

**West Ossipee Fire Precinct
Jewell Hill Fire Station, West Ossipee, NH
2023 Annual Meeting
Saturday, March 11, 2023**

Commissioners Present: Patricia Pustell, Gregory Howard, Denise Castle
Moderator: Robert Pustell
Minutes Taken By: DorisAnn Allenson, Precinct Clerk
Gregory Howard, Commissioner

Moderator Pustell called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and explained meeting procedures.

Article I: *To elect all necessary precinct officers for the ensuing year as follows: to choose one Commissioner for a term of three (3) years; one Clerk for a term of one (1) year; one Treasurer for a term of one (1) year; and a Moderator for a term of one (1) year.*

Moderator Pustell suggested moving Article I to the end of the meeting. There were no objections.

Motion: by Commissioner Gregory Howard, seconded by Jessica Colpoys to move this to last. All in favor, motion passed.

Article II: *To see if the precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Hundred and Twenty-Two Thousand and Nine Hundred and Eighty-Three dollars (\$422,983.00) for general precinct operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. (Majority vote required)*

Executive	\$11,450.00
Financial Administration	\$6,100.00
Legal	\$1,000.00
Government Buildings	\$53,316.00
Insurance	\$25,500.00
Fire	\$325,017.00
Street Lighting	\$600.00

Commissioner Howard explained that the last payment on the Mini Pumper had been made, so there were no debt payments remaining. That the Payroll Policy had been updated to increase the pay of the members of the fire department for years of service and certifications. The overall increase in pay was approximately 15%. Included were retention bonuses for consecutive years of services. These actions were taken to reward our department members for their service. Commissioner Howard expressed his thanks to the department members for their dedication and service to our precinct residents. Chief Huddleston noted he has 40 years of service to the department and four members have 30 plus years of service. Commissioner Howard noted that even with the increased pay and inflationary pressures we have proposed a budget that was 2.67% higher than the 2022 budget.

Each item was then presented individually.

Executive: No discussion.
Financial Administration: No discussion.
Legal: No discussion.

Government Buildings: No discussion.
Insurance: No discussion.
Fire: No discussion.
Street Lighting: No discussion.

Motion: by Commissioner Gregory Howard, seconded by Nick Anania to accept article as written. All in favor, motion passed.

Article III: *To see if the precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand (\$50,000.00) for the Fire Department Firefighting and Rescue Equipment and Vehicles Capital Reserve Fund as previously established for the purpose of purchasing and maintaining vehicles and other firefighting and rescue equipment. (Majority vote required)*

Commissioner Howard presented that with the purchase of the Dodge Pickup Truck, this year, to replace Utility 1 required approximately \$58,000 being withdrawn from the Capital Reserve Fund leaving a balance of approximately \$68,000. In order to backfill the Capital Reserve Fund more quickly it was felt best to increase the appropriation from \$20,000 to \$50,000.

Motion: by Nick Anania, seconded by Greg Scholand to accept article as written. All in favor, motion passed.

Moderator Pustell referred back to Article I.

Article I: *To elect all necessary precinct officers for the ensuing year as follows: to choose one Commissioner for a term of three (3) years; one Clerk for a term of one (1) year; one Treasurer for a term of one (1) year; and a Moderator for a term of one (1) year.*

One Commissioner for a term of three (3) years

Tara Parent is willing to serve a three-year term.

Motion: by Commissioner Gregory Howard, seconded by Robert Pustell, to vote Tara Parent in as a precinct commissioner. All in favor, motion passed.

Commissioner Howard recognized outgoing Commissioner Denise Castle for 4+ years she served as a Precinct Commissioner. Her efforts over the 4+ years as a commissioner helped to get the precinct to the position it is in today. Thank you.

One Clerk for a term of one (1) year

DorisAnn Allenson is willing to serve a one-year term:

One Treasurer for a term of one (1) year

Barbara Fraser-Hooper is willing to serve a one-year term.

Moderator for a term of one (1) year

Robert Pustell is willing to serve a one-year term.

Motion: by Commissioner Gregory Howard, seconded by Jessica Colpoys, with a single ballot elect all positions as stated above. All in favor, motion passed.

Article V: *To transact any other business which may legally come before the meeting.*

Chief Huddleston explained that the three fire chiefs were made aware that the Town of Ossipee has a warrant article that would eliminate the Town Building Inspector. His concern is that the fire chiefs and trained members conduct inspection of items under the NFPA codes, not building codes. They are not qualified to conduct inspections of construction for compliance with the building codes. Building inspections are not the responsibility of the fire departments. Commissioner Howard noted that position being proposed to be eliminated is concerning and an apparent attempt by the Selectmen at undermining town regulations. Town residents will need to attend Town Meeting next week to make their concern known and vote accordingly. Attention will need to be paid going forward towards ensuring the Town of Ossipee safeguards the residents and visitors from unsafe construction.

Vote to Adjourn

Motion: by Greg Scholand, seconded by Jessica Colpoys to adjourn. All in favor, motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

DorisAnn Allenson, Clerk 3/20/2023
DorisAnn Allenson, Clerk

Commissioners of the West Ossipee Fire Precinct

Gregory Howard 3/20/2023
Gregory Howard, Chairman

Denise Castle
Denise Castle

Patricia R Pustell
Patricia Pustell