

**Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 18, 2024**

Members

David Paquette
William Baldwin
Robert Worden
Gregory Spero
Wendy Barker

Others Present

John Apple, Town Administrator
James Garrity, Community Energy, Town Moderator
Angela Wesson, Asst. Town Administrator

6:00 PM Open Reorganization Meeting:

Mr. John Apple opened the March 18, 2024 reorganization meeting of the Atkinson Board of Selectmen at 6:00 PM and requested the Board move to swearing in of officials. He introduced Ms. Juliana Hale, the new Town Tax Collector and Clerk.

➤ Swearing in of Officials

Selectman Worden swore in Ms. Hale for a term of three years effective March 18, 2024.

➤ Elect Chair and Vice Chair

Selectman Paquette would like to elect the Chair and Vice Chair and make committee assignments at the same time. He pointed out that the Selectmen are all busy with multiple tasks. He also stated that traditionally, Selectmen serving the third year of their term are traditionally appointed as Chair of the Board of Selectmen. If elected Chair, he and Vice Chair Baldwin would have to give up liaison assignments. Selectman Paquette prefers to keep his assignment as liaison to the Budget Committee rather than be Chair.

Selectman Spero stated that traditionally, the newest Selectman is assigned as liaison to the Budget Committee. However, he would like to be nominated Chair. He believes that he can still handle his duties as liaison to the Fire Department.

Selectman Worden stated that he has family obligations, he is grateful to be considered, but his family must take precedent. He is also very concerned about funding recreation. He would like to revisit recreation funding as a group and work to rebuilding Atkinson spirit and work toward having Atkinson Days return late this summer. At this point his focus is recreation.

Vice Chair Baldwin stated he is the most senior Selectman on the Board. He has been Chair a couple of times. He thinks some changes need to be made on some committees and liaison commitments. He knows he can lead the Board, this may be his last year and he would like to have the opportunity to lead it again.

Selectman Barker stated that she is the newest member of the Board. She watches the Board of Selectmen meetings on ACTV and has had the opportunity to observe everyone. As Chair of the Budget Committee she also has had the opportunity to work with everyone at one point or another. She stated that she would prefer to have Selectman Spero nominated as Chair because of his leadership during a very long and difficult Town election. She thinks that Selectman Spero has some great ideas to move forward and is in touch with the people of the Town of Atkinson.

Selectman Barker stated that she would like to be nominated as liaison to the Budget Committee. She is the first year candidate and traditionally the first year candidate is nominated to the Budget Committee. She has a good working relationship with the entire Committee. She also has some great ideas to bring collaboration between the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee to work together year round as opposed to just during budget season.

Selectman Paquette stated that if Selectman Barker would like to be liaison to the Budget Committee, then he would like to be elected Chair of the Board of Selectmen. It is the third year of his term. Both Selectman Spero and Selectman Baldwin have been Chair of the Board of Selectmen before. He is not sure if he will run at the end of this term. Selectman Paquette pointed out that a Police Station Steering Committee will still be needed because the Town needs a new Police Station and this will require a great deal of Selectman Baldwin.

Selectman Paquette also stated that Selectman Spero will have a lot to do with the Fire Department and the new ambulance contract, especially presenting the contract and extra staffing to the Budget Committee. Selectman Spero explained that if the Town renews its contract with Trinity Ambulance, extra staffing will not be an issue in the immediate future.

Vice Chair Baldwin stated that he is not interested in being liaison for the Police Station Steering Committee. Selectman Worden asked Selectman Spero if he would be interested and Selectman Spero agreed.

Selectman Spero made a motion to appoint Selectman Dave Paquette Chair and Selectman Bill Baldwin Vice Chair of the Atkinson Board of Selectman. Selectman Barker seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

Mr. Apple requested a roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote: Selectman Spero, yes; Selectman Worden, yes Vice Chair Baldwin, no; Selectman Barker, yes; Selectman Paquette, abstain. Vote: 3/1/1. The motion passes.

Mr. Apple relinquished the Chair to Chair Paquette. Chair Paquette requested the Board review Selectman Committee Assignments.

➤ 2024/2025 Selectman Committee Assignments

Discussion:

Chair Paquette reviewed the assignments. Selectman Worden advised Selectman Barker to take the “Right To Know” course and gave Selectman Barker a copy of the new State “Right To Know” regulations.

Selectman Worden volunteered to be Ex-Officio to the Planning Board provided Selectman Spero acted as alternate during baseball season. Selectman Spero agreed.

Selectman Worden advised Selectman Barker that he would help her with her “Right to Know” assignment. Selectman Barker is concerned whether she can accomplish everything. Chair Paquette informed her that her assignments can change if there are problems. Selectman Barker agreed to liaison with Highway Safety because she is already liaison with Public Works.

Chair Paquette reminded Selectman Worden that an update on the Town safety manual is still needed.

Selectman Worden asked Mr. Apple the status of MS4. Mr. Apple replied that the major report was finished but it will be an ongoing task and the Town is starting the fifth year.

Selectman Worden informed Selectman Spero if he needed assistance with the Police Steering Committee he would back him up. Selectman Spero agreed.

Following are committee assignments:

COMMITTEE	ACTIVITY	ASSIGNED SELECTMAN
Critical Issues and Items:		
Personnel		Selectman Paquette
Policies & Procedures		Selectman Paquette
Right-to-Know		Selectman Barker
Welfare		Vice Chair Baldwin
Boards/Committees:		
Budget Committee	Ex-Officio	Selectman Barker
Budget Committee Alternate	Ex-Officio	Chair Paquette
Planning Board	Ex-Officio	Selectman Worden
Planning Board Alternate	Ex-Officio	Selectman Spero
Capital Improvement Program Committee	Liaison	Chair Paquette
Conflict of Interest Committee	Liaison	Selectman Barker
Conservation Commission Liaison	Liaison	Selectman Worden
Energy Commission	Liaison	Selectman Barker
Trustees of the Trust Funds	Liaison	Chair Paquette
Water Resource Committee	Liaison	Selectman Barker
Zoning Board of Adjustment	Liaison	Vice Chair Baldwin
Required Ad-Hoc Committees:		

Highway Safety Committee	Liaison	Selectman Barker
Joint Loss Management Committee	Liaison	Selectman Worden
Departments:		
Assessing	Liaison	Vice Chair Baldwin
Building/Code Enforcement	Liaison	Vice Chair Baldwin
Cable	Liaison	Chair Paquette
Cemetery	Liaison	Chair Paquette
Elder Services	Liaison	Selectman Worden
Fire	Liaison	Selectman Spero
Library	Liaison	Selectman Spero
Police – Contract	Liaison	Vice Chair Baldwin
Public Works	Liaison	Selectman Barker
Recreation	Liaison	Selectman Worden
Town Clerk Tax Collector	Liaison	Selectman Worden
Other:		
Atkinson Academy/Timberlane	Liaison	Selectman Spero
Historical Society	Liaison	Selectman Spero
MS4	Liaison	Selectman Barker
Police Station Steering Committee	Co-Chair	Selectman Spero/Selectman Worden back up

Selectman Spero made a motion to accept the liaison assignments as designated in the above table. Selectman Worden seconded the motion. Vote: 5/0/0. The motion passes.

➤ 2024/2025 Selectman Meeting Schedule

Chair Paquette stated that the administration staff has drafted a new meeting schedule which is included in the packet. The Board of Selectmen will meet on every other Monday starting next Monday, March 25, 2024.

Selectman Worden stated that he added the Saturday of the Deliberative Session which he believes will be February 1, 2025. He would like to meet at 8:30 AM and hopes it will be an effective meeting.

Chair Paquette informed the Board that there will also be some workshops, at least one for budgets and one as a planning workshop. The budget workshop should be in September or October.

Mr. Apple stated that if the Board agrees, a workshop to discuss goals could be scheduled after the next meeting. Selectman Worden asked about a list of goals. Chair Paquette requested that board members give a list of any goals they would like to reach to Mr. Apple prior to the March 25, 2024 meeting.

➤ Approve Concurrence with Emergency Plan

Chair Paquette stated that this is yearly. Mr. Apple informed the Board that the current plan is from 2012 and is adopted each year. The Department of Homeland Security has given the Town money to draft a new Emergency Plan and it should be ready by the end of the year. The current plan must be accepted as is and there will be another vote once the new plan is completed.

Chair Paquette requested a motion to accept the current Emergency Plan.

Vice Chair Baldwin made a motion to approve concurrence with the current Emergency Operations Plan. Selectman Worden seconded the motion. Vote: 5/0/0. The motion passes.

Chair Paquette concluded the reorganization meeting and thanked the Board for electing him as Chair.

6:30 PM Open Regular Meeting:

Chair Paquette opened the March 18, 2024 public meeting of the Atkinson Board of Selectmen at 6:30 PM.

➤ Pledge of Allegiance

Selectman Barker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

➤ Attendance

Selectman Spero, Selectman Worden, Vice Chair Baldwin, Chair Paquette and Selectman Barker are present. Mr. John Apple, Town Administrator, Ms. Angela Wesson, Asst. Town Administrator and other attendees are present.

Appearances:

➤ Community Energy – James Garrity

Mr. Jim Garrity, Atkinson Energy Commission Chair came forward. Mr. Garrity explained that the Energy Commission also serves as the Electricity Aggregation Committee. They have been working on the Community Energy initiative since last September. Mr. Garrity presented a slide show reviewing the work of the Atkinson Energy Commission.

In September, the Board of Selectmen decided to go forward with pursuing Community Power and signed an agreement with New Hampshire Community Power (“CPNH”) on September 18, 2023. A committee was also established on September 18, 2023. The committee drafted an electric aggregation plan with the help of CPNH. There were 2 public hearings in December. The committee finalized the plan after the public hearings and submitted it to the Public Utilities Commission (“PUC”) on January 10, 2024. PUC approved the plan on February 13, 2024.

The plan was submitted to Atkinson voters as Warrant Article 16 at Town Meeting, March 12, 2024. The plan received an 86% “yes” vote. The final step is official approval from the Board of Selectmen to contract with CPNH to provide all the services in order to bring Atkinson in as a member and run it.

Mr. Garrity reviewed the make up of the CPNH for the Board again. At present, over 50 municipalities representing 30% of the population of New Hampshire belong. It has a bigger load than Unitel and Liberty. CPNH will be purchasing more than a million megawatt hours for its members by the end of 2024.

Next, Mr. Garrity reviewed a chart of CPNH rates. Their default basic rate is 8.1 cents per kilowatt hour. It is the lowest rate in the State, lower than all other utility companies. An Atkinson homeowner using about 1000 kwh per month would save about \$26.18 per month. An Eversource user would save about \$18 per month. Savings for the entire Town would be about \$60,000 per month.

The next step for the Board of Selectmen is to pass a resolution stating that the Town of Atkinson wants to join CPNH, then appoint the Town Administrator to be the executive representative for the Town and detail his responsibilities. Once the motion is passed, Mr. Apple will sign the contract and pass it on to CPNH. Atkinson residents will see the change on their bills in June or July. Anyone can opt out if they wish. If a resident is in a third party contract, that will not change unless the resident chooses to do so. There are also other CPNH rates a resident can opt in on.

There will be public information sessions and mailings will be sent out informing residents they can join Atkinson Community Power.

Mr. Garrity asked for questions. Selectman Barker asked if there was something on the website. Mr. Garrity stated that there would be.

Mr. Apple stated that the contract has been reviewed by the Town Attorney but would recommend that the Board make a motion contingent upon final review by the Town Attorney. The main question is regarding the cost sharing agreement and exactly where cost sharing takes place. It appears to be included in the rates charged to the residents of the Town. There is no cost born to the Town but there is an agreement that these administrative and operational costs will be worked into the actual rate. Mr. Garrity explained that administrative costs are included in the 8.1 cent base rate.

Selectman Worden made a motion to allow Mr. Apple, the Town Administrator, to sign the contract for the Town of Atkinson to join Community Power New Hampshire to provide electric power contingent upon final approval of the contract by Sumner Kallman, Town Attorney. Selectman Spero seconded the motion. Vote: 5/0/0. All in favor. The motion passes.

Chair Paquette requested to move to new business.

New Business:

- Helen Karopoulos Fund – Elder Services

Chair Paquette requested Mr. Apple speak. Mr. Apple explained that Elder Services has approximately 3 different trust funds to help fund different aspects of the services. One of the trust funds is the Helen Karopoulos Fund. The fund started with approximately \$800,000 and was funded so that the interest accumulated can be used to benefit Elder Services for the general well being of the Atkinson elderly population. There is about \$895.44 in accumulated interest in the fund. The Atkinson Board of Selectmen has decided to remove that amount from the Helen Karopoulos fund in order to pay for fuel and maintenance costs of Elder Services rather than pay for fuel and maintenance for Elder Services with funds from the Operating Fund.

Selectman Worden made a motion to release \$895.54 of interest from the Helen Karopoulos Fund to the Elder Services program to pay for fuel invoices as posted and past approved by the Atkinson Board of Selectmen. The motion was seconded by Selectman Spero. Vote: 5/0/0. The motion passes.

➤ Elder Services Staff Resignation

Chair Paquette informed the Board that Nancy Louiselle has resigned from Elder Services. She was working four days a week. Denise Andrews will be filling in and working five days a week for now.

Selectman Worden made a motion to accept with regret the resignation of Nancy Louiselle as Scheduling Coordinator for Atkinson Elder Services effective March 11, 2024 and with gratitude for a job well done. Selectman Spero seconded the motion. Vote: 5/0/0. All in favor. The motion passes.

Selectman Worden made a motion to welcome back Denise Andrews as Scheduling Coordinator at a rate of \$18.00 per hour for five days a week, 20 hours per week effective March 11, 2024. Selectman Spero seconded the motion. Vote: 5/0/0. All in favor. The motion passes.

➤ Zoning Board of Adjustments Resignation and Police Station Steering Committee Resignations

Chair Paquette informed the Board that Mr. Robert Connors has requested to resign from the Police Station Steering Committee and the Zoning Board of Adjustments.

Selectman Worden requested Vice Chair Baldwin as Chair of the Police Steering Committee read the letter of resignation from Mr. Connors into the minutes in order to inform residents of how difficult it was to work through the last election cycle.

“...After much reflection and deep regret, I am tendering my resignation from the Police Station Steering Committee and Zoning Board of Adjustment. I will serve at my last ZBA tonight, 13 March.

After having a front row seat in this election period, I saw the good, bad and ugly in Town politics. I witnessed elected officials and those seeking office actively undermining the departments they are supposed to be supporting and spreading misinformation and smears. Actively going door to door telling people to vote against investments in our public safety and public works (one of them came to my house/neighborhood). Their

unscrupulous activities didn't stop there, they recruited others to join their cause and had a chat group to discuss how to collectively defeat warrant articles. Those same people are now in positions where they are going to continue to negatively impact the operations of this town. I can't/won't, in good conscience, be part of that.

It was an incredible honor to serve on the ZBA for seven years and the PSSC for a year. When I take on a job, even as a volunteer, I give 200%. I think you all saw that and appreciated my passion and drive.

I made some great friends at Town Hall, BOS, ZBA, APD, AFD and DPW and got to see how hard you all work and how devoted you are to do the right thing for this town. My resignation is the only way I can (currently) protest the damage they have done and will do to all of you and the great work you do. I really appreciate what you, Angela, Sue #2, and Julianna and her staff have done to serve honorably. I appreciate the Board of Selectman and all you have accomplished during your tenure. I also appreciate what the APD and AFD do every day, only to not get the support they deserve. You are all appreciated more than you know! !

Once again, it was truly an honor and pleasure to work with such dedicated public servants. I will always cheer you on and continue to try to help you all in the background. I mostly hope our friendships endure..."

Selectman Worden made a motion to accept the resignation with regret of Mr. Bob Connors from the Zoning Board of Adjustments and from the Police Steering Committee effective March 13, 2024. Selectman Spero seconded the motion.

Discussion: Selectman Spero extended his thanks to Mr. Connors and all volunteers. The Town is blessed to have a lot of dedicated volunteers. The last vote was very heated and there were a lot of surprises in the vote results.

Vote: 4/1/0. Four in favor and one opposed.

Chair Paquette asked Mr. Apple if there was another resignation. Mr. Apple informed him that Ms. Karen Steele and Mr. Dave Cacciotti also resigned from the Police Steering Committee.

Selectman Spero made a motion to regretfully accept the resignations of Mr. Dave Cacciotti and Ms. Karen Steele from the Police Station Steering Committee effective March 13, 2024. Selectman Worden seconded the motion and thanked them for their service. Vote: 4/1/0. Four in favor. One opposed. The motion passes.

Chair Paquette requested Mr. Apple review the default budget.

➤ Default Budget Overview

Mr. Apple informed the Board that the proposed 2024 Town budget did not pass. The Town will need to operate under a default budget. The default budget is approximately \$430,000 less than the proposed budget. Town administration has gone through the budget and has preliminarily found some places to save. Mr. Apple has some options for the Board to consider and would also like some direction from the Board as to how to proceed. Mr. Apple has reached out to department heads to ask that they go through

their budgets to see where they can find savings and asking them to be very conservative while operating under the default budget.

Mr. Apple is asking the Board to look at staff wages, especially COLA and merit increases. The COLA increase this year was 2% and six individuals received merit increases of 2% and 4%. The staff increases combined with the associated FICA and Medicare amount to a little less than \$50,000 in total. This is not much, but it is for staff members who provide services to the Town. These staff increases do not incorporate the union contract with the Police and the pay matrixes for the fire department. They also do not take into account the Town Clerk/Tax Collector office being combined.

Chair Paquette requested discussion.

Selectman Barker stated that several police officers have resigned and asked if those resignations were taken into consideration and also if the resignations were a place the Town could save for at least a few months because the Town will not be paying as many officers as intended.

Mr. Apple responded that this is an area for discussion. However, he believes that the police department will have a new hire for the Board to approve at the next meeting. The resignations together with having one officer out on medical leave make the police department down four positions.

Chair Paquette asked Mr. Apple if he has a preliminary budget for the Board to look at. Mr. Apple responded that he could send the Board some preliminary numbers but would like input from the department heads before drafting a new budget. He wanted to bring the default budget to the Board to see how they would like to proceed.

Vice Chair Baldwin agreed that the first step should be to send the default budget to all department heads to see where they could make cuts. He stated that the Board members should also review the default budget to see what areas they thought could be cut. Vice Chair Baldwin stated that \$430,000 is a big impact and the Board should try to make it as painless as possible.

Selectman Worden stated that he believes the Board can find the money for the staff COLA and merit increases. It is very important to take care of Town employees. The Town is funded through the end of March. Then there is April, May and June. The Board should know where it stands and what programs need to or can be cut by the end of June. With the additional work of the employees in the Tax Collectors office, it is very important that they receive their COLA and merit increases. Mr. Apple stated that the total amount for staff increases is under \$50,000. The increases in the pay matrix for the Fire Department and Elder Services are more.

Mr. Apple stated that he has not given the department heads a time line for their input as yet. Selectman Spero stated that he would like to see input from department heads before the Board makes any decisions. He does agree with giving staff their raises, the Town does have the funds for that. Mr. Apple stated he should be able to provide some information from the department heads at the next meeting. Selectman Spero agreed

with Selectman Barker that with staff resignations and retirements there may be some extra money in their budgets.

Chair Paquette stated that the direction is to keep all the salary and wage increases proposed and to pay all contracts. From there, the Board can look at where spending has not taken place due to understaffing.

Selectman Worden pointed out that the reason for the meeting next week is to agree on COLA and merit increases for staff. They are due April 1, 2024.

Chair Paquette made a motion for employees to receive their COLA and Merit increases. Vice Chair Baldwin seconded the motion for discussion.

Discussion: Vice Chair Baldwin agreed that staff should get their COLA and merit increases but asked where the money will come from. It cannot be taken from the undesignated funds.

Chair Paquette responded that services can be cut. The Budget Committee agrees that wants must be separated from needs. He stated that the Library is a want, Elder Services is a want, the Community Center is a want, and Recreation is a want. There are lots of places to take money from. Taking money from employees is another issue.

Vice Chair Baldwin does not disagree. Chair Paquette stated that the first consideration is paying employees, the Town cannot afford to lose more employees. Vice Chair Baldwin stated that some decisions will need to be made and Town residents may be unhappy with them.

Mr. Apple stated that Ms. Wesson has gone through the budget for the Town Administrator. The Town will work with Block 5, their contractor, on the IT budget to see what programs are essential. Some money was saved by paying for legal services hourly under the new contract. If calls to the Town Attorney are cut down, money can be saved there. There are roughly 35 small trash carts, so large trash carts will not need to be purchased. There are a few other areas. The two main items are staff and ambulance service. Combined, they come to a little under \$200,000. The Town must be able to fund those items and either cut services or find ways for departments to operate and deliver services on a smaller budget. The Town finished 2023 with a little over \$200,000 surplus. The last time the Town went to a default, the Town finished the prior year with a surplus as well.

Vote: 5/0/0. All in favor. The motion passes.

Chair Paquette requested the Board turn to Old Business.

Old Business:

Assessing:

➤ 2024 Veterans Tax Credit

○ Map 14 Lot 1

Deny

Vice Chair Baldwin made a motion to deny Veteran's tax credits to Map 14, Lot 1. The motion was seconded by Selectman Spero. Vote: 5/0/0. All in favor.

Chair Paquette requested the Board turn to the Elderly Exemption.

➤ 2024 Elderly Exemption

- Map 21, Lot 1-10B Deny

Vice Chair Baldwin made a motion to deny the 2024 Elderly Exemption to Map 21, Lot 1-10B. The motion was seconded by Selectman Spero . Vote: 5/0/0. All in favor.

➤ 2024 Solar Exemption

- Map 2 Lot 68 Grant \$17,000

Selectman Spero made a motion to grant the 2024 Solar Exemption to Map 2, Lot 68 in the amount of \$17,000. The motion was seconded by Selectman Worden. Vote: 5/0/0. All in favor.

Chair Paquette requested liaison reports.

Liaison Reports:

Fire Department: Mr. Apple and Selectman Spero met with the Fire Chief and set some goals for 2024. The first goal is starting meetings with the other towns in the co-operative for ambulance transportation. The first meeting will be in April and the Fire Chiefs as well as one member from the Board of Selectmen and the town administrator from each town will attend. This will give a status of how things are working with Trinity and what the feelings are for next year. The Fire Chief is also working on options for new staffing that he would like to present to the Board. He will present them to the Town Administrator before coming to the Board. He would also like to fill the full time position that is open.

Elder Services: Selectman Worden stated that he is grateful to have Ms. Denise Andrews as Scheduling Coordinator. Having her return to that role is a big boost to the department.

Recreation: Selectman Worden reported that the Recreation Department is starting to work on the return of Atkinson Days in early September. He can discuss this at another time.

Planning Board: Vice Chair Baldwin reported that the Planning Board did a lot of good work. One helpful change is meetings will start at 6:30 PM and hearings will start at 7:00 PM so the meetings will end earlier. Ms. Killam is continuing as Chair and she does a great job.

Zoning Board of Adjustment: Vice Chair Baldwin stated that the ZBA made history in Town and gave kudos to the Chair of the ZBA and the Board members for the way they

handled some very contentious public hearings. The community is fortunate to have a group of dedicated volunteers for the ZBA. They are very skilled and knowledgeable.

Police Station Steering Committee: Vice Chair Baldwin stated that it was great to serve with all of them. It was the first time he served with a Committee with so many different skill sets. Unfortunately, some bad things were said and some people left. He hopes that Selectman Spero will pick it up and continue with it. Vice Chair Baldwin will be there as liaison to the Police Department to help them if they need it.

Budget Committee: Selectman Barker stated that she would like to speak about the Budget Committee and stated that before she left her position as Budget Committee Chair she expressed an interest in having more collaboration between the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen. She would like some informative workshops with the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen and also have a member of the Budget Committee present at the Board of Selectmen meeting. Also, start an email chain to get reports regarding expenses to the Budget Committee. Chair Paquette stated she should talk to Mr. Apple about an email chain.

Selectman Barker stated that there was a reorganization meeting for the Budget Committee but she canceled it before she was elected to the Board of Selectmen. It will be rescheduled for the second week in April. Selectman Barker sent an email to Mr. Apple regarding training for the new appointees.

Selectman Spero stated that he would like to have someone from the Budget Committee there when he meets with the Fire Department. Selectman Barker agreed.

Chair Paquette requested the Board turn to donations.

Donations:

- Elder Services Transportation Fund - \$560.00

Selectman Worden made a motion to accept donations for the Elder Services Transportation Fund in the sum of \$560.00 and thanked everyone for their contributions. Selectman Spero seconded the motion. Vote: 5/0/0. All in favor.

- Recreation Revolving Fund - \$655.00

Selectman Worden made a motion to accept a donation totaling \$655.00 in memory of Cecelia Blanch for the Recreation P&F Fund with appreciation. It is line number 63.63835.000.01 Selectman Spero seconded the motion. Vote: 5/0/0. All in favor.

Chair Paquette requested the Board move to approval of minutes.

Approval of Minutes:

March 4, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectman Worden had the following amendments:

- Page 5, Line 226 – should say did not know anything about the Planning Board
- Page 6, Line 243 should say Janet Stevens, District 3 Executive Counselor
- Page 6, Line 257 that number 191 acres should be 193 acres acquired.

Selectman Paquette made the following corrections:

- Line 429 should state Vice Chair Baldwin
- Lines 500, 511 and 523 say Chair Cacciotti left the room should be deleted. That should be line 487. Instead of recused, it should state absent. Delete the last sentence.

Selectman Worden made a motion to accept the regular meeting minutes of Monday, March 4, 2024 as amended. The motion was seconded by Selectman Spero. Vote: 4/0/1. Four in favor, one abstaining.

FYI: none

Future Agenda: The next Board of Selectmen Meeting will be held on Monday, March 25, 2024, at 6:00 PM.

There are no nonpublic meetings scheduled.

Mr. Jim Garrity, Town Moderator, came forward to inform the Board that there was a request for recount on Friday on the two year budget committee race. An election recount on that race must be done before Monday. The recount can be held Friday, March 22, 2024 at 6:00 PM, Saturday or Sunday afternoon. The Board of Recount by State law is the Moderator, the Clerk and the Board of Selectmen. The Moderator and the Clerk can appoint additional counters. Mr. Garrity plans to have five teams of two. Mr. Garrity needs to know what night so he can inform the candidates. Selectman Barker prefers Saturday or Sunday afternoon. Selectman Worden would like Sunday afternoon.

The Board agreed to hold the recount on Sunday afternoon at 2:00 PM. Mr. Garrity will notify the candidates. Vice Chair Baldwin may not be able to attend. Mr. Garrity requested he inform Mr. Apple and Mr. Garrity will swear in a pro-tem. Mr. Garrity stated that the recount should take 3-4 hours.

There was no more discussion from the Board. Chair Paquette stated that as Chair he would open every meeting to the public at the end. Chair Paquette opened the meeting to the public. There was no discussion from the public.

Chair Paquette adjourned the March 18, 2024 meeting of the Atkinson Board of Selectmen at 7:25 PM.