

**Select Board
Minutes
March 9, 2015**

Leverett Town Hall, 7 pm

Present: Rich, Julie, Lisa, Margie

Finance Committee: Ann D., Tom P.,

David D. Montague Reporter

Fire Department Budget Hearing

John Ingram and Stewart Olson came in for the Fire Department Budget Hearing. John had taken out 3.5% of his budget as a lump sum. He will refine what lines that will come from in the next couple weeks. He was thinking about taking some from response pay but wondered what would happen if there was a large-scale emergency. The board assured him that in that case the town would come up with the money through reserve fund or some other way. Like Police and Highway he said he could take some from maintenance though over time that may be problematic.

There was a discussion about items that are not on the "Capital Schedule" that will need replacing: tires, hose etc. The board mentioned that the mini pumper had been taken off the Capital Schedule; John was given a copy to review and stated that having a mini pumper/rescue truck is important for responding to smaller roads and driveways.

Highway Department Budget Hearing

Will Stratford presented his budget with a 3.5% and 8% reduction with most of the cut coming from maintenance. The Highway Department backhoe is up for replacement and Will stated that he thinks it can wait. The board asked about a bucket truck (the solar panels need adjusting twice a year) but Will thought that having a tree company adjust them on a day when they are in Leverett doing tree work already is a more feasible solution.

There was an increase in Chap. 90 money this year which Will will use to blacktop sections of Cave Hill Rd. and Montague Rd. Additionally, Teawaddle Hill Rd., Still Corner Rd., and Juggler Meadow Rd. will have new oil and stone applied.

Will gave an update on the state of the bridges. Rattlesnake Gutter Rd. bridge needs some work but he is more concerned about the Dudleyville Rd. which sees a lot of traffic. Rich suggested getting preliminary permitting and scope work done in advance of applying for state money to fix it.

The preservation of the old garage was discussed. Will suggested that next year CPC money could be applied for to preserve the building. An inventory of what is housed in the garage will be made and an estimate for a metal building will be sought for a comparison to the cost of saving the existing building.

Business:

The special articles for ATM were reviewed and discussed.

Personnel Bd. Update:

The Treasurer/Collector positions will be advertised together but still as 2 separate positions with the hope that one individual will be interested in both.

The Police Sergeant will be granted a step increase of approx. .60/hour (a raise of about \$1,200) as long as it comes out of the Police Department budget.

Motion: To give Town employees a 1.4% COLA according to the NECPI. Vote: 2-0 in favor.

The minutes of February 24 were approved as written.

Will Stratford responded to the mailbox letter and cc:ed the Select Board.

Thank you's were signed.

Rich reported that dry heads for the sprinkler system at the school have been recommended. The Fire Department does not want to be responsible for the monthly testing of the system. Margie will contact Margot and tell her that the custodial staff will have to be responsible for the testing.

Margie asked the board for advice on the budget as some depts. reduced the total budget (including salaries) by 3.5% and others just reduced expense lines. The board told her to go back to those that didn't reduce their total budgets and ask for the reductions. This can only apply to larger depts. as the tiny ones with tiny expense lines could never cover the salary increases in their expense lines.

Rich signed the Emergency Planning Commission paperwork for continued participation in that program.

The mail was read.

Meeting adjourned: 9:40 pm
Minutes taken by Lisa Stratford