

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2019
8:00 A.M. – COMMUNITY CENTER**

First Selectman Matthew Hoey called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Present: Board Members: Matthew Hoey, Charles Havrda, Susan Renner,
Louis Federici and Sandra Ruoff

Town Officials: Finance Director Maryjane Malavasi, Human
Resources Director Mitch Goldblatt and Clerk
Traci Brinkman

1. Discussion of FY2019-2020 budget and Five-Year Capital Plan.

There was discussion about the medical account and how the Board of Education and the Town's shares are portioned. It is based on the number of participants on each side.

Board of Selectmen Budget

Mr. Hoey said in the Board of Selectmen budget he put in money for the National League of Cities Conference in Washington, D.C., but he is willing to pull that out. It is \$2,900. The board decided to keep that in for now.

Mr. Hoey said he is dropping the number of hours for videotaping meetings from 185 to 170. He also dropped clerical staff hours from 120 to 100.

He added that he dropped postage by \$7,000 based on historical usage and the current operating budget. Mr. Hoey said he also decreased vehicle maintenance by \$500. The total decrease in the BOS budget is \$9,307.

Building

There is a decrease of \$600 in vehicle maintenance.

Communications

There was discussion about getting more information on the telephone/cell phone line. A total of \$4,500 was removed from the Equipment Repair and Maintenance line since they do not spend close to the amount budgeted. A \$500 decrease was made in the Operating Supplies line.

There was discussion regarding the additional full-time technology position.

Contingency

The \$100,000 put in for contingency was removed.

Economic Development Commission

The Tourism line was reduced \$1,100 and there was discussion about REX.

Employee Benefits

Reserve for Personnel was decreased \$30,000 since no contracts are pending. Pension has been decreased \$20,000. This category will be renamed Retirement Plans. Retirement Sick Leave has been reduced \$25,000 for a total decrease of \$75,000 in Employee Benefits.

There was discussion about lowering Pension Committee lowering the assumption rate. When that is done it raises the contribution.

Fire Department

Mr. Hoey noted that Ms. Malavasi is going to check on a couple of line items including Utilities and Fuel. There was some discussion about the Fire Prevention Account and what that is used for.

Ms. Malavasi said she is going to review why the Utilities and Fuel accounts went up. She added that they haven't taken anything out of the budget yet, but will talk to him more about it.

A question was raised about the Health and Welfare line which has only been expended 15% in the current year so far.

Golf Course

There was discussion about the increase in the part-time salaries. Mr. Havrda said the course has gone from being in the hole \$30,000 to now \$150,000. There was more discussion about the golf course. Suggestions were made about possibly folding it into Parks and Recreation or attempting to look for a management company again.

Health/WPCA

Mr. Hoey said they eliminated the \$24,700 request in part-time salaries. He added that there will be some funds available from a surplus in engineering in the current budget to pay clerical staff to catch up on the permits.

Human Services

Mr. Hoey stated that this budget is going up \$4,000 and this does not include an allocation for Lifelinx. He added that he could be convinced to flat fund them.

Ms. Renner said she thinks this group does a great job. She questioned if they were starting from ground zero if they would even put this in place. She added that she would like to see it flat this year and look at reducing it.

Mr. Havrda said that while he appreciated all the work that they do, he questioned the philosophy of collecting tax money to give out to charities.

Mr. Hoey said there is consistent erosion of state money to these organizations. He added that maybe they should have a meeting between the selectmen and the Human Services Council to have these types of discussions. The board decided to keep the budget as is for now.

Information Systems

There was discussion about the additional employee that is needed by the department.

Mr. Hoey said he believes at this point they can use the new public safety technology person as backup for Town Hall. He added that he does not want to do two positions at once.

The position (\$43,039) was removed from the budget.

Insurance

The CIRMA Equity Distribution was increased by \$17,000. Mr. Hoey said there may be potential movement in the workers' compensation line.

Legal

\$5,000 was removed from General Legal and \$5,000 was removed from General Zoning.

Natural Resources

The Tree Maintenance and Removal line was reduced \$15,000.

Parks and Recreation

There was discussion about the new position and the department now taking on garbage collection. There was also discussion about the Program Fund. The board discussed its support of this position.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Ms. Ruoff and seconded by Mr. Havrda, the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:07 p.m.

*Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Havrda, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None*

Respectfully submitted,

Traci K. Brinkman
Clerk
Board of Selectmen