

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING FINAL MINUTES
March 30, 2015

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, March 30, 2015, in the first floor conference room of Independence Hall.

Members Present: First Selectman Michael C. Tetreau, Selectman Kevin P. Kiley, Selectman Sheila H. Marmion

Others Present: Nancy Byrnes, Karen Ronald, Nancy Coriaty, Tom Dubrosky, Betsy Browne, Sue Kiraly, Mary Carroll-Mirytees, Linda Gardiner, Don Ross, Dr. David Title, Tom Cullen, Gary MacNamara, Genny Reilly, Phil Dwyer, Joe Michelangelo, FairTV, Sands Cleary, Bob Mayer, Judy Ewing, Dick Felner, Annette Jacobson, Twig Holland, Karen Parks, John Convertito, Terry Giegengack

1) CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Tetreau called the meeting to order at 3:12 pm.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3) PUBLIC EXECUTIVE BUDGET SESSION (no public comment)

Discussion of FY 2015-2016 Budget, including all Town Departments and Board of Education and Water Pollution Control Authority

First Selectman Tetreau described the overall process. He thanked the department heads, CFO Bob Mayer, Linda Gardiner and the finance team along with the BOE, Dr. Title and his staff.

CFO Mayer gave the Selectmen a handout on potential adjustments to FY 16 First Selectman recommendations were updated since the First Selectman's initial budget request. The revised mill rate is 1.52%. Selectman Kiley asked about the Grand List. Mr. Mayer said between January and March 31st the Board of Assessment Appeals has to complete details. The Tax Assessor is reviewing the Grand List. Citizens had until February 20th to appeal their assessments. Mr. Mayer said the budget is built upon the Grand List as of January 31st but there will be activity after that so the Board of Finance will build in a Board of Assessment adjustment estimate. Selectman Kiley asked if revenue adjustments were made due to the Grand List impact of \$240,000. Mr. Mayer said yes. Selectman Kiley stated there is an increase to revenue so that is why the mill rate is lower.

First Selectman Tetreau discussed the major budget drivers that include fees and professional services; capital replacement; paving; supplemental contribution surplus; worker's comp; OPEB; supplemental contribution risk management; debt service; and pension. First Tetreau noted the pension was reduced by about \$2.2 million this year and recognized the efforts of the Pension Board. He also noted debt service is down about \$1 million. Selectman Kiley asked if there were any global changes in the last few months like utilities or health care. Mr. Mayer said regarding any other expenses, good or bad, those should be known. He said the handout he gave details all the town items that had been updated. He has health care numbers through February. He hasn't heard how the BOE will handle the \$300,000/\$400,000 health care increase.

First Selectman then reviewed revenues. Selectman Kiley asked Town Clerk Betsy Browne if there are any other areas that her department has seen revenues go up because of the real estate market. Mrs. Browne said the conveyance tax improved, but the recording fees were lowered.

First Selectman Tetreau asked if the Selectmen had any questions on the BOE budget. The Selectmen had no questions.

First Selectman Tetreau asked if there are any updates on state or federal aid. Mr. Mayer said the State doesn't have its final budget until June. Mr. Mayer said the numbers are in the budget per the Governor's budget and there have been no formal changes.

First Selectman Tetreau then went through each department. Selectman Kiley asked about the impact on the budget with Conservation's request for a part-time Wetland Compliance Officer. He asked if it makes sense now to vote on this ahead of the reorganization of the department or wait until later when the department has its new director. First Selectman Tetreau said there is no reorganization of the department. He hopes to have a new director by May 1st. First Selectman said this option gives the new director new resources to apply. Selectman Kiley is not clear on whether the new director can do something else with the new money. Selectman Kiley said he doesn't want the hands of the new director tied as long as the decision on this hire is made after the director comes on board.

First Selectman Tetreau said since a revaluation is coming up the legal budget has a proposed increase of \$50,000. Selectman Marmion wants to look at the last cycle of appeals and see how that trended. Mr. Mayer said FY 16 is minimal for appeals. Selectman Kiley said it would be good to find savings. He asked if what is in contingency is still okay. First Selectman Tetreau said the goal has been to try to increase this for years. He noted this was cut back last year. As things come up during the year, the town needs resources and thus needs the contingency.

The Selectmen then discussed the proposed new full-time staff accountant in Finance. Selectman Kiley said he'd like an updated job description. Mr. Mayer said that document was sent out today. He doesn't anticipate a quick hire. Selectman Kiley asked if this person could start September or by October 1st to save money. Mr. Mayer said he will continue to do his best with the resources he has. He could live with putting off this new hire a few months.

Regarding unemployment compensation, Selectman Kiley asked if the current year is over by \$225,000. Linda Gardiner said it is. Mrs. Gardiner said next year this will be returned to fully normal levels.

Regarding police, Chief Gary MacNamara said his department had made significant steps with school security and there will be additional interactive training every other year using realistic scenarios for officers. He said his budget request is lower than last year's request. Selectman Marmion asked if the training is reactive or preventative. Chief MacNamara said it's part reactive. First Selectman Tetreau said it's also proactive to protect officers and for them to protect citizens.

Regarding Hydrant and Water, Mr. Mayer said documents were sent out to the Selectmen. He's communicated with Aquarion.

On DPW Operations, Selectman Kiley asked DPW Director Joe Michelangelo if he could speak at tomorrow's meeting on any savings that could be found by taking away a smaller or mid-size item. Selectman Marmion asked if DPW has a spreadsheet on upkeep of sidewalks. Mr. Michelangelo said the DPW has this. Selectman Kiley thanked DPW on the handling of roads. Regarding Health, Selectman Kiley said it's time to hire the part-timers. First Selectman Tetreau asked Health Director Sands Cleary how much of his budget goes to the BOE. Mr. Cleary said a little over 70%.

Selectman Kiley asked Mrs. Gardiner to do the math on pushing the new finance hire by about three months and bring that to tomorrow's meeting.

4) ADJOURN

Selectman Marmion made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:40 pm. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer S. Carpenter
Recording Secretary
