

Minutes: Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 5:00 PM

Town Hall Front Conference Room

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

Visitors: C. Mello, E. Blewitt, N. Gorski, W. Linsley, R. Regolo

1. Meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm.
2. The board began discussion with the Public Works Director about the upcoming budget and challenges.

C. Mello spoke to one particular challenge in the upcoming year regarding catch basin cleaning. Inventorying of catch basin has historically been lax, and the work that has been done to clean catch basins has not been tracked as closely as it should have been.

Discussion took place around digital systems that could be utilized to assist in tracking town assets as well as physical and workflow measures to the work that has been done.

Upcoming RFPs will provide more clarity on the costs the town faces, however no adjustments were made to the budget by the Board of Selectmen.

Discussion continued with road projects in the current and next future year and their status. Projects are expected to continue within their expected years.

On capital requests for the upcoming year, discussion focused on the potential purchase of a tri-axle truck for approximately \$325,000 whose primary purpose would be to haul trash. With the potential for changes in the operation of Essex Regional Transfer Station, the question of how the town hauls its trash was at the forefront of the discussion. The consensus of the board was to move forward with the purchase in the upcoming fiscal year, but also conduct a cost-analysis comparing the purchase to contracting with an outside service provider.

Brief discussion ensued about the purchase of the mulch head attachment and its use in roadside mowing. The consensus of the board was to move forward with the purchase in the upcoming fiscal year.

3. The board discussed with the Public Works Director his priorities and initiatives he would like to move forward with.

The primary discussion point was around acquiring the proper safety training and equipment for the public works crew. This would be a multi-year project. The board asked for a prioritized plan and estimates on a reasonable budget number for starting this work in

the upcoming year.

Also discussed with the Public Works Director were improvements to security at the public works garage and work to better handle the various facilities the town owns and maintains.

4. The board of selectmen adjourned at 6:40 pm.