

Board of Selectmen
Town Office Annex
February 15, 2017
Special Budget Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: E. Lyman; S. Link; E. Malavasi

Also Present: B. Auld; H. Bogue; C. Varricchio; S. Wheeler; L. Zemienieski

1. First Selectman Lyman called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 5:14 p.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. 2017-2018 General Budget Review Workshop

Ms. Varricchio distributed a packet of materials showing a 5 year history of the Town's budget and a 5 year average value for each budget's expense lines.

- A. Fire Department: Fire Chief Auld provided a brief review of the department's accomplishments during fiscal year 2016-17. In response to a question from Ms. Link, Mr. Auld stated that he believes the department will use all of the funds in the Repairs and Maintenance line by the time this fiscal year's budget is closed out.

In response to an inquiry from Ms. Link, Ms. Varricchio advised that the Fire Department's Grounds Maintenance budget has been reduced to \$1,000.00 in the proposed budget. Ms. Varricchio also agreed to provide an analysis of the department's electric bills. The Selectmen discussed several other budget lines with Chief Auld and Commissioner Bogue and it was agreed that the Fire Ponds budget line could be cut in half.

Fire Department Capital - The Selectmen discussed the department's capital request for a boat with fire suppression capability; Ms. Varricchio noted that reserves have been set aside for that item. Chief Auld advised that the department responds to a number of water emergencies annually and last year and 4-5 of those emergencies would have benefited from a water safety vehicle with fire suppression capability. In response to a question raised by Mr. Malavasi, Chief Auld stated that he did not think there was an opportunity to regionalize the proposed capital purchase.

Chief Auld agreed to look into potential grants to replace the department's air packs.

Ms. Link advised that she was informed that Panasonic is offering grants for police body cameras; Ms. Varricchio stated she would inform Officer Rhoades and Trooper Hawes.

Ms. Varricchio advised the Selectmen that the state has proposed to cut funding to the Circuit Breaker program by 50%.

The Selectmen revisited their discussion concerning the best strategy to manage the Cleaning and Maintenance budget for the new Municipal Office Building. They reviewed a number of General Government Budgets and compared the 5 year expense averages against the proposed amounts.

Ms. Varricchio reported that the Board of Finance had voted to approve funding for the Library's ADA Compliance study and noted therefore, per the Selectmen's agreement, \$10,000.00 for new library shelving would not be cut.

Shared Services - Ms. Varricchio reviewed the Shared Services budget with the Selectmen and noted that the Board of Finance recommended that excess funds from the Benefits budget line should be moved into Capital Projects. The approval for this transfer is scheduled for the next Town Meeting. In response to a request by Mr. Malavasi, she agreed to provide additional information regarding the Technology Related Repairs expense line.

In response to a request from Ms. Link, Ms. Varricchio agreed to provide additional detail on the Maintenance Fund expenditures. She also requested the Selectmen submit any questions they have to her soon so that she can research them prior to the February 22nd meeting.

3. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Malavasi, seconded by Ms. Link to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 p.m. Unanimous aye

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Link, Secretary