

Board of Selectmen
Town Office Annex
February 13, 2018
Special Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: E. Lyman; S. Link; R. Smith

Also Present: Trooper P. Hawes; J. Rhoades; J. Moreau; C. Varricchio; S. Wheeler; L. Zemienieski

1. First Selectman Lyman called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 4:39.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. General Budget Review Workshop

A. General Government Budgets: This agenda item was not discussed at the meeting.

B. Public Safety Budgets:

1. Police Officers (4:45pm): The Selectmen, Trooper Hawes and Officer Rhoades discussed several line item expenses and there was a general discussion regarding how the Police determined their Operating Budget for each fiscal year. The officers responded to several questions from the Selectmen and Trooper Hawes provided statistics indicating that crime has gone down since the two full-time officers had been added to the department.

In response to a question from Ms. Link, Trooper Hawes stated that he created the work schedules and he provided further details on scheduling and coverage. There was a general discussion regarding Special Duty Revenue and the officers agree to increase their projected amount to \$25k.

The Police Department's Capital Budget was discussed and the officers responded to several questions about their request to purchase an additional police cruiser. Ms. Varricchio noted that there is approximately \$12,000.00 in reserves for this department that can be repurposed for the next fiscal year's Capital requests.

The Selectmen thanked Trooper Hawes and Officer Rhoades and the policemen left the meeting.

Mr. Smith stated that he would like to have a comprehensive discussion regarding police staffing at a future date and Mr. Lyman agreed.

C. Public Works: The Selectmen discussed the Public Works, Town Garage and Transfer Station budgets and agreed on several changes.

D. Health & Social Services: The Selectmen discussed the Cemeteries, Chatham Health District, Human Services, Senior Services, Youth and Family Services and Early Childhood budgets and agreed on several changes.

A brief recess was taken at 6:25 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 6:30 p.m.

- E. Recreation & Leisure: The Selectmen discussed the Lakes Association budget and agreed that, going forward, they would divide the Town's matching amount equally between the three lakes. The Selectmen discussed the Greens/Grounds/Fields and Libraries budgets. They agreed not to add the Assistant Director's salary back into the Libraries budget; however, they agreed that Mr. Gilroy could make his own decisions on how to allocate the budgeted Salaries amount.
 - F. Debt Service: Ms. Varricchio briefly discussed this agenda item and noted that the Town is close to closing on the USDA loan for the new municipal office complex.
 - G. Interfund Transfers: Ms. Varricchio provided a line-by-line review of this agenda item
 - H. Shared Services: There was no discussion of this agenda item.
 - I. Capital Improvement Detail: Capital Improvements were discussed with the Police and the discussions are recorded in the minutes above.
 - J. General Fund Revenue Detail: Revenue was discussed with the Police and the discussions are recorded in the minutes above.
 - K. Other Budget Items: The Selectmen reviewed their calendars and scheduled additional Budget Workshops.
3. Public Comment: The following public comment was made at the meeting:
- In response to a question raised by Ms. Wheeler, Ms. Varricchio stated that the Town bills Chester for an equal portion of the Assessor's Travel Reimbursement and Conference expense lines.
 - Ms. Wheeler referred to the Tax Collector's proposal that the Town impose a fee for property tax checks that are returned for non-sufficient fund and Ms. Wheeler recommended instituting the policy at the Town level rather than on a department-by-department basis.
 - Mr. Moreau suggested that the Police Department's fuel expense may have dropped this fiscal year because gasoline prices are down. He also stated that it was not clear to him why he had not been scheduled to meet with the Selectmen to discuss the Career Fire Staff budget. He reviewed the budget and, in response to a question from Mr. Smith, indicated that he was not aware of the staffing proposal presented by the Board of Fire Commissioners. Mr. Moreau refuted the Board's proposal and noted that there is tension between the paid and volunteer staff. He expressed his frustration that the part-time paid staff had not been made aware that the Board of Fire Commissioners were proposing changes to the staffing structure.
4. Potential Budget Resolution: There was no budget resolution made at the meeting.
5. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss, a motion was made by Ms. Link, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m. Unanimous aye.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Link, Secretary