

Selectmen's minutes of Work Session March 3, 2021

Members present: Brian O'Rourke, Mark Newman, George Riley by remote, Dolores Harasyko, Brad Curry DPW superintendent

Zoom information provided

Called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Reviewed the Highway Dept. budgets for FY2022 as follows:

Machinery Maintenance, all agreed to increase it from \$60,000 to \$75,000.

Mowing, the budget ran short last year, the bid is up this year. We will increase from \$11,900 to \$15,000. This does not include the firehouses. Brian suggested to increase to \$16,500. All agreed to leave it at \$15,000.

Salaries went up 2%.

The Tree Account was at \$25,000, Brad would like to increase it to \$48,000. He has noticed an on slot of the Ash Boor Beetle damage. In just one section there is 50-100 damaged trees. The Tree Warden Association has recommended taking the trees down now before they end up falling. Brad state that Eversource is also cutting trees. There is a dangerous tree in the Route 57 corridor that has phone lines not electric that needs to come down. Mark would like to increase it by 50%, not doubled. All agreed to increase from \$25,000 to \$36,000.

Highway Department Expenses increased by 57%. Brad explained that there are certain sections of Route 57 that are very bad, he would like to drag shim areas, culverts and some bridge approaches that need to be shimmed. George asked about Mass Work Grant, Brad will follow up. Discussed Chapter 90 funds, Brad wants to use it to seal the chipseal roads. All agreed.

Capitol Expenses for the Highway Dept: One is to replace the grader, the approx. cost is \$400,000. He would like to medium duty trucks with plows. Brad has spoken to the truck body builders, this could cut the lifetime of the trucks. One estimate is \$71,000 each truck complete. The reason for the new trucks is one of the current trucks has a bent frame and the other was a free truck and is rusting and falling apart. Mark said the Ford F350 has a steel body and sander. He would like to buy a cab & chassis, strip the F350 and put that body and sander on the new truck. It could be done for \$41,000 plus installation. All agreed to use Free Cash and budget \$52,000.

We will not purchase the grader this year but all agreed to transfer \$200,000 from Free Cash into the Capital Improvement Stabilization account.

Technology Account: They would like to increase the salary by \$10,000. George explained that it is actually a service not an employee. Mark asked for an explanation of why the increase is so high. George explained that some of the cost is to prepare for broadband and upgrades. Brian asked for more detail on the Technology Expenses.

Finance Committee expenses up by \$235, Dolores will follow up.

The Fire House rentals both increased without explanation or a lease. We will level fund until we get a lease from the Fire Dept., Inc.

Fire Dept. Ambulance Equipment, level fund.

Fire Dept./Ambulance Maint., level fund.

Rentals, level fund

Fire Chief stipend does not get an increase, he is asking for 4% on his salary. Fire Dept. salaries amended to \$12,540.

Fire EMS Compensation, all agreed to amend by adding 2%.

School Committee Salaries amended from \$1.00 to \$500 for the Chair and \$400 each member.

Historical Commission increase is due to the work being done on the historical district and the Knox Trail.

Yanner Park, questions on what is being done, will follow up for more information.

Repair and Maint. of Town Properties: DPW estimates they need \$20,000 for a leach field, there are plumbing issues at the Town Hall Annex. Amending the amount from \$30,731 to \$20,731.

We will move \$100,000 from the Stabilization Account to the Capital Improvement Stabilization Trust Fund.

We will move \$200,000 from Free Cash to the Capital Improvement Stabilization Trust Fund.

Amending the Building Inspector revolving account to \$6,000.

Discussed the request from the Town Accountant for a leftover bill from FY2019 \$2,970.90. This will require a 9/10ths vote because it is from a previous fiscal year.

Discussed the Fire Dept. requests for Jaws of Life, hoses and a new police cruiser. All agreed to the hoses and Jaws of Life but will hold until we have actual quotes.

All agreed to not fund the police cruiser.

The next work session will be March 11 at 2:00 p.m.

Dolores asked moving forward we should get a copy of each budget at the same time as fincom.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Brian O'Rourke

George Riley

Mark Newman