

Selectmen's minutes of work session January 6, 2021

Members present: Brian O'Rourke, George Riley, Mark Newman, Joanne Grybosh by remote, Dolores Harasyko, Admin. Asst.

Called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Public participation information provided but since this is a work session no public comment allowed.

Finance Committee Chair Roger Brown present. He explained the new budget process. It is a 2 part process, 1 part today and the next in a couple weeks. The last 6 months should be used to base the yearly budget. Savings are things you are not doing next year. Initiatives are things you are adding on.

Mark stated that we need a year's worth of numbers not just 6 months. He explained that this is the 5th year he is involved in budgets and this is the 5th change in the budget process.

George responded that when we first met with Roger we discussed that we needed a change because we have so much free cash left over from the year before.

Mark asked why didn't we buy the fire truck upfront from free cash if we have so much in that account instead of looking to borrow from ourselves.

Brian responded that the free cash tally went up over \$400,000. Mark stated that was because we aren't spending it.

Brian responded that we spend too much time reviewing budgets that don't change year to year.

Mark stated that he has had a lot of feedback from a lot of departments that do not understand this budget process. He agrees with Brian that when someone fills out a spreadsheet for their budget and it goes to the selectmen then to finance then back to selectmen is a waste of time.

Roger stated that today's meeting is about the initiatives.

There is money for an audit which Roger feels should happen next year.

Roger reviewed the savings and initiatives list, we will not bother with the Covid line.

Initiatives are potential reductions.

Brad is asking for \$700,000 for a new grader and to replace a truck. This will be considered under Capitol Planning.

Roger feels we should put aside \$5,000 for an inventory.

Brian said we need a septic leech field for the DPW which is approximately \$7,000 and would come under Repair of Town Properties.

Discussed a new town hall funding.

Discussed funding for the bridge below the Town Hall Annex.

The main concern for today is any upcoming projects.

Dolores asked about the records storage building which was funded at the last town meeting but we have not purchased one yet. Mark Newman has looked into several buildings but is not sure what the next step would be. We will discuss this at a regular selectmen's meeting and have Joanne as procurement officer help out.

Roger will write up the changes: \$5,000 for Asset Inventory, \$7,000 for septic field.

George asked if we want to hire consultants for a new town hall and for the bridge by the Clam River.

Brian would like to get the rest of Route 57 reclaimed, approx. 3 ½ miles.

Priority is Route 57 before a new town hall. We need an estimate for the cost of a consultant. Roger suggested \$5,000 as seed money.

Dolores would like to review all the selectmen's budgets. All agreed.

Legal Services budget, level fund.

Selectboard Expenses, money leftover because due to Covid we did not attend any of the Selectmen quarterly meetings or the MMA meeting.

Selectboard salaries, increase by 2%.

Employee incentive budget we will reduce to \$9,000.

Vehicle Fuel Account we will reduce by \$5,000.

Operation and Maintenance Expense, we will look into this further, George stated that the Green Team is looking into solar and heat pumps.

Operation and Maintenance Salary we will level fund. Dolores explained that this is for emergency janitorial work such as flooding at the library.

Brian wrapped up by clarifying the savings and initiatives, not to worry about the budgets that don't change.

Meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

Brian O'Rourke

George Riley

Mark Newman