



**Office of the Board of Selectmen  
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**NEWTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**DATE: TUESDAY, January 8, 2019**

**TIME: 6:00PM**

**LOCATION: NEWTON TOWN HALL, 2 TOWN HALL ROAD**

**PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

**I. Call to Order**

Vice-Chairman Gonyer called the meeting to order at 6:02pm. In attendance were Selectmen, Lisa L. Gonyer, Vice-Chairman, Lawrence B. Foote, James L. Doggett, Matthew A. Burrill, Nancy J. Wrigley, Town Administrator, Diane M. Morin, Selectmen's Secretary and Mrs. Kim Hughes, Bookkeeper. The public meeting was audio and video taped; the public meeting minutes were transcribed and typed by Diane M. Morin. Chairman Robert S. Donovan Jr. was excused this evening.

**II. Scheduled Business**

**A. Review proposed 2019 Town Budget**

Mrs. Hughes Town's Bookkeeper reviewed 4 different options for the proposed 2019 Town Budget. Option A was the original proposed 2019 Town Budget, \$3,353,848.00, with no adjustments. The 2019 Default Budget would be \$3,341,534.00. Option A is a \$12,314.00 increase over the Default Budget.

Option B included a 0.6% decrease that the Board requested from all departments, commissions, committees and boards. All were able to cut their budgets except for the Library. Some departments were not able to fully implement the 0.6% reduction to their budgets due to contractual or payroll commitments. The Board expressed thanks to all those that were able to reduce their budgets on such short notice. The proposed 2019 budget under Option B would be \$3,343,891.00. The 2019 Default Budget would be \$3,341,375.00. Option B is a \$2,516.00 increase over the Default Budget.

Option C included the insurance credit the Town will receive from Primex, the Town's Insurer. The credit will be allocated to the Town's Workers Compensation and Unemployment premiums in 2019. The amount of credit is \$12,770.21. The credit was issued because of a reduction in actual claim cost throughout the entire state member pool. The proposed 2019 budget under Option C would be \$3,341,078.00. The 2019 Default Budget would be \$3,341,534.00. Option C is a \$456.00 decrease over the Default Budget.

Option D included a 0.6% reduction, the insurance adjustment and revised budgets. The Fire Department budget would return \$1,000.00 to the vehicle repairs line item. The internet line item was removed, and the vehicle maintenance was reduced in the

Police Department budget. The vehicle lease was increased as well. The proposed 2019 budget Option D would be \$3,338,621.00. The 2019 Default Budget would be \$3,341,375.00. Option D is a \$2,754.00 decrease over the Default Budget.

**Selectman Doggett moved to adopt and present a proposed 2019 Town Budget of \$3,341,078.00 at the Public Hearing to be held on January 14, 2019. Seconded by Selectman Foote for discussion.**

Selectman Doggett stated that budgets are very tight, and the Town cannot continue to function properly if the budgets are always being reduced.

Selectman Burrill disagreed with Selectman Doggett and feels there is room to reduce the budgets.

**The motion failed. Gonyer – nay, Burrill – nay, Foote – aye, Doggett – aye**

**Selectman Gonyer moved to adopt and present a proposed 2019 Town Budget of \$3,338,621.00 at the Public Hearing to be held on January 14, 2019. Seconded by Selectman Burrill for discussion.**

Selectman Doggett re-iterated his position.

Selectman Gonyer stated that the 0.6% reduction was implemented and that shows there's room for reducing budgets. There were 8 departments that were not able to meet the request to reduce their budgets.

Selectman Burrill expressed his concerns that voters have 2 ballots to consider and the Town's ballot is usually secondary to the School ballot.

**The motion failed. Gonyer – aye, Burrill – aye, Foote – nay, Doggett – nay**

Selectman Gonyer called for a recess at 6:22pm so the Board could attempt to reach Chairman Donovan Jr. via phone.

Selectman Gonyer called the meeting back to order at 6:27pm. On the phone was Chairman Donovan Jr. who stated he was alone.

Mrs. Hughes reviewed the options available to Chairman Donovan Jr. Chairman Donovan stated that he would not like to reduce the budgets if the credit from the insurance will cover the difference between the proposed and default budgets.

**Selectman Doggett moved to adopt and present a proposed 2019 Town Budget of \$3,341,078.00 at the Public Hearing to be held on January 14, 2019. Seconded by Selectman Foote for discussion. The motion passed. Gonyer – nay, Burrill – aye, Foote – aye, Doggett – aye, Donovan – aye.**

Selectman Burrill stated that he changed his vote to show the voters a united front.

Selectman Gonyer stated that there was no change in the discussion that would change her vote.

Chairman Donovan left the meeting at 6:34pm.

III. Sign Manifests

➤ Manifest

**Selectman Doggett moved to sign vendor manifest dated January 8, 2019 in the amount of \$1,004,947.04 of which \$872,000.00 goes towards the January Sanborn Regional School District payment and \$31,380.00 goes towards the interest payment for the New Fire/Rescue Station Bond. Seconded by Selectman Foote with a unanimous vote.**

**Selectman Doggett moved to sign payroll manifest pay period December 23, 2018 – January 5, 2019 with a pay date of January 10, 2019. Seconded by Selectman Foote with a unanimous vote.**

IV. Announcements

Town Administrator Wrigley stated that corrections have been made to the 2019 Warrant Articles per the Board's request.

Selectman Gonyer announced that on January 14, 2019 beginning at 7:00pm the Board will hold a public hearing to review the proposed 2019 Town Budget and Warrant Articles.

Selectman Doggett encouraged all residents to attend the School Budget public hearing to be held on January 10, 2019 beginning at 7:00pm in the High School Auditorium.

V. Adjourn

**Selectman Burrill moved to adjourn at 6:37pm. Seconded by Selectman Doggett with a unanimous vote.**

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Morin  
Board of Selectmen Secretary