



Office of Board of Selectmen

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Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

October 3, 2016

Corner Meeting House

Chairman Mooney called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., also present was Selectman Ron Cormier, Selectman Jon Pike, Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin, Administrative Assistant Cary Lagace, Fire Captain Mike Newhall, Town Clerk/Tax Collector Cynthia Deroy, Police Chief Mark Lewandoski, General Assistance Director Donna Cilley and Kevin Sturgeon.

Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Selectman Pike moved to accept the minutes of September 19, 2016 as written. Chairman Mooney seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Mooney advised the other Board members that she and TA Beaudin had attended an open house at Mill Power Source and it was very informative. She explained that they make the boards that go in power supplies and such. They employ approximately 50 people with some of their staff being from UNH and students from the Huot Tech Center. TA Beaudin added that they have a hire/ train program for the right people as well as they are partnering with the State Economic Development for job matching and hope to grow to 200 employees over the next few years

Abatements, Manifests, Exemptions & Credits

Chairman Mooney moved to approve the abatements, manifests, exemptions and credits; seconded by Selectman Pike, unanimously approved.

Budget Review

TA Beaudin explained that the budget sheets have 2 new columns; the 2017 department head request column has wages at the current rate for 52 weeks. The first new column is the proposed adjustment as proposed under the collective bargaining agreements and non-union wage adjustment. The second column is the wages and benefits cost. She noted that the Police department will be using a new scale going forward; Fire and DPW will be using the existing scale with adjustments based upon negotiations.

Town Clerk Budget

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Cynthia DeRoy was present to discuss her budget with the Board. She noted that her budget has changed minimally with an adjustment to postage from one budget to the other

so it is more appropriately dispersed. She was able to reduce ads but didn't change conferences & dues as she has staff currently attending certification training. There was discussion regarding eliminating the \$1000 line used for election expenses and it was determined to leave it as there are unknown expense to could arise with balloting with the School becoming SB2. It was noted that the deliberative sessions will be held separately, but voting will be on the same day with individual ballots for each entity. Cynthia commented that the programming of the ballot machine can be expensive and it is unknown at this time if it can accommodate the school ballots too. It was agreed that the school should be responsible for all costs associated with their vote including paying for ballot clerks. The Board agreed that the line should be left as is.

Tax Collection/Finance Budget

Cynthia noted that postage has been adjusted and she has several expense that happen toward the end of the year that will eat up most of the remaining budget. The budget is mostly unchanged.

TA Beaudin advised the Board that Leslie was not able to be there, but presented a budget that she held the line for general expenses. There still may be an adjustment to the audit cost as the services were put out to bid and she is waiting to hear back.

Police Budget

TA Beaudin distributed to the Board the cost of union contract along with new pay scale of the Police Department which is unit A of the AFSCME union. There was a brief discussion regarding the wage increase and healthcare changes that were made that increased the budget. Selectman Pike asked why community policing was being reduced; Chief Lewandoski indicated that the expenses associated have been down for a couple years and feels comfortable with the adjustment. Chief explained to the Board that the new Superintendent is very supportive of the department and wants Police interaction and use of the dog. He noted that Joe McDowell is in the High School as Resource Officer and Joe Marcello is in the Middle School. Staff at the schools has been very happy with the presence. Chairman Mooney asked if they go into classrooms; Chief explained that they are all over the place and they have an agreement with the school as to what he will do there. They are not hallway monitors. Chief expressed that they had a goal to get the contract passed as it has become very hard to find qualified help these days and he really wants to retain the current staff. The Department is now fully staffed and it's been a long time coming. If the contract works it becomes more enticing to experienced help. It was noted that even the Fire Department was supportive of Police union changes. Chairman Mooney noted that if you don't pay a competitive salary you won't get or retain the staff needed. Selectman Pike commented that he doesn't have an issue with the budget and feels the Budget Committee will be good with it too. Selectman Cormier asked what the \$10,000 increase in equipment is for; Chief explained that it will pay for the phone recording system upgrade and maintenance contract. He explained he was going to wait but needs to do it now before there's a lapse in coverage. Chief noted reduction in the books and fuel line items. He explained that directed patrols of certain areas have had a significant impact on fuel and mileage on the cruisers as they will stand still longer at specific areas. Additionally they would be getting 3 cruisers under the lease line but will only be getting 1 because of the reduced mileage with directed patrols. TA Beaudin pointed out that when looking at wage changes, the cost of retirement and health insurance there is no control over and there is only a 5% increase with those changes. TA Beaudin and Chairman Mooney commented on what a good job Evan did and how good it was to work with him.

Executive Budget

TA Beaudin advised the Board that there are no big changes in the Executive budget and it has a 4% increase. She noted that the professional lines and most of the other line items are not able to be changed significantly due to ongoing issues. General expense is down \$500, postage is down a bit and the Selectmen salary line is the same.

TA Beaudin noted that during union negotiations there were changes made to eliminate the option for Blue Choice, Those that are currently on the plan can remain on the plan but only at the level they are currently at. They can't make changes in the future. The change will be included in the personnel policy. TA Beaudin noted that this plan will trigger a Cadillac tax penalty if it is still in place when those penalties are assessed.

General Assistance Budget

Donna Cilley was present to review her budget with the Board. She commented that this was the most she has struggled with her budget in years; it's the most unpredictable times ever. She noted the housing line is at \$69,000 right now with \$20,000 remaining for the rest of the year. The budget request includes an increase of \$6,000 to accommodate for what's happening with the shift of homelessness. There is becoming a bigger problem with family homelessness versus individual homelessness which is creating this unpredictability. The Belknap House is supposed to be opening in October which will provide a much needed family housing option. The food line needs to be kept the same with the nontraditional housing the food needs are different and necessary when food stamps may not apply to the situation. She noted an increase in transportation because sometimes the best option is to reunite people with family members that may be in different areas of the country and if have several of those you need funding. Donna commented that the drug and alcohol problems are having a big impact. She has heard that there may be federal funds for housing options which could be huge. Overall her budget is up 4%.

Property Taxation

TA Beaudin explained that the larger adjustment to this budget is due to the transition of Cary into HR functions as previously discussed with the Board. With that change there is an increased cost to have the current contract appraisal company to provide the field work. They have provided a reasonable rate of \$23 per parcel to do the pickups with Cary continuing to do the data entry. TA Beaudin noted that vehicle expenses have been removed from this budget because there will no longer be a need for a vehicle.

Legal Budget

TA Beaudin advised the Board that there have been funds carried over from 2015 and there have been more expenses in this area than in years past. The budget request will remain at 20,000 and she will provide updated expenditure figures at the Board's Wednesday meeting.

Insurance not Allocated Elsewhere

TA Beaudin reviewed with the Board the Insurance not Allocate Elsewhere which includes unemployment, workers compensation and property liability which is subject to contract with Primex at a not to exceed rate of 9%. The figures have been adjusted for the 9% and the hope is always that it will come in less than that.

Principle & Interest

TA Beaudin notes that this is the first time in long time that there is an increase due to the Hoadley Rd culvert project. The project is complete with the exception of jersey barriers that remain up until guardrails can be put in place. The project was under budget with only \$330,000 bonded.

Solid Waste Budget

TA Beaudin explained that the most exciting thing in this budget is the host fees that the Town now receives that were successfully negotiated with the new contract. Through August \$12,709 has been received in host fees. \$2 per ton for outside tonnage is creating a significant revenue stream. These funds are received into the General Fund. Tonnage is down. She noted that funds have been added to this budget for transfer station fees for disposal of TV's and white goods collected from roadside pickup. Selectman Pike asked if there is any way to negotiate the disposal of items at the facility on Saturday's as they charge \$35 plus the cost of disposal of specific items. TA Beaudin commented that not to justify the charge but it's the same way in Laconia there is fees that are associated with disposal. TA Beaudin indicated that she will discuss the fees with Casella again and may them invite to a Board meeting if she does get anywhere with them. She will get recycling tonnage for the Boards next meeting. She notes that MSW tonnage is going down.

Health Agencies

The Board reviewed the Health Agency request with TA Beaudin noting that the requests are unchanged from 2016.

154 Main Street

TA Beaudin explained that Steve Paquin didn't have final figures at this point and hopes to have the information for the Board at their Wednesday meeting.

Non-Public Session

Chairman Ruth Mooney moved to enter non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) at 6:21 pm; Selectman Pike seconded the motion. Roll call was taken Ronald Cormier, Jon Pike and Ruth Mooney. Also present was TA Beaudin, Administrative and Administrative Assistant Cary Lagace.

Chairman Mooney closed the non-public session at 6:45 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Ruth Mooney, Chairman

Ronald Cormier, Vice Chairman

Jon Pike, Selectman