

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MARCH 1, 2016

Chairman Hevy called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM in the Selectmen's office with Mrs. Walter and Mr. Smith also present.

The Board continued reviewing FY17 departmental budget requests. Requests from the Accountant, Animal Control, Assessors, Building Inspector, Cemetery, Town Clerk, Conservation, the Council on Aging, CMRPC, Emergency Squad, and Finance Committee were reviewed at the last meeting.

1. Fire Department

The Selectmen noted that this budget request is up significantly. The salary line item alone is up \$12,000.00. It was noted that the Chief's earnings increased over \$7,000.00 between 2014 and 2015. It was agreed that the salary for the three chiefs should be separated from the salaries of the other men, and that the Chief's stipend should include all administrative work. Also, the Chief did not attach any explanations for his requested increases.

2. Highway Department

It was noted that the clerk should be increased to \$15 per hour to bring her up to the same level as the Sewer and Board of Health clerks. Most of this budget increase is due to the sick leave buyback for the Superintendent.

There was also some discussion regarding the need to fix Tucker Road. Mrs. Walter suggested paving Tucker Cross Road and closing Tucker Road. She does not believe that there is any way to permanently fix Tucker Road without significant financial investment.

3. Library

The Selectmen reviewed the library budget, which is at the minimum level needed to keep our state funding. Mrs. Walter said that she is concerned about the condition of the building; the roof is leaking and there may be mold returning. Mr. Smith noted that the Library Building Maintenance Committee has been keeping on top of the problems.

The Board reviewed a memo from the Library Director asking to hire a substitute library aide at \$10.25 per hour to work alternating Saturdays and to substitute when staff members are out sick or on vacation, and also a proposed job description. (Attachment #1) Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to approve the hiring and the job description. So voted.

4. Planning Board

This budget had only a minor increase for postage.

5. Playground

This budget was level funded.

6. Plumbing and Gas Inspector

This budget was level funded.

7. Police Department

This budget had only a small increase for a cruiser lease payment.

8. Board of Selectmen

There was discussion on changing the Administrative Assistant to an Executive Assistant based on the revised job description. This was proposed last year but not funded due to budget constraints. There will be a new centralized Technology Budget that will include technology expenses from all other budgets. Also discussed was the need to consolidate internet providers, and hopefully include telephone service. The Board will need to come back to this budget.

9. Town Collector

The Selectmen need to discuss this budget again.

10. Town Forest Park

This budget was level funded at \$900.

It was agreed that next time the Selectmen will review budgets for Sewer, Water, and the School.

The Selectmen briefly discussed last week's presentation by Virtual Towns and Schools. It was agreed to put this on next Tuesday's televised meeting.

The Board discussed an e-mail from Sergeant Ryan Daley asking for the Selectmen to contact Senator Gobi regarding their support for a grant to purchase mobile, base, and portable 800 band radios for all towns serviced by the New Braintree dispatch. (Attachment #2) Mr. Smith stated that he would contact Brian Farese, Senator Gobi's Chief of Staff. Mrs. Walter noted that we also need to ask the Senator and Representative Berthiaume to support the IT grant application.

Mr. Hevy said that he would like to create a list of projects that we want the senator and representative to support.

There being no further business, at 5:40 PM Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Smith seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voed.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant

