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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
January 18, 2023**

Present: Norman M. Needleman, First Selectman
Stacia R. Libby, Selectman
Bruce M. Glowac, Selectman

Norman Needleman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

First Selectman Needleman welcomed everyone to the Board of Selectmen in person and remote public access meeting via Zoom.

In attendance: First Selectman Norman M. Needleman, Selectman Stacia R. Libby, and Selectman Bruce M. Glowac.

Others in attendance: Tracey Celentano and Kelly Sterner.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to approve the agenda. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to approve the January 4, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Informational Items, Communications and Correspondence

First Selectman Needleman reported he has gone through the first pass of the 2023-2024 budget with the Finance Director Tracey Celentano. Still waiting for the final health insurance numbers and some technology numbers.

Public Announcements / Comment: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Capital Committee:

Selectman Bruce Glowac reported the committee met on January 17th. The committee listened to a presentation from ECS Solar regarding the possibility of installation of a solar panel system at the Town's Department of Public Works. The proposal was to install a 101.85 kW solar photovoltaic system with a netting tariff and with the ownership option of direct purchase. There was general discussion regarding funding options and potential tax credits. There was further discussion that there would be a need of \$60,000 for a new roof and insulation because you cannot put solar panels onto old roofs.

The committee also discussed having a generator or some type of backup power system at the elementary school. They also want to review the life expectancy of the town hall generator.

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The committee also discussed the River Road Sidewalk Project and hope to go out to bid sometime in March.

Selectman Needleman reported that the Town will apply for the next round in the state local bridge program. There is hope that the Town could coordinate the bridge project to align with the sidewalk project. There was discussion on looking at the costs associated with bridge replacement if the Town were to pay for it.

The Essex Civic Campus Enhancement Phase II – for Hubbard Field Park project is anticipated to start just after baseball season or at the end of July.

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointments and Resignations Board and Commissions

Open Town Board and Commission positions can be found at https://www.essexct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif3116/f/uploads/boards_and_commissions_website_30.pdf

The application to join a Board or Commission can be found at: https://www.essexct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif3116/f/file/file/application_to_volunteer_for_board_or_commission_fillable_4_13_18.pdf

American Rescue Plan Funds:

The Tree Warden provides a vital service to the community. The Tree Warden is responsible for trees alongside public roads and in Town public spaces.

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to approve and recommend to Board of Finance an appropriation in the amount of \$25,000 to be allocated from the American Rescue Plan Act Funds to the Public Works Department for additional tree work. Stacia Libby seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Sinking Fund Request – Finance Department Furniture

The Town Hall Finance Department was recently renovated. For the department to get organized and to have a neat and presentable office and to provide privacy needed to work efficiently, there was a request for an appropriation from the Municipal Property Sinking Fund or ARPA funds to be used for new furniture.

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to approve and recommend to the Board of Finance the appropriation of a sum not to exceed \$12,000.00 for the purchase of furniture for the finance department. Said sum to be taken from the Municipal Property Sinking Fund. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Public Hearing None

Set Town Meeting

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to set a Special Town Meeting on Wednesday, February 15 at 4:55 pm in Conference Room A. Stacia Libby seconded the motion. All in favor.

Public Comment / Announcements: None

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SELECTMEN GENERAL DISCUSSION:

First Selectman Needleman reported the Town was notified that the Town's health insurance was anticipated to increase anywhere between 8% – 10%.

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. Stacia Libby seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria P. Lucarelli