

SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

May 20, 2014

PRESENT: Board of Selectmen: Ted Poirier, Scott Littlefield, Gerry Taylor;
Treasurer/Selectmen Clerk Angela Cushman

ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Budget Committee Members: Dan Gay, Woody Brown, Paul Reynolds, Nancy Harriman, Jim Roberts

Selectmen Ted Poirier declared the meeting open at 18:30.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No executive session.

APPOINTMENTS:

No appointments.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. 2014-2015 Warrant Articles. The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee reviewed the school department budget numbers that were voted on by the School Committee on May 15th. Upon review of the budget numbers it was determined that the School Committee did not meet the request of no more than a \$650,000 increase over last year's tax commitment. **The Board of Selectmen voted 3/0 and Budget Committee voted 5/0 to reduce the additional local funds to be raised to \$1,280,975 to meet the no more than a \$650,000 increase.** This new amount will be reflected in Article 43. An email will be sent to the Superintendent office and School Committee asking to reduce the additional local by \$15,000.

The remainder of the warrant articles for education was reviewed and the following votes were taken:

Article 42. Local allocation needed to receive state subsidy. **The Board of Selectmen voted 3/0 and the Budget Committee voted 5/0.**

Article 44. Authorizing School Committee to expend for the entire budget. The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee voted to reduce the total budget by \$15,000 resulting in a new number of \$4,766,366. **Board of Selectmen voted 3/0 and the Budget Committee voted 5/0.**

A discussion was held on the use of excise tax revenue and surplus to offset the tax commitment. Angela Cushman provided history of excise tax revenue since 2006 for review. For the current year we are estimating that the excise tax revenue will be approximately \$385,688. For 2012-2013 the total excise tax was \$363,514 and for 2011-2012 it was \$343,679. Over the last several years the town has used \$300,000 to offset the tax commitment.

As of June 30, 2014 the town's surplus account is approximately \$606,000. In March the Board of Selectmen signed a policy to maintain unassigned fund balance (surplus) at an amount equal to 25% of the Town's operating budget. Based on this policy the town needs to have approximately \$906,000 in surplus. As the operating budget increases this amount will need to increase. The policy further states that in accordance to prudent budgeting practices the unassigned fund balance (surplus) will not be used on a routine or one-time basis to lower taxes. The Budget Committee does not recommend using surplus to offset the tax commitment.

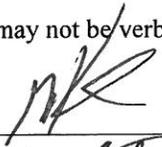
Scott Littlefield made a motion to use \$325,000 of excise tax revenue to offset the tax commitment; 2nd by Gerry Taylor. Passed 3/0.

Scott Littlefield made a motion to use \$75,000 of surplus to offset the tax commitment; 2nd Gerry Taylor. Passed 2/1. There will be a significant increase in the mil rate this year and by using some surplus the increase will not be as high.

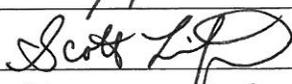
ADJOURNMENT:

Scott Littlefield made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 20:15.

*Minutes may not be verbatim they may have been paraphrased for clarity.



Ted Poirier, Chair



Scott Littlefield



Gerald Taylor

amc