

**Select Board  
Minutes  
February 28, 2017**

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Leverett Town Hall, 7 pm Attached: copy of Law Enforcement Policy

Present: Tom H., Julie S., Peter D., Margie M., Lisa S., Jeff S. Finance Committee: Ann D., Tom P., Phil C., Greg W., Steve N.

**School Budget Hearing** (also present: Sara D., Margot L., Jennifer H., Bethany S.)

The School came in with a budget with a 2.4% increase; .4 percent to be covered by school choice funds. Union 28 expenses were up 7%. The group explained that some of their grants (preschool and kindergarten) were cut at about \$11,000 each. There was a discussion about trying to make the after-school program for-profit and opening pre-school slots, when they are available to people outside Leverett with the understanding that they are not automatically in for school choice.

The board told the school members that John K. will no longer be checking in on the school and that they will need to train someone and get someone with a water license to do what John was doing.

The school sprinkler system heads need to be replaced as there was another near-disaster recently. This will go on the warrant as a capital improvement.

Finally, the question was asked if the budget needed to be cut where would cuts come from. The board emphasized that in contract negotiations, coming up this year, that there should be a conversation about reining in the steps on top of COLA's to bring the salary line down.

**Fire Department Budget Hearing**

John Ingram began the meeting with a public thank you to Marty Moore and Stewart Olson who recently retired after many years on the department. Increases in the Fire Department budget were in the radio system (Franklin County Dispatch) which is old and in need of replacement. Additionally, John raised the training budget by about \$15,000 stating that with 13 members it is necessary that they all be trained in all aspects of the job. The Finance Committee and Select Board agreed about the necessity. Last year John requested a \$12,000 Reserve Fund Transfer for the same issue.

**Regional School Issues**

Audra Goscenski and Sean Mangano came in with the "Statement of Principles" document, which the board refused to sign last week, to see if they could convince them to do so this week. There was much discussion about the manipulation over the region by Shutesbury. Ann Delano, Finance Committee member and Regional Working Group member, suggested some new language for the document that would make it acceptable. A draft will be worked on and emailed.

**Business:**

The minutes of February 21 were approved.

It was decided, considering the number of candidates submitting statements and finances, to skip the March 1 Newsletter and put candidate's statements in the April edition.

The board prepared for the CPC meeting March 1.

The following documents were signed:

- Leverett Law Enforcement Policy
- DPU statement
- Thank you's
- 2 Class II Auto Licenses
- Reserve Fund Transfer for Conservation Commission

Mail was read.

Meeting adjourned: 9:45 pm

Minutes taken by Lisa Stratford.9