

**Agenda Item
May 8, 2024**

**Agenda Item No. B-5
Annual Selectboard Goal Setting**

Summary: This time has been set aside to discuss annual Selectboard goals. While every member should express their priorities, it is important to ensure alignment with the rest of the Selectboard and to prioritize keeping in mind our organizational capacity. The Selectboard has 24 regular meetings a year, beginning at 5:30pm. The Selectboard Policy establishes a goal of ending each meeting by 9:00 pm, which equates to approximately 84 hours of regular meeting time. It should also be understood that municipal staff time is also limited. Each municipal staff person is scheduled to work approximately 2,000 hours per year (e.g. Public Works and Planning & Zoning each consists of three employees equating to approximately 6,000 annual person hours for each department, etc.).

The following is a list of what the Town is already committed to:

- The Town Plan update process has begun and will be on-going throughout 2024/2025; community engagement and preparing the necessary updates should be a major community focus.
- IBEW Negotiations
- PFAS Water New Water Supply Source and/or Treatment. PFAS Wastewater Residuals Management and Volume Reduction
- Fire & EMS Merger
- Short term rental registration form, fee schedule, and implementation

The following are items that Selectboard member(s) have expressed a desire to further discuss:

- Review to understand what the Town of Stowe owns for municipal property, its purposes, and if any of it is potentially surplus.
- Revisit the Fall Craft Fair after Indigenous Day People Weekend to discuss how traffic management went and what if any changes might be considered going forward regarding Special Event permitting.
- Revisit conversion to electric mowers and large user Mayo Farm Field Rental fees.
- Exploring shared services with the schools or assumption of responsibilities to reduce tax pressures. A first step would be for the School District to obtain a legal opinion from the State and / or their legal counsel about what is permissible under Vermont law. It should not be assumed the Town has the fiscal and human resource capacity to take this on this fiscal year. The additional capacity would need to be incorporated into future year's budgets.
- A retreat for training, team building, general discussions on a macro level to discuss emerging issues and organizational capacity, etc.
- Impact fees, which are regulated by state law ([24 V.S.A. § 5203](#)).
 - a. <https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/24/131/05203>

In addition to what the Selectboard has already expressed an interest in discussing, the Selectboard should be aware of and may want to consider the following:

- The Equipment Fund is projected to have a \$580,000 deficit starting in FY'28 and staff has been notified to anticipate a significant increase in tandem dump truck costs due to new emission regulations. These general inflationary pressures are affecting all equipment purchases.
- By summer/fall the Town should have a better sense of the impact Act 127 and the reappraisal has on property taxes which may inform decisions regarding the timing of future debt related capital projects. In terms of the FY'26 General Fund Operating Budget goals should include the Fire/EMS Chief's position and, if fiscal capacity permits, potentially provide for additional staff support within Public Works to help meet increased regulatory and development demands necessitating increased infrastructure requirements.
- Act 47 mandated an increase in residential densities. The Town should also complete a water and sewer capacity study to evaluate how much reserve capacity we have and the potential impact due to increased densities. Once completed, the Water & Sewer Commissions should evaluate potential infrastructure capacity options.

Town Plan Impact: N/A

Fiscal Impact: N/A

Recommendation: Discuss and advise.