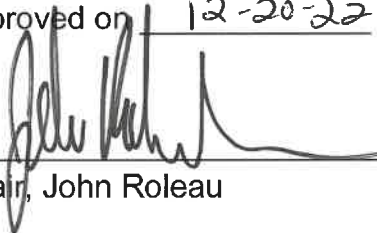
Taborri Bruhl made a motion to find that premature general public knowledge of the town’s negotiation with VELCO would clearly place this selectboard at a substantial disadvantage, because the Selectboard risks disclosing its negotiation strategy if it discusses the proposed negotiation terms in public. Motion seconded by John Roleau. Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no

Taborri Bruhl made a motion to enter into executive session at 8:13 pm to discuss the town’s negotiations with VELCO under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A) of the Vermont Statutes. Motion seconded by Kathy Barrett. Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no

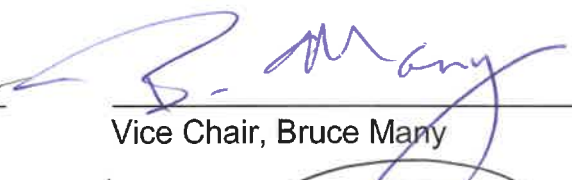
Kathy Barrett made a motion to authorize Steve Dupoise to accept the offer with VELCO. Motion seconded by Bruce Many. Vote by roll call 5 yes / 0 no

Adjourn: 8:18 pm
Respectfully submitted:
Pam Kingman


Approved on 12-20-22



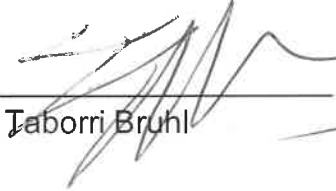
Chair, John Roleau



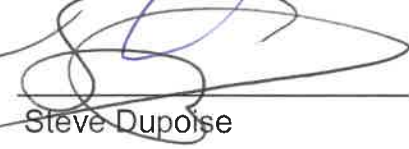
Vice Chair, Bruce Many



Kathy Barrett



Taborri Bruhl



Steve Dupoise