

**TOWN OF SANGERVILLE
SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Beginning @ 4:00pm
Wednesday May 17, 2024**

Item 1. Open Meeting: Chair called meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

A. **Selectpersons Present:** Jody Cabot (Chair), Dale Gray, and Jeff Peters

B. **Employees Present:** Michelle Nichols, Jeff Libby

C. **Public Present:**

Executive Session: Chair Cabot made a motion to go into Executive Session under 1-MRSA Subsection 405-6A, Selectperson Peters, 2nd. All in favor. Chair Cabot made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 4:35pm, Selectperson Gray 2nd. All in favor. Action taken. We are accepting Jeff Libby, our town manager's resignation as of June 6, 2024. He has offered to help us out if he can, while we are actively seeking a new town manager. Chair Cabot made a motion to accept Jeff Libby's resignation as town manger as of June 6, 2024. Selectperson Peters 2nd. All in favor.

Item 2.

People coming into the office: Chair Cabot suggested that for anyone looking to do research or who have concerns to make an appointment to either come in on a Wednesday when it's just the clerk and the visitors or at a time that is less chaotic. The suggestion comes due to witnesses how chaotic the office has gotten during such times, and making it difficult for the clerks to do their jobs. Chair Cabot suggested making better use of FOAA requests, so when allowing people access to information we have a roster of who has and who hasn't looked at it. It also gives the clerks a small window of time to actually look for it, if it's not immediately accessible to them. There will also be a fee for information because it takes up a lot of the clerk's time to find some of this information. It's not fair to the clerks. A citizen asked Chair Cabot for access to emails on the town manager's computer regarding the town property. Something like that is considered a FOAA request. Jeff Libby made a suggestion that every day to shut the office down from maybe 11 to 12 to take their breaks so that there's always two people there when the office is open. Some of the people who come into the office aren't always level headed, and get heated. He thinks it would be better for the clerks to have a little protection there because of how crazy the world is right now. Chair Cabot agrees that it is necessary because she witnessed a similar situation at the office today, and says that Michelle did a great job handling the situation. Michelle said that in trying to reason with the individual, had she not listened her next step would've been to come out from behind the desk and ask for Chair Cabot's assistance. Selectperson Gray said that he didn't think they should even let it get that far. He suggested calling 911 to have the person removed from the premises. It's not about anyone in particular, but the world we live in today is much different. There are a lot of people who don't react rationally.

Item 3.

Park Mowing: Mowing for the park comes under administration. It's not a funded item, but it is contractual. Michelle said, The mowing and the electrical for the park will put us in the negatives because we still have to pay for those, but we don't have any funding. That's a question of what do we do with the budget to equal it back up because we have contracts and we have to honor them. Jeff Libby said, I can take that anywhere within that administrative budget, so if I gain something here that'll pay for the mowing. What I don't have is a rec budget. We do have \$145, but we didn't give them a budget, so we're stuck with \$145 at the moment. They wanted to do a rec day, buy paint, and they wanted to do a whole bunch of stuff, but nobody ever submitted a scope of action to the town, so we didn't know what they wanted to do. We have 20 some odd people there, but I've got to try to encourage them, we'll come back around. Yes, this could be later in the year if we do the special. They mentioned the \$15,000. I can't touch the \$15,000, that comes under you guys. It takes a town meeting to spend that, so you might as well bring that all back to the town, and see if you can get some of that stuff corrected. The painting and all that stuff is going to have to wait until we got a budget for that, and we don't have a budget for that.

Item 4.

Dock Requests: Michelle said, we've had more requests for the boat dock to go out because they're waiting to put their boats in the water. Chair Cabot asked, is that something that has to wait as well? Jeff Libby said, that comes under that same budget. Selectperson Gray said, we already know that line item is going to be negative, we don't even have money to pay salary to get us through the year, period. It's all in the same group. Jeff Libby said, it's \$58,000 in change. That's

a high line to come up with \$58,000 all fixed stuff in there. Chair Cabot said, what I don't understand is why this group of people voted that way. Jeff Libby said, I don't think they understood. I think I should've stood up, and talked again. We did have the comment, you took something from us, we'll take something from you. That's what happens with a vote in the political atmosphere, and sometimes you've got to live with the repercussions of that. Selectperson Gray said, that means no boat. The town office is either going to close, people are going to get laid off, or we've got to go back and ask for more money. Jeff Libby said, I think you need to go back around, and you need to explain it a little bit, and see if you can get some money put back into that, and this is why. Chair Cabot said, with that said, Michelle gave me the figure for the budget, not 100% yet, but for the school is \$961,180 that breaks down to \$80,000 a month that we're cutting a check to the school. Jeff Libby said, so you look at our overall budget for the town, we cut the overall, if the budget stayed the way it was written, prior to town meeting. We cut that budget from the prior year 6%, and school budget this year is going up, if it stays the way it's proposed is going up 9%, so we're going to have a 3% difference, which in the scheme of things, the way inflation and everything's gone, 3% is not bad. But roughly, rough numbers, that's where we are, we're 3% more than what we were allowed. Selectperson Gray said, if we got the 58. Jeff Libby said, if everything stays the same, if the budget was back to where it was and the school stays where it is. Chair Cabot said, so that's something just to keep in mind that those bills come around really fast, especially February. Does anyone else have anything to add? Michelle said, we had a call this afternoon from a Bruce for the Spirit of America, and they would like to honor our Sangerville Fire Department, so I have to call him back and either give him the blessing or maybe you have somebody else that would be someone that you want to put in that position. Chair Cabot said, no, I don't. Anybody else? Jeff Libby said, I've got one more thing. I was going to bring it up on the 22nd, but I think it's more important to bring it up today, to finish our budget, we have to have RHR Smith come back and go through three months worth of checking and somebody there that proposal came in the other day. It's \$150 per hour with a maximum of \$5400 to do it, so \$150 an hour. Chair Cabot said, cap that at \$5400. Selectperson Gray said, we have no choice, but to have the audit in the books done. It's going to turn into \$10,000 if we don't hurry up. Michelle said, I believe we actually increased that, so that when we went to budget it was \$10,000, so we've spent as of today, \$6000 on the audit. Chair Cabot said, so that begs the next question, obviously we're going to have to have a special town meeting. Do we want to talk about that or do we want to talk about that in our next meeting, think about it. Selectperson Gray said, My own opinion, I would like to see those big packages go to the Engineers so we could have that conversation at the same time because I think they're both equally as important if we're going to have a special right did we get a time frame for that. Chair Cabot said, Jeff Libby, where are we with regard to that? Jeff Libby said, well you got my resignation letter. I think what the three of you need to do, I think, we are all four of us are to get together, come to the town office, and go through the folder, let's look at all the information we have and decide. We need to have a number, and then we have to write something up. We want this, this, and this, and then that needs to be sent out to everybody, but I think first of all we ought to look at what we have in that folder, and maybe that decision will change a little bit. Chair Cabot said, I know you gave me an Engineer's report, that sort of broad. Jeff Libby said, that was an outside up, looking at all the information we had thus far. It was a pretty good report. Chair Cabot said, I just sort of thought it tidied up all the you know, all this information here and information there. Selectperson Gray asked, so when do we schedule that so we can. Jeff Libby said, it's just an overview from an outsider looking at it. Selectperson Gray, well maybe that's a starting point for us to move forward. Chair Cabot said, I've read the whole engineer's report that sort of did a summarization. The board talked about posting the town manager position again. Selectperson Gray does believe that it can be a part time position. He doesn't want to lose a candidate that may only be able to do the job part time. Chair Cabot pointed out that a full time town manager gets health insurance. Jeff Libby said that it's all under administrative. The board discussed their email communication system, and made sure everyone had an idea of how to tag emails from each other. Tag it or something, so it's less likely to get missed.

Item 3: Two Minute Limit: Chair Cabot said, the last thing to talk about was that they were going to stick to the two minute limit for people who show up to speak. There needs to be a limit in regard to how much time we will spend on that if it were an agenda item as well. Anyone who shows up and would like to speak, they are free to speak for two minutes, and then we'll move to the next speaker. If they would like to go on the agenda, we're going to have a limit of, and they would need to check in with Michelle the day before to get on the agenda, and if they don't end up on the agenda. Jeff Libby said, I think it's only fair to you guys if everybody goes on the agenda, and you guys see the agenda and you know what they're going to talk about, so you don't get broadsided, if you just let everybody that walks through the door talk, you lose control. You lose control, your time and your meeting. Selectperson Gray said, I'm ok if someone comes in, and they want to bring something up, but the back and forth can't continue because nobody has had a chance to prepare, but if somebody wants to come in and say what they need to say, 2 minutes. Chair Cabot said, and

that's it and then we'll move on to the next topic or item. Maybe if they are on the agenda they can get a limit of 15 minutes, maybe. Selectperson Gray said, it is what it is. You're the chair, and you're allowed to move forward, so if you feel that enough is enough then you move it forward, or I or Jeff Peters can. Chair Cabot said, at this point, I would limit it to two people on the agenda to see how that goes, so if they want longer than their two minutes that we're not going to do back and forth they have to be on the agenda because the meetings are too long. Getting back to the May 22nd, is the school board vote at the high school. Selectperson Gray and Michelle said they believed it was at the middle school.

Adjourn.

Chair Cabot a motion to adjourn at 4:34pm, Selectperson Gray, 2nd. All in favor.

**THE NEXT MEETING IS May 22, 2024, at the Fire Station (*Agenda subject to change without notice*)
Meeting Changed to May 28, 2024.**

Respectfully submitted,

Town Manager

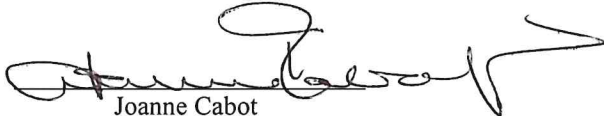


Michael Wark

Jeffrey Peters



Dale Gray



Joanne Cabot