

Minutes: SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN (*subject to approval*)
Monday, February 05, 2024, 6:00 pm Killingworth Town Hall

Members in attendance: E. Couture, J. D'Angelo, E. Nunes (remote)

Visitors: Wayne Linsley, Annie Stirna, Michael Kovacs, Regina Regolo

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm
2. Discussion of budget: Priorities, process, and philosophy

The board began a general discussion of the process by which it would undertake the formulation of an annual budget.

The first question was raised by J. D'Angelo regarding the dates which govern the budgetary process. R. Regolo walked through the process and how many of the actions are driven by charter, also provided was information on what data is pulled from external sources for reference such as the ADM for the schools and CPI for inflation.

The discussion of timeline continued, with J. D'Angelo asking about various failure states of the budget. For example, what would the impact on the budget timeline be if the Board of Education budget was rejected.

Discussion of process moved to who is spoken to in what manner. R. Regolo spoke to how the various organizations are typically brought in to discuss operating and capital expenses. Examples were given such as the library and KVFC. Also discussed were how background information, both historical and this year's requests, would be useful to the board. E. Couture and R. Regolo agreed to send data to J. D'Angelo and E. Nunes.

The question was raised by E. Nunes as to whether there are any surprises in the budget. E. Couture noted that nothing in the budget was new that hadn't been previously spoken of.

E. Nunes also sought clarification on what the board's responsibility was in the budget process and what sort of executive role it played. E. Couture noted that the BoS serves as a check on the First Selectman in crafting the budget to ensure that sufficient discussion and deliberation is had on the needs of the community and forethought into how the budget is formulated.

Discussion of scheduling followed. It was agreed that special meetings on Monday the 12th and Thursday the 15th at 6:00 pm would be beneficial to the process.

The question of electronic vs paper documents preference was raised by R. Regolo. Both E. Nunes and J. D'Angelo would prefer electronic documentation.

A discussion of philosophy regarding the budget followed. There was general agreement toward keeping the mill rate stable.

E. Nunes spoke of the need to address priorities such as road maintenance and PFAS while keeping an eye on both school costs and generally keeping costs lower.

J. D'Angelo echoed E. Nunes on addressing priorities. Noted that he was not focused on a particular number to shoot for but on not creating fiscal cliffs in the future and approaching things in a head-on data driven manner.

E. Couture echoed both other selectmen's focus on priorities. Expressed a desire to be cognizant of the future and the responsibility to not cause problems for future boards.

Finally, the costs associated with the school district and the importance of keeping in mind those on fixed income, such as seniors, were raised.

3. The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Eric Couture

February 06, 2024.