



Office of the Board of Selectmen
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NEWTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
DATE: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2020
TIME: 6:00PM

LOCATION: NEWTON TOWN HALL, 2 TOWN HALL ROAD

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Chairman Gonyer called the meeting to order at 6:06pm. In attendance were Selectmen, Lisa L. Gonyer, Chairman, James L. Doggett, Vice-Chairman, Lawrence B. Foote, Matthew A. Burrill, Kathryn Michaels, Nancy J. Wrigley, Town Administrator and Diane M. Morin, Selectmen's Secretary. The public meeting was audio and video taped. The public meeting minutes were transcribed and typed by Secretary Morin. The non-public session minutes were transcribed by Selectman Burrill. The non-public session minutes were typed by Secretary Morin.

II. Scheduled Business

A. Review 2020 Proposed Operating budget

Chairman Gonyer explained that the Board is here to review the 2020 Proposed Operating budget in preparation for the Public Hearing on January 20, 2020. The proposed increase would be a 7.872% tax impact.

Selectman Burrill questioned why the need for an increase when the Town did not expend all the 2019 Operating budget. Chairman Gonyer stated that some of those funds were for positions that were not filled and there are salary increases that were added to the 2020 Proposed Operating budget. Town Administrator (TA) Wrigley suggested the Board review those budgets that did not expend all the 2019 funds.

Selectman Burrill stated that 1.2% less was spent in 2019 which left \$162,576.00 not used. He proposed to cut 1.2% from all the budgets. Chairman Gonyer stated that not all budgets can be cut for example the Highway Department.

Road Agent Michael Pivero addressed the Board. In his opinion, it is the norm to increase a budget by 2% yearly. Continuing to level fund is not sustainable. Eventually, there will need to be a significant increase to pay for projects that are postponed.

Selectman Burrill stated that the residents need to understand that with no increase some needed maintenance and repairs to Town property will not be done. TA Wrigley stated that some Town services may need to be cut in order to operate within the default budget if the proposed is not passed. Chairman Gonyer stated that the Board will need to prioritize if the proposed operating budget does not pass.

Selectman Michaels stated that it is the Board's responsibility to inform the residents and convey the message that the proposed budget is needed. Chairman Gonyer and Selectman Burrill stated that the Board does reach out through various media outlets.

Selectman Foote moved to submit the 2020 Proposed Operating Budget in the amount of \$3,604,090.00. Seconded by Selectman Doggett. Gonyer – aye, Doggett – aye, Foote – aye, Michaels – aye, Burrill – nay

B. Review 2020 Proposed Warrant Articles

Chairman Gonyer stated that the first 5 warrant articles deal with zoning changes.

Article 7:

Chairman Gonyer explained that this article deals with the monies collected from the rental fees at 8 Merrimac Road and that they be deposited in the Engineering and Renovation Capital Reserve Fund. The Board did not make any changes to the article.

Article 8:

This article asks for a salary increase for the Town Treasurer from \$6,200.00 to \$7,500.00. Surrounding Towns are paying over \$7,000.00 for the same position. The last increase was in 1996. The Board did not make any changes to the article.

Article 9:

This article will positively impact the budget by using the fund to purchase IT services. The Board did not make any changes to the article.

Article 10:

TA Wrigley explained that the exemption will help qualified elderly pay their property taxes. The Board did not make any changes to the article.

Article 11:

Chairman Gonyer explained that the funds will be used to digitize the Town's tax maps. The money will come from the unassigned fund balance with no tax impact. The Board did not make any changes to the article.

Article 12:

Chairman Gonyer reviewed the article. Transfer Station Manager (TSM) Pete Gagnon addressed the Board. He recommended \$25,000.00 -- \$30,000.00 to come from the Transfer Station/Recycling Special Revenue Fund. The Board discussed lowering the amount and decided to keep the amount as written. TSM Gagnon suggested adding "as an offset to the recycling and disposal costs". The Board agreed with the proposed change.

Article 13:

The Board did not make any changes to the article.

Article 14:

The Board did not make any changes to the article.

Article 15:

Selectman Burrill stated the increase was for the Supervisor's salary. The Board reworded the article as follows: "hire three Part-Time Lifeguards, one Part-Time Supervisor of Lifeguards and to purchase the necessary safety equipment".

Article 16:

Chief Alcainho addressed the Board. He stated that the quote is not updated. He also stated the sign that was quoted would need power.

Selectman Doggett moved to reduce the amount of Article 16 from \$25,000.00 to \$2,500.00. Seconded for discussion by Selectman Burrill.

Selectman Burrill would like to have an updated quote for the sign that includes installation. He stated that the Board needs to decide what type of sign is wanted.

Chairman Gonyer moved to amend the motion to ask for \$5,000.00 for sign and installation. Seconded by Selectman Doggett with a 4-1 vote. Gonyer – aye, Doggett – aye, Foote – aye, Michaels – aye, Burrill – nay

Article 17:

TA Wrigley was not able to obtain a quote. Chief Alcainho stated that the paving should reflect the site plan. Chief Jewett stated that construction of the new Fire/Rescue Station disturbed the parking area for the Police Department. Currently, there is no handicap parking laid out.

The Board discussed when the actual paving would need to be done.

Selectman Burrill moved to modify the article to have the funds placed into the Engineering and Renovation Capital Reserve Fund. Seconded by Selectman Foote with a unanimous vote.

Article 18:

Chief Alcainho stated that the quote from Greenwood Fire Apparatus will be honored until the Town meeting and will take 2 vehicles in trade. There is an escape clause in the lease so therefore the Capital Reserve Fund cannot be used for a down payment. TA Wrigley and Chief Alcainho will work on getting updated figures for the article and the correct wording.

Article 19:

The Board did not make any changes to the article.

Article 20 & 21:

The Board did not make any changes to these articles.

Mrs. Kim Hughes addressed the Board and asked what if the article fails can the repairs or maintenance be done from the 2020 Police or Fire Department budget. TA Wrigley will ask DRA if repairs and maintenance money can come from the Department's line item budget.

Article 22:

TA Wrigley stated that she spoke with Mr. Bearce and Chief Alcacidinho about the cost to maintaining the Newton 1941 Pumper Fire Truck. The Board changed the wording as follows: "To see if the Town will vote to accept the donation of a former Newton 1941 Pumper Fire Truck to be used for special events and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$750.00 for maintenance and repairs to the truck".

Article 23:

TA Wrigley stated that this article will place \$50,000.00 into the Capital Reserve Fund called Road Systems Improvements that could be used to make additional repairs to roads.

Article 24:

The Board did not make any changes to the article.

Article 25 – 27:

The Board did not review the petitioned articles because they do not have authority. Only the legislative body at the Deliberative Session can make changes.

C. Town Report Cover

The Board would like a picture of the Town Beach. Secretary Morin will contact a local photographer and ask about a picture.

III. Other Business

Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) – Reputation, (I) – Legal Advice

Selectman Doggett moved to go into non-public session at 8:15pm under RSA 91-A: 3 II (I) -- Legal Advice. Seconded by Selectman Foote with a unanimous roll call vote: Gonyer – aye, Doggett – aye, Foote – aye, Burrill – aye, Michaels – aye.

Selectman Doggett moved to close the non-public session at 8:41pm. Seconded by Selectman Foote with a unanimous roll call vote: Gonyer – aye, Doggett – aye, Foote – aye, Burrill – aye, Michaels – aye.

Selectman Foote moved to go into non-public session at 8:42pm under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) -- Reputation. Seconded by Selectman Burrill with a unanimous roll call vote: Gonyer – aye, Doggett – aye, Foote – aye, Burrill – aye, Michaels – aye.

Selectman Foote moved to close the non-public session at 8:51pm. Seconded by Selectman Burrill with a unanimous roll call vote: Gonyer – aye, Doggett – aye, Foote – aye, Burrill – aye, Michaels – aye.

IV. Adjourn

Chairman Gonyer adjourned the meeting at 8:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Morin
Board of Selectmen Secretary