

**Select Board
Minutes
January 26, 2016**

Leverett Town Hall, 7 pm

Present: Peter D., Julie S., Tom H., Margie M., Lisa S., Tom M., Jeff Singleton, Montague Reporter

Library Budget Hearing

Ashley Blais presented her budget with a 2% reduction which she stated was painful. Participation in CW Mars is up, this program allows them to participate in the inter-library loan program which is hugely popular in town. She explained how the state aid to libraries works including that they require that 19% of the Library budget be spent on materials which Ashley uses to buy books. The money spent on items that the Friends of the Library also goes towards the materials spent money.

Ashley had several capital requests: a programmable thermostat so that the building temperature doesn't have to be maintained when no one is there, new runners, carpet cleaning, and painting the building.

Fire Dept. Budget Hearing

John Ingram and Stewart Olson came in with a power point presentation and stated that they were present to defend their budget against another cut which they stated would put the public in danger. Noted in the budget was an increase in calls and in fees for radio transmission. John suggested that the department's hoses be pressure tested annually. A discussion was had about radios and turnout gear. The Fire Department's capital requests were for turnout gear and a grant match for a new tanker truck contingent upon getting a grant.

Business:

The minutes of 1/12/2016 were approved as written.

Motion: To appoint Roberta Bryant as Animal Control Officer. Vote: 3-0 in favor.

Motion: To appoint Barbara Tiner to the Massachusetts Coalition Against the Pipeline. Vote: 3-0 in favor.

Motion: To appoint Thom Masterton to the Council on Aging. Vote: 3-0 in favor.

Mike Fair came in and told the board that Rich Brazeau would like to fill the vacancy that has existed since Town Meeting. A joint vote of the Board of Health and Select Board will be held on Feb. 9 to appoint him.

Margie reported on the IT scope of services completed for the town's Community Compact agreement with the Governor's Office. Also just announced is another grant for IT equipment to enact recommendations made.

The Regionalization vote may need to be put off since the Regional School Committee is somewhat overwhelmed with their own school reconfiguration. There is also concern that these would be confused with each other and muddy the situation.

John locked in oil for next year at \$1.539 which is a savings of about \$15,000 for next year!

A brief discussion was had about the Coke Kiln Rd. bridge which was closed by the state for deficiencies.

Julie updated the board on Personnel Board issues. The new Personnel Policy is done. The CPI is negative .1 however the Personnel Board would like to give town employees a 2% raise to keep in balance with the school staff whose raises are contractual.

Gary Billings asked for another step raise for Scott Minckler (he received one last year) and the board agreed that due to last year's raise and current budget situation that the answer would be no.

The board agreed that they would like to meet with Highway Supt. candidate David Finn again for possible negotiations. Margie will contact him and set up a meeting for Friday or Monday.

The following items were signed:

Primary Election Warrant

2 Class II Auto Dealers Licenses for Richard and Margaret Carey and Clarence Carey

The board acknowledged the solar net metering solicitation received from Sunderland Nurseries and that the Energy Committee is following up.

The mail was read.

Meeting adjourned: 9:35 pm

Minutes recorded by Lisa Stratford