

**Stowe Selectboard, Liquor Commission & Water/Sewer Commission Meeting  
Monday June 27, 2022**

Present:

Selectboard Members: William Adams, Nick Donza, Jo Sabel Courtney, Lisa Hagerty, Paco Aumand  
In Person attendees: Jeff Jackson, Sarah Henshaw, Paul Percy, Tim Morrissey, Paul Sakash, Porter Thorndike Sr, Cammy Thorndike, Porter Thorndike Jr, Amy Thorndike, Emily Rosenbaum  
There were 8 participants on Zoom.

**Call to Order**

Chair Adams called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.

**Approve the Agenda**

On a motion by Mr. Paco Aumand, seconded by Ms. Lisa Hagerty, the Board approved the agenda with the removal of Capital Project Closeouts in Consent Agenda and the addition of Proposed Transfer of FY22 Highway Operating to Capital Projects in Business.

**Executive Session – Personnel**

On a motion by Ms. Jo Sabel Courtney, seconded by Ms. Hagerty, the Board went into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters at 5:03pm.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 5:32pm.

**Consent Agenda**

1. 6/13/22 Selectboard Minutes
2. Sewer Allocation – Spruce Peak Realty/ One Spruce Peak
3. Interfaith Holiday Display
4. Liquor Consent Items
5. FY'22 Audit Contract

On a motion by Mr. Aumand, seconded by Ms. Hagerty, the Board approved the Consent Agenda as presented, with the one additional item in the Liquor Consent Items.

**Recognition of Ellen Thorndike**

Chair Adams recognized Ellen Thorndike, who has recently retired from the Board of Listers after 28 years of service. He noted she had given a lot to the community over the years, having also served on the School Board and Recreation Commission. Chair Adams said that the Town was fortunate to have such dedicated individuals like Ms. Thorndike who give their time for the betterment of the Town, and that we cannot thank her enough. Paul Percy, Chair of the Board of Listers, recalled his decades of service on the Board with Ellen, and how it went by quickly, but had been very successful over the years due to Ms. Thorndike's contributions. Ms. Thorndike's son, Porter Thorndike Sr, was in the audience to accept the award on behalf of his mother, and he said she wished to thank Tim Morrissey, Town Appraiser and Tom Vickery, former Town Appraiser as well as her fellow Listers. Ms. Thorndike was given a standing ovation for her years of service.

**FY'23 Water & Sewer Budgets**

Chair Adams opened the Public Hearing at 5:39pm to discuss the proposed Water & Sewer budgets, Capital Plan and Rate Schedule. Included in the budget and rates is a plan for the Water Rates to be decreased by 5% and the Wastewater Rates to stay the same as FY'22. There were no questions or comments from the Selectboard or public in attendance. Chair Adams closed the Public Hearing at 5:41pm.

Selectboard Meeting 6/27/22

On a motion by Ms. Hagerty, seconded by Ms. Courtney, the Board moved to approve the proposed FY'23 Water and Wastewater Budgets, Capital Plan and Rate Schedule.

Proposed Transfer – FY22 Highway Operating to Capital Projects

Mr. Safford reported that the Town Highway Department had \$53,000 remaining in their paving budget for FY'22, which is ending on Thursday 6/30/22. Public Works had received bids and awarded a contract for shim coat paving on Moscow Road, however for various reasons associated with industry capacity issues, the contractor has advised they may not be able to complete work by the end of the Fiscal Year as planned. To ensure that the proposed project can still be completed after FY'22 ends, it is recommended that funds be transferred to a capital fund project in the event that the work is not completed by the end of the day 6/30/22.

On a motion by Mr. Aumand, seconded by Ms. Hagerty, the Board approved establishing an FY22 Capital Project for paving Moscow Road and transfer \$50,000 from the Highway Operating Budget to the General Fund Capital Fund if the paving is not completed by the end of FY'22.

### **Manager's Report**

Mr. Safford reported that the Charleen McFarlane has accepted the position of Stowe's Human Resources Director. She is current HR Director for Lamoille North Supervisory Union. She will be starting on July 25, 2022.

Mr. Safford reported that there will be a Public Informational Meeting regarding the Moscow Village Road Reconstruction project on Wednesday July 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the Akeley Memorial Room with a Zoom option. This is open to the public and anyone with questions about the project or input they may like to provide is encouraged to attend. Notice has been put in the local newspaper and on Front Porch Forum and letters will be mailed to those who live in that area.

Mr. Safford reported that Verizon Wireless and T-Mobile have both applied for a Certificate of Public Good to modify telecommunications in Town. He noted that it is likely we will be seeing more of these as companies look to expand coverage and capacity. Unless otherwise instructed, staff will not provide comment on behalf of the Town.

On a motion by Mr. Aumand, seconded by Ms. Hagerty, the Board finds that premature public knowledge of pending litigation will place the municipality in jeopardy if it was subject to public disclosure due to attorney/client privileged information.

On a motion by Ms. Hagerty, seconded by Ms. Courtney, the Board went into Executive Session to receive legal advice and discuss pending litigation at 6:11pm.

On a motion by Mr. Aumand, seconded by Ms. Courtney, the Board came out of Executive Session at 7:54pm.

On a motion by Ms. Hagerty, seconded by Mr. Donza, the Board authorized the Town Manger to prepare a counter proposal consistent with the discussion in Executive Session and subject to the recommendations of the Zoning Administrator and Town Attorney.

On a motion by Mr. Aumand, seconded by Ms. Courtney, the Board appointed Sarah Henshaw to serve on the Development Review Board as an alternate for a three year term to expire April 30, 2025.

Selectboard Meeting 6/27/22

On a motion by Mr. Donza, seconded by Ms. Courtney, the Board appointed Jeff Jackson to the Board of Listers to fill a vacant seat until the next election.

There being no further business, Chair Adams adjourned the meeting at 7:56pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Abigail Sweetser.

**Stowe Selectboard, Liquor Commission & Water/Sewer Commission Meeting  
Wednesday July 6, 2022**

Present:

Selectboard Members: William Adams, Jo Sabel Courtney, Nick Donza, Paco Aumand

In Person attendees: Tim Morrissey, Lisa Walker

There was 1 participant on Zoom

**Call to Order**

Chair Billy Adams called the meeting to order at 7:36 am.

**Approve the Agenda**

On a motion by Ms. Jo Sabel Courtney, seconded by Mr. Nick Donza, the Board approved the agenda as presented.

**Set FY22 Tax Rate**

The Board was presented with the FY'23 Tax Rate Certificate to approve the Town General Fund Tax rate. Town Appraiser Tim Morrissey has calculated that based on a voter-approved budget of \$14,110,636 with \$10,821,063 to be raised by taxes, and with a FY'23 Grand List lodged by the Board of Listers at \$23,632,747, that the Town General Fund Tax Rate should be \$0.4579. Previously voter authorized tax exemptions based on the FY'23 Grand List should be \$0.0049, for a total FY'23 Municipal (non-school) Tax Rate of \$0.4628.

The FY'23 Grand List represents an increase of 3.23%, and during the budgeting process it had been estimated to grow by 3%, with an increase of \$53,716 from what was previously reflected. Staff had projected the Town General Fund Tax Rate to be \$0.4589, which is \$0.0010 more than the final amount of \$0.4579. Town Assessor Tim Morrissey indicated that this growth was largely attributed to a number of larger building projects being completed, namely the One Spruce Peak building and other larger condominium developments. He also noted some projects have been delayed due to supply chain issues and labor shortages, which should be completed and reflected in the FY'24 Grand List. Mr. Morrissey also noted that the Town will be undertaking a reappraisal that should be completed in FY'24.

The State has set the FY'23 Homestead Education Tax Rate at \$1.7390, an increase over FY'22 of \$0.0192 or 1.99%. The State has set the FY'23 Non-Homestead Education Tax Rate at \$1.8711, an increase of \$0.029 or 2.31% over FY'22. These rates are set by the State, but reflected on the Town of Stowe Tax Certificate and collected by the Town Clerks. Mr. Morrissey noted that the State utilized surplus funding to lower the Education Tax Rate for FY'23.

The Selectboard thanked Mr. Morrissey for his work to complete this process and for always coming in very close with estimated Grand List growth. Chair Adams noted that having accurate estimated is vital to the budgeting and tax rate process.

On a motion by Mr. Paco Aumand, seconded by Ms. Courtney, the Board set the FY'23 Town General Fund Tax Rate at \$0.4579 and the Voter Approved Exemption Tax Rate at \$0.0049 for a total FY'23 Municipal (non-school) Tax Rate of \$0.4628.

Chair Adams asked Town Clerk Lisa Walker about the current Tax Delinquencies post-COVID, and she indicated that delinquencies seemed to be back to normal. She noted that one tax sale had been held a few months ago, and that one of the larger delinquencies had sold at that time, allowing the Town to recoup

Selectboard Meeting 7/7/21

it's costs. She also noted that another business that had been delinquent had been sold and the delinquency paid off as part of the sale. She noted another Tax Sale will occur in September.

There being no further business, Chair Adams adjourned the meeting at 7:46am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Abigail Sweetser.