

Selectmen and Board of Assessors meeting minutes for 02/04/2025

In attendance:

Willie Ingraham, Joshua Larrabee, Jeffrey Stevens, Ivy Larrabee

Meeting called to order at 6:01pm by Josh Larrabee

Previous meeting minutes were reviewed. Voted all in favor for approval.

The warrants were reviewed and signed.

We received a new general assistance news letter, Ivy printed for Willie to review.

PP49 is still past due. Willie will be reaching out to this resident for review.

We have officially three foreclosures. We have only heard from one of these residents to review.

RE342 was on the phone regarding her foreclosure. She is unable to commit to any more than \$50 a month. Josh spoke that that was not a great plan as that will not come close to cleaning up the past bills, or the 2025 bill when they're committed. The neighbor was interested in purchasing the property. Josh will be reaching out to him in hopes they can work a deal between the two of them for a sale before the town legally has to list with a realtor.

The ladies of the office presented the Selectmen with the state wage listing. They are currently hourly but work more than the listed hours of the previous budget. This led to tighter budgets at the end of the year. Contessa and Ivy both requested to be put on salary as this will solve the budget discrepancies. Josh said that the ladies of the office have taken on a lot of what was previously outsourced and has had a lot of great feedback with residents being happy with their work, Jeff agreed. Willie said he was fine with the salary and we'll see what the town meeting brings for questions. All three Selectmen agreed.

RE555 had previously signed a payment agreement to clean up the back taxes on his property. He has missed his January payment. Contessa will be sending lien notices. Willie said he would reach out to this resident for review.

Josh has been reviewing different companies for recovering the sand shed as the current covering is past its life expectancy. Marshal Daly had said previously in the office that he just had a building recovered for significantly less than the quotes Josh has received through the Amish in Unity. Josh reached out to Marshal for a contact and will be reaching out to get quotes through them.

Ivy spoke that when Marshal was in the office he had asked if it would be ok for the Booster Club to use the sand shed when it was empty in the summer time for batting cages. Josh said we are unable to have people in the building for liability reasons to even shovel sand into a bucket. All three Selectmen said this was not able to happen because due to insurance reasons.

Josh spoke that the Freedom Selectmen have been in contact as their fire department is looking to upgrade the trucks in the future. We do not have an official request at this point. We are unsure if they are looking for Knox to contribute to the truck fund, or if they are looking to increase our contract to cover some of the cost. They will be in contact to review further. Josh will be in contact with Hank also to review this.

Ivy showed the Selectmen a chart created with the current budget increases. When Jacky was in the office last she ran the numbers with the potential budget, and it put us around a 26 mil rate. Ivy did a comparison for 2024 taxes at a 21.5 mil rate to the potential 26 mil rate taxes. We will be spending this out to the group email in hopes of encouraging residents to come to the meeting to understand where we stand.

We have court for PP55 February 12th at 8:30 am.

Ivy asked the Selectmen for suggestions for the cover photo for the Annual Report. Willie suggested Loretta Grass as she was just recently presented with the Boston Cane for the Town of Knox. Josh and Jeff both agreed that was a great idea.

Josh spoke that Bo requested more sand. Josh lined Derek up to haul 1000 yards of sand.

Ivy spoke that RE410 had been in contact regarding the road being plowed. Resident says the plow truck plowed the snow directly into her driveway. Ivy spoke to Bo, who said he has not changed how he has been plowing. Selectmen said this has been an issue in the past and Bo does not do it any different year to year, he's plowing it how it needs to be done.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:40pm