

*BOARD OF SELECTMEN Thursday, February 29, 2024, 6:00 P.M.*  
*Special Meeting MINUTES*

In attendance: E. Couture, E. Nunes, J. D'Angelo

Visitors: W. Linsley, A. Stirna, M. Nuhn, D. Mooney, R. Regolo, E. Blewitt, R. Pleines

- 1) Meeting began at 6:00 pm
- 2) The board began discussion of the budget with the proposed DPW position.

It was noted by E. Couture that costs are easier to predict than savings. E. Nunes concurred, and noted that investment needs to be made in DPW.

The subject of how to best analyze and gather more information on how such investment pans out and what metrics could be used to improve analysis of where DPW stands as a department.

Consensus was reached on the addition of a DPW FTE to the budget, with the understanding that savings from such a position are not solidified at this time. Investment to prevent future fiscal and experiential cliffs is seen as a positive in this instance.

E. Nunes asked a process question to how changes in the budget appeared, whether E. Couture and R. Regolo were making adjustments in the background after discussion. The answer was affirmative that that was the case.

The question was raised to whether a vote needs to occur on every line that has changed. E. Couture noted that he did not believe so, but instead a single vote to present the budget to the Board of Finance at the next meeting was necessary. It was agreed that a clean copy would be presented to the whole board before the next regular meeting.

Discussion of previously agreed to changes to the initial budget presentation ensued. The topic of an additional trooper vis-à-vis traffic safety, speeding, and crime was briefly had, noting that Killingworth doesn't quite seem to be at the point where such an addition is necessary.

Salaries in town hall were discussed. The board agreed that no raises or adjustments were necessary for the selectmen positions. For all other positions it was noted that 2.8% for all positions was fair, recognizing that a union contract was being negotiated.

The building official salary was discussed as part of the request that was made. The question was raised to how long the current Building Official has been in place, and it was agreed that the standard raise this year would be applied.

On the Committee on Aging requests, there was consensus on the Board that the request for programmatic funding would be approved at \$2000. The request for a staffing position was understood, but it was agreed that at the current moment in time there were questions

of stepping up that work and what the charge of the committee is at this time.

Discussion of Parmelee was had, it was agreed to keep the operating budget flat for this year.

Discussion of capital requests was also had, the focus being on the necessity of public safety.

Discussion of the percentage increase in the budget at this moment, as well as comparisons with other communities on a current FY basis as well as a historical basis.

The question of how Board of Finance will address the budget was asked, R. Regolo provided context as to how the board has operated historically.

A general discussion of budget cuts and the difference between addressing needs versus trying to reach a specific number was had.

General budgetary questions were asked around financing and decisions that were made in the previous budgetary cycle. It was noted that the questions asked typically lie within the realm of the Board of Finance's responsibilities.

E. Couture agreed to present a narrative for the budget at the next meeting, in addition to a clean budget with the previously agreed to adjustments for presentation to the Board of Finance.

3) The board adjourned at 6:41 pm