



TOWN OF LYNDON
SELECTBOARD MEETING

January 4, 2021

5:30 PM

Selectboard: **Christian Thompson-Chair, Dan Daley, Nancy Blankenship**

Officials: Dawn Dwyer, Justin Smith

Press: Todd Wellington for The Caledonian-Record

Public: Steve Gray, Mark Bean, Joe Buzzi, Jan Wade, Jillian McLaughlin

1. Adjustments to the Agenda:

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2. Sign the Orders for Weeks #52 & #53:

Motion made by Dan Daley, seconded by Nancy Blankenship, to approve the orders drawn on the Treasurer for weeks # 52 & #53 with the Treasurer to sign due to COVID-19. Motion carried 3-0.

3. Budget Discussion:

Jan Wade, Treasurer for the Cobleigh Public Library, presented their 2021 budget to the Selectboard. Since the initial budget was sent to the Selectboard, some changes have been made. There is a \$2,000 difference between in the endowments between what the Library shows and what the Town shows. The Town does the Library payroll and accounts payable at no cost to the Library. The Library's appropriation request for 2021 is \$237,650, down from \$240,000 from 2020. The Selectboard asked about the Library building conditions. Jan explained that it was suggested that the stairs leading to the upper floors are separating from the wall, the windows need attention, and they would like blinds to help keep the summer heat out and the winter heat in. When asked about whether the snow guards had been installed, Ms. Wade thought they were done. The Board inquired about the hiring of a new Library Director with the retirement of Cindy Karasinski at the end of November. The Library received fourteen applicants. The position was offered to one candidate who turned down the position due to the amount of the salary being offered. Jan is not on the hiring committee but was in hopes the committee would be meeting this week to make an offer to another candidate. There is some concern with the 2021 budget around health insurance. The budget includes insurance coverage for the director as a single person. The difference between a single person and a family plan is approximately \$20,412. Jan was asked about the endowment left to the Library from the Edith Bell-Brown estate. It was thought the Library had decided to restrict the money for the Bookmobile. Jan explained that the money did not have restrictions. The friends and family of Ms. Bell-Brown would like it used on something other than just paying bills.

Jillian McLaughlin, Director of Operations for Lyndon Rescue Inc. (LRI) addressed the Board with LRI's budget. In 2020, January and February were busy, then March and COVID came and by April calls dropped. LRI ended the year with less calls and transports. LRI did receive Cares Act funding to cover lost revenue from Medicare and Vermont Department of Health. Revenues will come in under budget, but the grant funding will help. Expenses were on target for the budget except for Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). LRI had to order more and they were more expensive than usual due to the pandemic. LRI's per Capita for 2021 is \$43.06 or \$251,039.80 for Lyndon's appropriation. Jillian explained that the feasibility study done on a new building told them what they expected: LRI did not have enough funds for a new building. There has been discussion as to what would happen if Northern Vermont University-Lyndon sold off some of the buildings, including the building housing LRI.

The collaboration discussions between LRI and Calex came to a halt due to COVID. The committee wanted to meet face-to-face. They did set some small goals such as how they can work together better, ordering efficiencies, joint training, and combined maintenance contracts.

The Selectboard finished reviewing the Town General Fund revenues. The next budget discussions will be warned for Monday, January 11th at 6 PM and Wednesday, January 13th at 5:30 PM.

4. Other:

- a. Mark Bean addressed the Selectboard asking for the removal of Sylvia Dodge from the Flood Regulations Working Group. Mr. Bean sited that Ms. Dodge is rude and is the reason the Flood Regulations is not moving forward. Christian Thompson, Chair of the Selectboard, explained that the Selectboard did not have the authority to remove members but that the Selectboard would do what they could to keep the process moving.
- b. Planning Director & Zoning Administrator: The Chair of the Selectboard, Christian Thompson, Planning Commission, Sean McFeeley, and Development Review Board, Jon Prue, will meet to discuss the Planning Director & Zoning Administrator job description before advertising the position.
Nancy Blankenship suggested having a Planning Council versus a Planning Commission, thus allowing decisions to be made by the Planning Director. The Board didn't feel they had enough information to consider this change.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM
Minutes taken by Dawn Dwyer