

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2019
8:00 A.M. – GUILFORD TOWN HALL**

First Selectman Matthew Hoey called the meeting to order at 8:10 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. Discuss and take possible action on FY2019-2020 budget and Five-Year Capital Plan.

Mr. Hoey noted that the Grand List grew one-half of a percentage point. This will impact the overall tax increase.

He said currently factoring in the Board of Education final number and where they are with the proposed town budget, it would result in a 2.23% tax increase. Mr. Hoey said the Board of Education has not made the full actuarial contribution to pension or medical. They decreased the pension contribution by \$168,000 and medical by \$100,000.

Mr. Federici said while he didn't agree with not making the actuarial recommendation for pension, he added that there might be some room in medical for the selectmen to decreased because they have been running surpluses in there.

There was discussion about pension contributions and the importance of making the recommended contribution.

Ms. Malavasi noted that there is about \$7,000 in additional savings in Finance because they added the new payroll person at a lower rate. In Library there is a similar situation and the savings there is about \$1,000. There is a decrease in Part-time salaries of \$384 in Parks and Recreation. Youth and Family Services reduced \$800 out of their budget and \$250 came out of Health.

Ms. Malavasi said Facilities received a revised estimate on the fire hydrants from the water company so that budget is reduced \$12,602. The tax collector also reduced her request for the cash counting machine by \$1,400.

She added that there is an additional reduction that hasn't been included of \$20,000 from Fire. She said to bring the 4.26% down to 4% they would need to cut \$75,000. The board initially discussed using the \$20,000 Fire reduction, \$10,000 from Town Properties and \$55,000 from Medical.

There was discussion about the Parks and Recreation person and trash pickup. There was discussion about the golf course. The board decided to keep the funding at the same level for the golf course, but to have a discussion with the golf course commission about the future of the course.

There was discussion about the Parks and Recreation program fund and possibly discussing that fund further with the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Ms. Renner felt uncomfortable taking the \$55,000 from Medical. The board decided to make a smaller reduction of \$33,244 from the Medical.

The board then went through and discussed Capital.

They discussed the irrigation of the soccer field at Adams. It was noted that the Parks and Recreation Commission felt this was a higher priority than the GHS slit drain project. The board questioned possibly having the Adams project come out of program fees.

There was discussion concerning the microfilm conversion for Natural Resources, which would cost \$35,000. Mr. Hoey suggested they leave this in, but the money will not be expended until they have a better understanding of this and determine if this is the only solution.

Mr. Hoey said they are going to remove the Energy lease payment from the capital operating budget and put it into bonding.

Mr. Hoey noted that improvements are needed at the Transfer Station. A total of \$50,000 overall is needed for maintenance and repairs. He talked to Madison and the cost would be split between the two towns. They could put half the cost in the town budget over a two year period, but he would recommend putting the full \$25,000 in this budget. In addition he recommends they add a new backhoe to the bonded projects, which is needed at the Transfer Station. The current backhoe was an old one from Public Works and it is at its end of life.

With all the changes discussed at the meeting. The board finished with a total operating budget, including capital, of \$30,607,971, which is a 3.87% increase over the current year. If you combine it with the Board of Education budget, Debt Service and factor in the Grand List growth, the total tax increase would be 2.2% and result in a mill rate of 31.97 which is an increase of .69 mills.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Mr. Havrda and seconded by Ms. Renner, the board voted unanimously to approve an Operating Town Budget of \$30,607,971, including Capital, and Debt Service totaling \$9,516,344 for a combined total of \$40,124,315.

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

Motion: Upon a motion made by Mr. Federici and seconded by Mr. Havrda, the board voted unanimously to approve \$3.7 million in bonding projects over a two-year period in accordance with the Five-Year Capital Plan.

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

Motion: Upon a motion made by Mr. Havrda and seconded by Ms. Renner, the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Traci K. Brinkman
Clerk
Board of Selectmen