

**Select Board
Minutes
January 10, 2017**

Leverett Town Hall, 7pm Documents referred to during the meeting: Library and Transfer Station budgets and CDBG Informational Meeting packet

Present: Peter D., Tom H., Julie S. Margie M., Lisa S., Rob for the MR

(also present from Fin Com: Tom P., Ann D., and Greg W., Phil C.)

Community Development Block Grant Information from Bruce Hunter

Bruce explained what the FY 17 CDBG covered. The list includes (but is not limited to): lead abatement, weatherization, well and septic repair, handicap accessibility projects, and energy efficiency updates. Leverett is the lead town which means that Leverett has participated in these grants before and will be the one to sign the grant documents. Other towns on this grant round with Leverett are Sunderland, Deerfield and Conway. Income eligible guidelines were reviewed. Applications are due on March 10. An informational hearing for all towns participating and interested applicants will be held on February 7 at 6:30 pm.

Library Budget Hearing

Ashley Blais, Library Director and Library Trustee, Lisa Werner presented the Library budget. Ashley had written a compelling letter requesting that the board increase the Library budget to the point that they can restore their MAR (state aid to public libraries) status without having to request a waiver for the 3rd year in a row. If the Library budget falls below a certain level it could lose its certification. The FY18 MAR is \$80,762, the town budget for the Library is \$73,409. Ashley and the Trustees agreed that it is wise to ask the town to cover the remaining balance to meet the MAR. Minus overdue fines they are asking for an additional \$6,053. The board agreed it was a compelling argument but stated that it is early in the budget process to make any decisions at this point.

Transfer Station Budget Hearing

Ananda Larsen, Transfer Station Coordinator, presented her budget. The TS budget is tricky because it has a revenue side which is given back to the general fund. Some highlights included the switch from bags to stickers and Shutesbury residents gaining access, through the purchase of TS stickers, to the TS to dispose of bulky waste. Ananda is using the increased revenue from Shutesbury to allow for an increase in the open hours on Wednesdays.

Business:

While the Finance Committee was present Peter informed them that he and Margie had applied for grants for IT infrastructure improvements. If the grant(s) are not received the town will have to ask for money in the budget to cover improvements like back-up and security.

Motion: To hold Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, April, 29, 2017. Vote: 3-0 in favor.

A discussion was held about Capital Planning. The Capital Plan as it exists precludes items that are not vehicles but are expected large expenses related to buildings, vehicle maintenance (tires) and mandated equipment for Police and Fire. The Finance Committee and Select Board would like a planning document/spreadsheet outlining these items, when they are due and the expected costs for planning purposes. Much information would be needed from department heads. It would be looked at as an informal set aside for Stabilization. It was agreed that Margie should maintain the spreadsheet and that all department heads would be required to keep her apprised of their future needs. It was also agreed that at least a couple of additional members are needed on Capital Planning.

Fire and Highway departments have requested changes in the (vehicle) Capital Schedule for their departments.

The mail was read.

The minutes of December 27 were approved as written.

MMA and MIIA voting proxies were signed.

Meeting adjourned: 9:20 pm