

**TOWN OF PARSONSFIELD
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
December 6, 2022, at the Fred Morrill Municipal Building,
634 North Road, Parsonsfield, Maine**

The Special Town Meeting was opened by the Town Clerk at 6:00PM.

Article 1: To elect a moderator to preside at said meeting.

Action: A motion and second was made to nominate Norman Blake as moderator. Mr. Blake was elected by written ballot. The Town Clerk swore Mr. Blake in as Moderator and the meeting was turned over to him.

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town to initially utilize a portion of the Federal Rescue Plan Funds (ARPA) to purchase the following item. (Use of these Federal Funds does not affect the Town's Tax Rate.):

New Vehicle for Town Deputy. up to \$40,000.00

Action: Motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written. There was a question if the vehicle was traded in every 100,000 miles. Selectmen Ed Bower explained that the Town can use ARPA funds to cover the cost instead of the Town paying \$12,000 per year for the vehicle. It was asked what was funded at the Annual Town meeting, Selectmen answered that only the Deputy was funded, not the vehicle. There was a question if the ARPA money was not going to be used, how would the Town fund the vehicle? Selectmen Ed Bower answered that there was a reserve account for the Deputy that could be used.

Article 2 passed by majority vote.

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town to initially utilize a portion of the Federal Rescue Plan Funds (ARPA) to purchase the following item. (Use of these Federal Funds does not affect the Town's Tax Rate.):

Town Hall – Pave Parking Lot up to \$65,000.00

Action: Motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written. It was asked if the paving was an approved use for the ARPA funds? Selectmen did not know but would check into it. There was discussion if the paving project was voted on during a Selectmen meeting? A comment was made that there are other higher priority items in Town. There was a lot of discussion on the needs of the Town office building such as the kitchen and upgrades rather than paving.

Article 3 did not pass by majority vote.

Article 4: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town to initially utilize a portion of the Federal Rescue Plan Funds (ARPA) to purchase the following item. (Use of these Federal Funds does not affect the Town's Tax Rate.):

Town Hall-Kitchen/Controls/Water Tank up to \$13,000.00

Action: Motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written. There was a question on what the word "initially" meant in the article. There was a question on the type of kitchen controls and water tank that was proposed to be installed. A comment was made that the real cost needs to be re-evaluated as \$13,000.00 doesn't seem enough to cover the total cost. There was much discussion on future uses for the building.

Article 4 passed unanimously.

Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$5,000.00 to increase the budget for developing the new Comprehensive Plan, to be placed in the Comprehensive Plan Reserve. (This will be added to the \$13,000 previously approved at Annual Town Meeting on September 12, 2020, Article 19.)

Action: Motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written. There was minor discussion on article and the comprehensive plan work.

Article 5 passed by majority vote.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town to close a portion of Kezar Mountain Road and a portion of Hasty Road during the winter months (November 1 through May 1st) every year starting immediately.

Action: Motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written. Selectmen Ed Bower explained that road closure orders had to be filed by September to be able to legally close the road for winter maintenance. That was not done; therefore, the Town cannot proceed with this closure. Mr. Blake did proceed to open up the article for discussion. There was concern how these closures were going to be addressed in the winter maintenance contracts. Selectmen Stacey indicated that the new contracts next year will have 2 bids, one to include these roads and one bid not including these roads. There was a lot of discussion on Hasty Road and the history behind why it was both plowed or not plowed. There was also a concern if these roads are not plowed, how this was going to affect the businesses by Province Lake area.

Article 6 failed.

Article 7: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to take whatever actions are necessary for the Town to become a member of the Maine Municipal Association Property and Casualty Pool Program, including but not limited to the execution of any contract required for such membership and the payment of any required fees or charges. The authority granted herein shall be continued until revoked.

Action: Motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written. The public asked for explanation on the article. Selectmen explained that this article is mandatory for the Town to be able to discuss potential insurance coverage with Maine Municipal Association.

Article 7 passed unanimously.

Article 8: To see if the Town will vote to approve a request for a zoning change for the property at Map R01, Lot 029 (Federal Road) from Light Industrial Office District to Village Residential District. Planning Board and Selectboard approve.

Action: Motion was made and seconded to accept the article as written. The public asked for an explanation on the article from the Selectboard. Selectmen Ed Bower explained that it was a small lot which used to be an old rest stop. The buyers of the property want to change the zoning so they can build a house on the property. There was discussion on ordinances, and whether commercial space should be changed. Sabin Beckwith spoke as a member of the Planning Board and explained that it was commercial space not being used and there are now other residences in the area of this property.

Article 8 passed by majority vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Danielle D. Taylor
Town Clerk