

Minutes: SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN (*subject to approval*)
Monday, February 12, 2024, 6:00 pm Killingworth Town Hall

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

Visitors: Wayne Linsley, Annie Stirna, Marcel Couture, Regina Regolo, Mark Albrecht, Eileen Blewitt, William Kosturko, Richard Pleinas, William Tobleman

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm
2. Discussion of budget: Review of Budget Materials

The board conducted a general review of the budget materials that had been requested from the Finance Director at the previous special meeting.

Joel D. began the discussion with clarifying questions about the presentation of budget details. R. Regolo answered questions about the presentation of the documents.

Discussion continued to questions around the final line of the working documents. Specifically around which lines were used to reach an increase of 12.3% in the prospective budget.

A question was asked by both Joel D. and Eric N. with regards to the Resident Trooper line.

Eric C. explained that the budget request represented an additional trooper and noted that such a position reduced the resident trooper overtime line.

Eric C. expanded on the conversation, noting that the largest and new increases were in the Resident Trooper, Department of Public Works, and Committee on Aging lines.

Joel D. clarified that without any new positions there would be a net increase in the budget of 6.5%, as opposed to the current 12.3%.

R. Regolo noted that the town legal fees line has been up recently, in part due to situations around Planning & Zoning. She also noted that the auditor ruled that it would be allowable to budget a hold line for PFAS to track costs.

Joel D. asked questions about the increase in the tax collector salary and building official salary. The tax collector had previously provided a narrative to support the increase.

There was consensus of the board requesting the presence of Public Works & KVFC at the following week's budget meetings.

Joel D. asked questions clarifying how capital funding is handled with respect to entities like the KVFC. The town handles those capital requests as it owns the equipment.

Eric N. asked a question about what the overtime situation looks like in the current budget year. At the time of the meeting only about \$12k out of \$30k had been expended.

Eric N. followed up asking about a comment made about filling a second trooper slot. Eric C. explained that, while the state has been training new troopers constantly, a number have retired in recent years so filling the slot may not be possible based on state constraints.

Eric N. asked a question about where the impact of increased tipping fees from MIRA would be located and whether the food scraps program was included in that. Tipping fees are

covered under the Municipal Solid Waste and Bulky Waste lines, while Blue Earth (food scraps) is not listed at this time and there is limited historical data for it.

The question was raised with respect to creating a PFAS line whether we would expect those costs to go down. Those costs are largely driven by state testing requirements, Eric C. noted that as filtration systems are installed and working hopefully testing fees would decrease.

A question was also raised with regard to the increase in the election workers lines and it was noted this largely reflected early voting costs.

A question was raised by Eric N. around the assessor salary lines. R Regolo noted that there is a narrative and historical situation around the office and adjustment for what the needs are.

It was again noted that a narrative for increased costs in the building official line was needed. It was noted that an additional \$600 in the office & inspection supplies line was related to a tablet to better utilize OpenGov permitting software.

The question of what the duplicating expense line meant was raised. It was explained by R. Regolo that it covers copiers and other related expenses.

It was again agreed that the KVFC and DPW would be invited to the following week's meetings, to be held on Tuesday the 20th and Thursday the 22nd. KVFC to be invited to the 20th and DPW to the 22nd.

3. The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Eric Couture
February 14, 2024.