

DRAFT

TOWN OF ANDOVER
SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 8, 2024

Select Board Members Present: Chris Plumb, Richard Griswold, Robin Trask, Susan Leader & Melissa Gates-Perry

Select Board Members Absent: None

Public present: Joe Fromberger, Will Greer, Sarah Bennett of *Okemo Valley TV* & Jeanette Haight, clerk.

1. Call Select Board meeting to order: Chris Plumb called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

2. Act on Agenda: Richard moved to accept the agenda as amended to include Vermont Bond Bank loan information. Chris seconded. So moved.

3. Act on Minutes: Melissa moved to accept the minutes as written. Susan seconded. So moved.

4. Public Comment: Will Greer was present to ask the Board to consider adopting a resolution in favor of the proposed legislation to outlaw flavored tobacco. Susan said she sympathized with the organization's mission but personally did not favor the Select Board taking an official position. Melissa said she agreed with Susan. No action taken.

5. New Business:

A. Cyber security – Robin suggested having all Town computers/office equipment be on one consistent “cyber security” system and for all equipment to be physically in the office. Melissa to draft a letter requesting all equipment come back to the office. Jeanette to reach out to a computer professional for a recommendation on what should be done and to VLCT for any cyber security recommendations they have.

B. Update from Zoning Board - Joe briefly discussed the Planning Commission's recent public hearing. Susan asked for clarification about existing short-term rentals & who decides if they would need to apply for a conditional use permit. Joe said the Planning Commission's recommendation is for the Select Board to decide whether to “grandfather” existing STRs. Both Susan and Melissa favor having all STRs apply for a Conditional Use permit should STRs get added to the list of Conditional Uses. There was discussion about Town Meeting and what method to use for the nonbinding vote. Susan said she felt it shouldn't be a voice vote. Joe said someone at Town Meeting could move to have a paper ballot. Jeanette suggested having an Australian ballot making it possible for more people to vote (Town Meeting attendance is usually 60-70 people). Richard urged the Board to agree to have its public hearing on the subject ASAP, so it can then be discussed at Town Meeting and have the Australian ballot vote the next day. Susan asked for clarification of the concerns the two Planning Commission members who voted “no” had. Joe said it was about having to acquire both a Conditional Use permit and then other State permits (i.e. fire, wastewater...) Joe said he pointed out that isn't any different than what an inn, B&B, or other business would have to do. Melissa moved to hold the public hearing on Thursday, February 8th at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Richard seconded. So moved. Susan then moved to set the hearing as “in-person” only, meaning no Zoom. Melissa seconded. So moved. Joe told the Board the grant that was applied for to provide money to rewrite the Andover Zoning Regulations had been rejected due to the large number of applications received. He said Jason Rasmussen of MARC (our RPC) is “committed to helping get the rewriting done”. They are working together to find a way to do some of the “sensible” rewriting to keep the cost low.

C. Vermont Bond Bank loan – Jeanette shared information about the Municipal Climate Recovery Program, a loan program set up by the Vermont Bond Bank for municipalities to get loans at a very low interest rate to assist with expenses until FEMA reimbursements are received for all the July flood damage. Chris suggested applying to borrow \$900K, since the Town has spent over that amount in road repairs from the flood. Richard moved to apply for the loan in the amount of \$900,000.00. Susan seconded. So moved. Robin asked if the town would be able to submit the interest expense of the loan to FEMA for reimbursement. Jeanette to research.

6. Highways / Garage:

A. Road Commissioner's report - Chris said the conveyor chain on the Ram had to be replaced last week. He does not have any new information about the new loader. After a brief discussion, it was decided Chris would call and see if the loader purchase can be pushed out a year, since the loader we have has been repaired and is running well. He will check on what the new cost would be and how that would affect the trade-in price of the Town's loader.

7. Old Business:

A. Budgeting – The budget was tentatively finalized, ending with a total that would be 6.5% higher than this current year. The Board will go through it one last time at their January 22nd meeting. Richard moved to recommend to the voters that the \$16,428.90 surplus from 2022/23 be split equally between the Highway Fund and the Capital Equipment Fund. So moved.

8. Financial Orders: Were signed.

9. Correspondence: None.

10. Adjourn: Richard moved to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. Robin seconded. So moved.

Respectfully submitted, <hr/> Jeanette Haight, Clerk of the Board SBM 010824.min	Approved by: <p style="text-align: center;">Chris Plumb, Chair</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <p>Andover Select Board</p>
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