

Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, April 9, 2018
Sunderland Town Office Bldg.

Attending: David Pierce, Tom Fydenkevez, Scott Bergeron, Sherry Patch
Others: Elliott Crowe, Bruce Bennett, Bob Duby, Maisie Shaw, Keith McFarland, Peter Gagarin, Doug Fulton
Behind the Camera: FCAT

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:36 PM.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Mr. Bergeron to approve the minutes of the meeting dated 4/3/18 as presented. Second: Mr. Fydenkevez. Voted: 3-0.

Meeting with Finance Committee Members to Review Town Meeting Warrant Articles

The board met with members of the Finance Committee to review warrant articles for the Annual Town Meeting. In attendance were Finance Committee Chair, Elliot Crowe and Bruce Bennett. Also attending were members of the School Committee.

Mr. Bennett stated that he feels it is going to be tough to pass two overrides. Bruce stated that there are funds available in Stabilization for purchases. Mr. Fydenkevez stated that Free Cash or Stabilization can be used this year to balance the budget. Mr. Fydenkevez stated that 3 items are driving the budget this year including an additional student at Franklin Tech, South County EMS budget increase approximately \$40,000 as well as insurance costs. Mr. Fydenkevez stated that we are spending more than we are taking in. Mr. Fydenkevez stated that he struggles with using Stabilization Funds for recurring expenses. Mr. Bergeron noted that we have some flexibility due to 10 years of planning to offset expenses. Mr. Bergeron noted the use of 1/3 of Free Cash to offset the operating costs as provided in the town's Free Cash Policy. This year approximately \$192,000 will be used to offset the FY 19 budget. Mr. Bennet suggested revisiting the allocation of Free Cash to the Capital Stabilization Account, noting that the town did not have the Capital Override at the time the Free Cash policy was established.

Also, discussed the Snow & Ice deficit approximately \$18,106. Mr. Fydenkevez acknowledged the good job that the Highway Department does on town roads.

The board reviewed motions and use of cash for funding warrant articles. Finance Committee Chair Elliott Crowe stated that borrowing now for the truck makes sense as rates are going up. Mr. Bennett recommended looking into sharing the truck purchase with other towns in the area. Other budget increases noted were in the Technology line for technology improvements and offsite backup. The board noted that the FY 19 budget presented at the Annual Town meeting will be contingent upon a \$200,000 override. If the override fails, budget cuts will be necessary to balance the budget.

Selectmen and Finance Committee members reviewed FY 19 Department Capital Requests. The Capital Planning Committee is still reviewing requests. Recommendations are pending.

Selectmen Updates

Mr. Fydenkevez acknowledged the passing of Bruce Westin's father. Mr. Fydenkevez stated that we are losing a generation that gave so much. Condolences extended to the family.

Correspondence

The board acknowledged correspondence from Emily Tynan representative for the School Union #38. Ms. Tynan is notifying the town of the Union's intent to bargain proposed health changes.

New Business

Approval of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant by Signature. Articles reviewed as noted above.

Renewal of Town Park Agreement Sunderland Volunteer Firemen's Association

Motion: Mr. Fydenkevez to renew the Agreement for 10 years. Second: Mr. Bergeron. Voted: 3-0.

Public Comment


Mr. Bennett asked when something is going to be done about the "eyesore" on North Main Street that is in tax title. Mr. Bergeron advised that the Town Collector will be addressing several properties including the one on North Main Street later this spring.

Mr. McFarland gave an update on a meeting he attended with Representative Kulik regarding funding for regional transportation and Chapter 70. Mr. McFarland asked why the board is going to MIIA for health insurance. Mr. Bergeron stated that the principal drivers for the change were plan design changes and premium increases. The board felt that these changes and increases would be a significant burden to participants.

Motion: Mr. Fydenkevez to adjourn the meeting. Second: Mr. Bergeron. Voted: 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Sherry Patch
Town Administrator