

Minutes: Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Thursday, February 27, 2025, 6:00 PM

Town Hall Front Conference Room

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

Visitors: R. Regolo, R. Darin, P. Jacobs, E. Drain, M. Reimers

1. The meeting began at 6:00 pm.
2. The board discussed the KVFC budget with Chief Darin and other representatives of the KVFC.

Chief Darin provided an overview of the operating budget request, going through line by line. He explained throughout that they tried to hew close to actual operating expenses while also taking care with lines that have historically been volatile.

The subject of the Firefighter's Cancer Relief Fund and where it lies in the budget was discussed in relation to the physicals line. It was suggested that the First Selectman confer with other regional CEOs to see how that item is handled and dispensed in other communities.

The administrative Service & Support line was noted to be increasing as the current position moves to approximately nineteen hours per month. An individual has been found to fill the role.

It was noted that training costs were projected to increase as more training programming is outsourced. This shift is driven by the retirement of key individuals and the increasing safety and reporting requirements.

The topic of the town waterhole maintenance was discussed. E. Drain explained the challenges with the existent waterholes, such as silt buildup, brush overgrowth, etc. He also noted the target pump rate and that there are approximately ninety waterholes in the community. Waterholes include water tanks, ponds, and other similar sources of water.

Discussion with Chief Darin continued with Capital projects for the upcoming year, beginning with turnout gear. The conversation on turnout gear focused on changing requirements for safety, and the commiserate increase in costs associated with improving safety.

Chief Darin spoke to the continued need for additional storage space, both for gear and equipment. He highlighted the request for an additional storage bay as a priority. Discussion briefly turned to potential funding sources to offset construction costs. The First Selectman agreed to look into those possibilities.

Chief Darin also spoke to the requested Command Vehicle and the use and flexibility that the current command vehicle provides. It is the intention to continue use of the current command vehicle, adding a new vehicle as an additional asset.

The other capital requests were discussed briefly. The location of the proposed SCBA equipment washer as well as alternatives was brought up. The specifics of the proposed training building improvements, a mask confidence course and roof training system, were also discussed in detail.

An updated Multi-Year Capital Plan was also provided.

3. The board briefly discussed the goals for this year. The theme appears to be safety and reevaluation of long-term priorities.

The board also discussed the upcoming meeting schedule. The next several meetings were noted to be with the Resident State Trooper, Committee on Aging, Board of Education, and Park & Recreation committee. Interest in meeting with the Parmelee Farm Committee was also discussed and the timing of that meeting.

4. The board adjourned at 7:17 pm.