

Select Board Budget Meeting

March 22, 2016 at 5:30 PM

MINUTES

Present: Chairman Steve Beckert, V. Chair Roland Fernald, Selectmen Rebecca Davis and Bob Pomerleau; Jack Murphy joined at 5:50 pm, also Town Manager, Dana Lee and Budget Committee members Donna Murphy and Denny Lentz, and Sam Davis

The Chairman opened the meeting at 5:30 and asked the Town manager to facilitate the meeting.

Dana said that he had prepared a sheet to guide the Select Board. He suggested they start with recommending budgets for the articles where it seemed there was high levels of consent. There was a discussion about new debt service \$97,795 that he had added due to the option of funding sewer pump repairs and upgrades with all tax dollars. Bob said he would like to end with some savings to taxpayers but also may want to add in a couple of items. They agreed to hold off on debt service discussion and other new items until the end of the meeting to see where the tax impact was.

On the Articles 4, 6, 11, 12, 13, 17, 19, 20 and 23 (Revs., Hearings, Winter Rds., Summer Rds., Bridges, General Asst., reserves, Committees, Outside Agencies) there was unanimous consent to use the Town Manager's recommendations as presented.

We then discussed wage adjustments for non-union employees. By a 3-2 vote, Selectmen Fernald, Murphy and Beckert supported a 3% adjustments for all non-union employees. Selectmen Davis and Pomerleau voted against it.

On articles with non-union wages, the votes were 3 in favor, 2 against for Articles 5, 8, 9, 10, (Admin, Police, Public safety, Public Works and Community Service Dept.)

All five selectmen supported giving firefighters a base wage of \$12.75 / hour and supported the Fire Budget (Article 7).

On Article 15, the vote was 3 – 2 with Selectmen Davis and Pomerleau opposed due to lack of detail and prior concerns.

On Article 18, Capital Improvement Plan, all 5 agreed to cut \$24,000 from police cruiser reserve, but to add \$8,000 for police cruiser laptops (2). Selectman Davis suggested adding \$10,000 for the transfer station roll-off vehicle reserve and all five selectmen agreed to that as well. 5 – 0 on CIP.

The Board discussed the potential for the bond passing with 100% taxpayer funding and found the likelihood to be low, but knowing that it could happen, they agreed to cut the nearly \$98,000 budget addition in the form of potential debt payment and will seek to hold a special town meeting if such a thing occurs. 5 – 0.

At this point in the meeting, it appeared that between the cut in debt service and the addition to the firefighter wages (+/- \$12,000), the cut to Cruisers, the addition of Laptops, the addition of Roll Off reserves, there was still going to be enough to add \$7,500 under administration to partially fund an organization-wide salary survey with an additional \$7,500 on top of the \$5,500 in the proposed budget,

and still have a negative tax need. This \$12,000 along with last year's \$5,500 would make \$17,500 in total to fund the survey. All five agreed to add \$7,500 to that project fund.

There was also a discussion about forecasting what we saved from the mild winter and to add those projected surpluses as a revenue on Thursday night when we finalize the Citizen's Option Agenda. All five agreed that they were interested in that revenue being carried into 16/17.

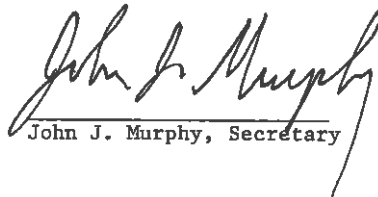
- *Note: 3/23/16 – if we are going to use this as a revenue, \$45,000 is a safe number.*

There was a motion by Selectman Davis that was seconded By Selectman Fernald to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 PM

Respectfully submitted

Dana K. Lee

May 3, 2016
DATE:


John J. Murphy, Secretary