

## **SPECIAL SELECTMEN'S MEETING – THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023**

### **4:00 PM – SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

Present: Chairman John MacLeod, Selectmen Kathy Chase, Scott DeFelice, Tim Roche and Bob Foley, Town Manager Mike Pardue, Finance Director Jodie Sanborn, Meeting Recorder Cinndi Davidson

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Board review of the FY 2024 proposed budget.

Mr. Pardue thanked the staff for their great work putting the budget together. Ms. Sanborn reviewed the adjustments and recommendations in her March 2 memo: estimated revenues, salaries and benefits, operations, CIP and staffing warrant articles.

The changes result in a tax rate of \$10.89 which is \$0.43 over the current tax rate and \$626,724 under LD-1.

- The Fire Department will be able to move to a 4-shift rotation with the new hires.
- The Police Department and Code Office are dealing with the increased workload as the Town continues to grow.
- The paving request was reduced in line with the contractor's ability to meet our paving plan.
- Senator Collins has obtained additional funds for the dredge.
- Cpt. Chabot said two of the three candidates have started their field training; all are scheduled to attend the academy later this year and will begin doing patrol.
- One of the police vehicles we are replacing may be used for the Assistant Fire Chief or the Code Office. Chief Dupuis said the assistant should not be required to be a Town resident as long as mileage and response time are reasonable. We don't want to discourage quality candidates by requiring them to move here.
- Mr. DeFelice said the Budget Committee's work was impressive. One observation was that some of our fees are lower than surrounding towns. The users of services should pay those fees rather than imposing them on all the taxpayers.
- Sprinklers for the fire substation were discussed. We are waiting for more figures from engineering but the current estimate is at least \$700,000 for the water supply (cistern, water pump, 3 phase electricity or a diesel engine in a heated building). One possibility is to staff the building only during the day and not 24/7. Mr. Foley asked if we could build a separate building "bunk house" next to the substation. The cistern could be smaller as the requirement would be 15 minutes escape time.

- Mr. MacLeod said the tree removal budget should be increased and he would like the Town to have a tree warden. Many recent power outages were due to downed limbs. Attorney Rachin reviewed the statute, and we can have both a Conservation Commission and a tree warden.
- Ms. Murray has some plans for ongoing road maintenance. Her crew has been pretreating in advance of the recent storms to make the plowing easier.
- Ms. Sanborn said that some of our copiers are due for replacement. She recommends leasing rather than purchasing new machines.

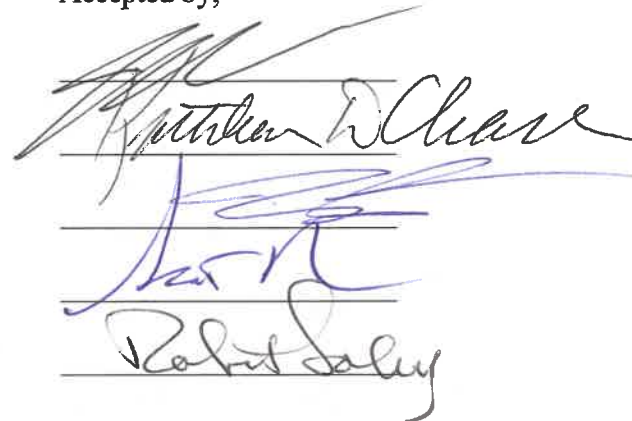
3. Next meeting: Tuesday, March 14 at 5 PM or Wednesday, March 15 for the reconciliation with the Budget Committee, weather permitting.

4. Adjournment

Motion by Mrs. Chase, seconded by Mr. DeFelice, to adjourn. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Accepted by,



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Cinndi Davidson,  
Meeting Recorder