

## Selectmen's Meeting Minutes November 18, 2019

**7:00 PM** Meeting called to order by Selectboard Chairman, John Esposito. Also in attendance were Selectmen Kim Roberge and Tim Berry.

Esposito led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board reviewed the minutes of November 4, 2019. Berry motioned, seconded by Roberge to accept the minutes of November 4, 2019 as written.

Board went on to scrutinize the budgets as proposed by the Department Heads or Trustees.

### **Library**

Esposito stated that Roberge had suggested meeting the Trustees half-way this year, and finishing up next year.

Roberge reminded the Board that they had done something similar when the PD asked for a large increase. She said that the Library is open for 37 hours per week, multiply that times 2 as there are 2 staff scheduled at all times and you come up with 74 hours. They are asking for 97 hours total. Roberge asked the Trustees for a breakdown by hours as to what would make up the extra 23 hours per week. Berry looked at this week's Library timecards that total 39 hours.

Roberge said that she cannot make an educated decision until she gets more information from the Trustees.

Esposito commented that, not only are the hours way up, but the percentage increases are way out of whack; everyone else is getting 2%.

Roberge again suggested finding a happy medium as we did with the PD.

Esposito said we need to talk about this again next week when we have the new information from the trustees.

Board agreed.

### **7:25 PM Police Department**

Esposito commented that the two big ticket items are the cruiser and the 4<sup>th</sup> full-time officer.

Berry told the Board that, for the Master Plan, the cost of running every department was looked into, and their opinion is that we don't have the call volume to merit another policeman.

Roberge said that if we were getting substantial extended coverage, she may be able to get behind it, but from a selling point to the taxpayers, we are only gaining 1 hour each side of the day.

Esposito said that he is not in favor of putting off the rotation of the cruiser, and not in favor of a 4<sup>th</sup> man.

Board agreed. Board also agreed that it should go to the budget committee with both included in the budget with the caveat that the Board is not in favor of the 4<sup>th</sup> full-timer.

### **7:45 PM Fire Department**

Roberge said that she didn't have any issue with the FD budget, and that they had presented the Station Maintenance well.

Esposito mentioned the two warrant articles the FD will submit. One for a new firetruck and one to add to the Fire Truck Capital Reserve.

Esposito is not in favor of putting money into capital reserves as the interest rates are so low, we lose money.

### **Planning and Zoning**

Roberge asked, if they asked for \$1500 last year and didn't spend any, why do they need \$1700 this year?

Berry will find out what is proposed for the \$1700.

### **Heritage Commission**

Berry, the Selectmen's Rep. to the Heritage Commission, explained that they want to add \$10,000 to their fund. He went on to say that one of the functions of the Heritage Commission is to inventory the Town to create a list of historical properties.

Roberge stated that the gentleman who gave the presentation to the Town said that the Commission could go in many different directions, but that our whole reason of instituting the Commission was to write grants and raise money for the renovation of the Town Hall and McCollom Building.

Berry said that he was not privy to that information, and so was going forth with the inventorying. The Commission needs the \$10,000 to go after an LCHIP grant to do the windows in the Town Hall.

Roberge said that her understanding is that if the Town puts forward a warrant article to add to Building Maintenance, we would be covered for grants.

Berry said that the windows are close to a \$50,000 job. When asked what made up the other numbers, Berry said that there is money in the Dues, Seminars and Training for someone to attend the LCHIP grant writing class.

Roberge said that the warrant article for the Town Hall renovation can say "to be reduced by offsetting grants"; that is what they did for the Hancock Meeting House.

Esposito said that if the warrant article goes through in March, the money in the Repairs and Maintenance article can be used for offsetting grants.

Roberge asked Berry if the Commission could forgo this warrant article in favor of the Repairs and Maintenance article. She stated that she is not in favor of this based on why the commission was set up to do.

Berry said that he will ask at their next meeting; the second week of December.

Roberge said it looks like we will have to discuss the Heritage Commission's budget next week.

Eposito asked if we will be removing the warrant article for \$10,000?

Roberge said yes; she cannot approve it as is. Also, she needs the breakdown of the budget numbers.

### **Highway Department**

Roberge said that there are no "red flags" in the DPW budget, although the increase in gravel may be questioned. She asked if Part-Time wages need to be so high and was reminded that Mark has just gone out on sick leave for 6 months.

Brown asked about the money it was going to take to install the new compactor at the transfer station, and the two new doors at the Highway garage. Brown to touch base with DPW Director, Ben Crosby to get the amounts that need adding to the budget.

Brown let the Board know that the quote from Leighton-White for the rental of the steel plates came in at \$10,050. Berry will speak with Crosby tomorrow.

### **Selectmen's Office**

Brown then explained to the Board that as of the end of the year, Microsoft will no longer support Windows 7. All 3 of the computers in the Selectmen's office run on Windows 7. Quote from OnePath shows \$2,615.24 to purchase two new computers and upgrade one. Since there is \$2500 in this year's budget for computer hardware, Brown was told to go ahead and purchase them this year.

Brown asked about adopting direct deposit to pay employees. After some discussion, the Board agreed unanimously not to spend the \$2,000 per year to allow for direct deposit.

Brown then let the Board know that the request for funding the Blue Bus for 2020 has gone up to \$1000.

Board agreed to add \$500 to the "Vendors of Assistance" budget.

### **Town Clerk**

Roberge said that she still has a problem with the amount for the Town Clerk salary/stipend. The Clerk just added 2% to last year's warrant article. It is the Selectmen's budget and there is still no justification – no accountability over there.

Eposito mentioned that there are 4 elections in 2020.

Roberge said that the Budget is still the Selectmen's budget and needs to be justified by the Selectmen. Put in a time clock over there.

Berry agreed and has been saying that for some time.

Roberge asked the Board to please give it some good thought for next week.

**8:35 PM** Eposito asked for an update from the Building Renovation Committee.

Roberge said that they will meet with two of the Project Management firms tomorrow night. She would like to know if we can delay payment of the Architect until after Town Meeting. The work that CP Williams did for us will lessen what we have to pay going forward. Next week we will have a recommendation for the Board, and they will want to get started the week after Thanksgiving.

**8:45 PM** There was discussion over the signing of building permits and CO's again.

Eposito stated for the record that Town Counsel said that it is bad practice to designate someone else as able to sign the Building Inspectors name to permits.

**9:00 PM** As there was no further business before the Board, Berry motioned, seconded by Roberge to adjourn.

All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Laurie Brown