

General Government/Town Council Minutes for 1/3/23

1 & 2. Attendance: Clrs Gus Steeves, Jasmin Rivas; Cit Mem Denise Clemence, Martena Shea.
Non Voting: Clrs Dave Adams, John Daniel, Mike Marketti; George Chenier, TM Michael McCall.

3-6. Minutes: Voted unanimously to approve all dates (8/15, 9/12, 11/1, 11/30) without amendments, although Ms Clemence requested they be sent earlier than this afternoon and include more detail on future minutes regarding debates like that on 11/30 over giving \$200K back as a tax break vs putting it aside for building repairs.

7. Insurance transfer: Mr McCall said there were changes to the insured equipment listed from the school dept, but he wasn't sure if this meant a new vehicle or additional equipment for existing one and will bring more info to full council. Town side pays all insurance. Clr Steeves moted the agenda calls for \$463, but invoice seeks \$501; Mr McCall noted the former is all the insurer is seeking.
Motion to recommend approval: Clemence/Rivas. Approved 4-0.

8. Hyde/Dexter \$1000 Donation: Ms Clemence said she wasn't going to abstain b/c she has no say in the foundation's donations. Funds will go toward plywood, paint and other items to repair decorations. Clr Adams thanked everyone involved.
Motion to recommend acceptance: Shea/Rivas. Approved 4-0.

9. Amend Capital Policy: Clr Marketti said the Capital Planning Cmte is recommending this change (from \$10K or 3 years to \$10K and 5 yrs) based on state guidelines and fact many businesses use it. CPC and Karen Harnois are now compiling an asset list. Original policy dates to June 2018. Ms Clemence said she thought Council had already made this change, but Clr Steeves could not recall doing so.
Clr Marketti said the intent was partly to take into account the rapid changes in info technology, and others present agreed there should be flexibility regarding that area. He agreed there might be other changes and was willing to delay amending a little while, but could do it now. Clr Daniel agreed, noting there's no problem in this area now; we should "do it once and do it right."
Motion to postpone to next GG: Rivas/Clemence. Approved 4-0.

Ms Clemence asked if there's anything else GG needs to handle soon. Among items mentioned were possible needs for the fire station project, Sturbridge sewer IMA ending soon, fact January was our postponement date for drone issue, and electricity aggregation. But none were imminent.

Meeting adjourned 6:37 PM.