

Selectboard

Minutes

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Town hall

7:00 p.m.

Present: Peter d'Errico, Julia Shively, Tom Hankinson; Administrator Margie McGinnis, and Montague Reporter

7:00 Budget Hearing

Finance Committee members Tom Powers, Sue Leschine, Steve Nagy, Phil Carter and Anne Delano were present. Department heads, members of the Capital Improvement Committee and some residents also were present. Tom announced that this was the FY 2018 formal budget hearing and walked through the budget. Tom thanked the elementary school for reducing their request to meet the town's 2% total increase request. Fire Department training budget has increased to accommodate additional members. Fire Department was reminded to stay within budget guidelines in future years. School building lines have been moved back into the school budget. Library budget has increased to ensure state accreditation. Debt, health insurance and benefits costs are still unknown. Total budget is up 1.5%. Police Chief pointed out that another \$17,000 needs to be added to the police salary line to cover shifts when new full-time officer is in the academy.

Capital

Wes Goszinski from the Capital Improvements Committee distributed a new capital plan and explained the changes he made to it. Several vehicles have been added and estimated yearly expense has increased significantly. Highway Supt. explained that he would like 4 trucks with sanders and he needs a new 1-ton to replace the expiring $\frac{3}{4}$ ton truck so that it can carry a sander but still plow the small areas in town. Cost is \$45,000. Two other vehicles are requested this year: a new police cruiser and a new fire rescue truck. **Finance Committee made a motion and voted 4-0 in favor (one abstention) to approve the purchase of one highway truck for \$45,000, one police cruiser for \$37,000, and one fire rescue truck for \$175,000.** Annual contribution to the capital plan will try to be achieved by FY 2019 by splitting increase over two years. Communication with department heads on yearly costs of items in the plan was stressed. Having everyone meet annually in January also was stressed to keep boards and departments informed and current. Wes will revise and redistribute the capital plan.

Special Articles

The group went through the special articles requested and agreed to support the fire department's thermal imager and transfer articles and the school's sprinkler system upgrade. All other special article requests were not supported.

Hearing was complete at 9:00 pm

Town Meeting Date

Jean Bergstrom, Danielle Barshak, Gabrielle Stapleton, and Warren Caplan attended to ask the Selectboard to change the town meeting date due to an environmental rally they would like to attend on April 29th. They are concerned that many town meeting attendees will be going to the rally and will not make town meeting. Selectboard expressed concern for changing town meeting date for a political or other special event and agreed that they cannot make the change. The Selectboard welcomed a showing of support at town meeting for the environmental effort.

Personnel Actions

Julie updated the Board on recent Personnel Board recommendations for FY 2018 budget and ATM:

1. Promote Ethan Dickenson of the Highway Department to the Mechanic/Driver/Laborer position at \$19.07 per hour due to his skills and the fact that he is already fulfilling the job requirements of the position;
2. FY 2018 COLA at 1.1%;
3. Put article on this year's ATM to change elected Town Clerk to appointed in recognition of the skills and experience it requires.

Motion made to enact all three of the Personnel Board's recommendations for FY 2018 and this year's ATM. Voted: 3-0 in favor.

Trails Meeting

Tom reported on the recent trails meeting held regarding the field between the School and Library. School, Recreation Commission, COA, Con Com, Rattlesnake Gutter Trust and some volunteers were present. The group is working on a map of desired trails and will get a cost estimate for a Dept. of Conservation and Recreation grant application next year. CPC funds also could be used. Goal is an integrated accessible trail that connects Library trailhead to a ¼ mile running track with some exercise stations and benches. Various volunteer sources and donations were discussed.

Business:

Motion made to approve the minutes to 3/7/17 meeting. Voted: 3-0 in favor

Legislation has passed allowing membership in more than one transit authority. Margie will send Rep. Kulik a thank you and ask COA to evaluate need and cost.

Margie will ask Historical Commission about items from highway garage and what to do with them.

Margie reported on a training she went to regarding changes in OPEB legislation. Agreed to do nothing this year and see what happens.

State contract for recycling grants was signed.

Community letter for Eversource was signed.

Thank yous were signed.

Acknowledgment of Amherst Regional new debt authorization was signed.

Mail was reviewed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:39 pm

Minutes by McGinnis