

TOWN OF BROWNVILLE
BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS & BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 1, 2023 ~ 6:00p.m.

American Legion Post 92 - 67 Railroad Ave. Brownville

1. **Chairman of Board of Selectpersons opens meeting:** Chairman Byron Weymouth opened the meeting at 6:03pm

Selectpersons Present: Byron Weymouth, Shelly Ekholm and Kevin Emery

Budget committee members present: Lynn Weston, Jeff Coates, Leesa Coates and Gary Chapman (via phone)

Employees Present: Alicia Harmon and Felice Lyford (via phone)

Others Present: None

2. **Review and Vote on Additional Warrant Articles – Post 2022 Audit:** Felice spoke about the Auditor's suggestions and the need to have additional articles to clarify funds spent to meet contractual obligations of a separation agreement and the creation and intent for three new reserve funds in 2022. There is also an article to accept grant funds in anticipations of an award to complete the Underpass Project on Railroad Avenue.

Article 33. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$40,605 from the Brownville Business Fund to meet the contractual obligations set forth in a Separation of Employment & Release Agreement executed on November 23, 2021 (majority of expenditures occurred in FY2022). The Board voted in February 2022 to use the funds out of the Business Fund and the Auditors believe that it should have been authorized by Town Meeting Vote. If this article doesn't pass at Town meeting, then the Auditors suggest \$10,000 come from surplus as authorized under emergency circumstances and the remaining funds would come from overlay. Ultimately, that scenario only effects Surplus, as anything left in overlay transfers to Surplus. Budget Committee made a motion to approve Article 33 as written. Motion made by Lynn Weston, seconded by Jeff Coates, all in favor. Board of Selectpersons made a motion to approve Article 33 as written. Motion made by Kevin Emery, seconded by Shelly Ekholm, all in favor.

Article 34. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectpersons to accept grant funds from the Economic Development Initiative/Community Project Funding (EDI/CPF) grant, and authorize their expenditure for the purpose of reconstructing and securing the retaining wall that supports sidewalk access and railroad bridge overpass abutment on Railroad Avenue also known as the Underpass Project, and execute any documents related to the receipt and expenditures of EDI/CPF and the Underpass Project. This article will allow the Town to accept Grant funds for the Underpass Project on Railroad Avenue. At this time there are no matching funds that need to be used. Budget Committee made a motion to approve Article 34 as written. Motion made by Leesa Coates, seconded by Lynn Weston, all in favor. Board of Selectpersons made a motion to approve Article 34 as written. Motion made by Kevin Emery, seconded by Shelly Ekholm, all in favor.

Article 35. To see if the Town will vote to create a reserve account to be used for unanticipated or excess Wages and allow those funds to be expended by the Board of Selectpersons. Articles 35, 36 & 37 are for reserves that were on the Warrant for 2022 (in with all the other reserves), but the Auditors suggested we clarify the Town's wishes to create these accounts and stipulate what they are to be used for on this year's warrant. Felice will add that the Selectboard and Budget Committee approve passage of articles. Budget Committee made a motion to approve Article 34 as written. Motion made by Jeff

Coates, seconded by Leesa Coates, all in favor. Board of Selectpersons made a motion to approve Article 34 as written. Motion made by Kevin Emery, seconded by Shelly Ekholm, all in favor.

Article 36. To see if the Town will vote to create a reserve account for Parks & Recreation capital equipment and improvements and allow those funds to be expended by the Board of Selectpersons. Budget Committee made a motion to approve Article 34 as written. Motion made by Jeff Coates, seconded by Lynn Weston, all in favor. Board of Selectpersons made a motion to approve Article 34 as written. Motion made by Kevin Emery, seconded by Shelly Ekholm, all in favor.

Article 37. To see if the Town will vote to create a reserve account for Fire - Small Equipment and allow those funds to be expended by the Board of Selectpersons. Budget Committee made a motion to approve Article 34 as written. Motion made by Jeff Coates, seconded by Lynn Weston, all in favor. Board of Selectpersons made a motion to approve Article 34 as written. Motion made by Kevin Emery, seconded by Shelly Ekholm, all in favor.

3. Open Session

- a. Felice let the Board know that we could be getting a Grant for the stream crossing on Spencer Road. This Grant will be to replace the culvert and the grant is \$150,000. Town would be responsible for an in-kind match, which will be with materials/equipment. Once this is finalized there will need to be a Special Town Meeting for passage of this project.
 - b. There was discussion on putting and extension on the Moratorium, this will give more time to draft an Ordinance for Town approval. There was a motion to extend the Moratorium Solar Ordinance made by Shelly Ekholm, seconded by Kevin Emery, all in favor.
 - c. There was a brief discussion on a used sewer flusher. Our sewer flusher is no longer functional and Kevin has been looking into purchasing a used one. New ones go for around \$85,000 and the used one he has found is around \$25,000. Kevin will talk more about this at the March 7 Board meeting.
4. **Adjournment** – Motion made by Shelly Ekholm to adjourn the meeting at 6:28pm, seconded by Kevin Emery, all in favor


*Respectfully submitted,
Alicia M. Harmon, Town Clerk*

Selectboard:


Byron Weymouth, Selectboard Chair


Kevin Emery

Dean Bellatty


Shelly Ekholm

James Hartin

Budget Committee:

Gary Chapman, Budget Comm Chair

Marie McSwine

Michael Washburn

Lynn Weston

Leesa Coates

Jeff Coates

