

**Board of Selectmen  
Special Meeting  
October 10, 2017**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** First Selectman Dan Jerram, Selectman Laura Garay, Selectman Alesia Kennerson;  
Administrative Assistant Christine Hayward.

First Selectman Jerram called the meeting to order at 5:05, apologizing for the delay in the start time explaining that he had been participating in a “rating call” with Town Treasurer Gordon Ross, Town Financial Advisor Dennis Dix, and a representative from Standard & Poor. This was in advance of the refinancing currently underway to replace the Bond Anticipation Notes that mature in November. He appreciated the patience of the fellow Board members.

**2017-2018 Budget:**

First Selectman Jerram stated that, sadly, there is still no state approved budget which everyone had hoped would be approved and in place by now. He commented that it is time to think about moving the town budget forward, using best guess as to what the State budget will look like.

He noted that throughout the prior Board of Finance meetings, many on the Board have held fast to the “worst case scenario” budget figures. Jerram stated that it is his belief that an approved budget will be closer to the recently approved bi-partisan proposed budget (later vetoed by the Governor).

Using the figures for anticipated revenues that were in that vetoed budget, Jerram prepared a budget he discussed with the Selectmen.

Mr. Jerram informed the Selectmen that, contrary to the belief of a few Board of Finance members, there is a need for a lift system at the Town Garage. He stated that the mechanic needs to fix trucks and needs the proper equipment to be able to do so. He has researched leasing versus buying and it is not good financial practice to lease the lift as the cost per year is close to the purchase price. He recommended that the cost of a lift be added to the interim budget.

Jerram also informed the Board that the Land Use vehicle is currently not operable. There is an issue with the door and it does not close. It is not a simple fix, it is more complicated than just replacing a latch. He noted that the mechanic has already done extensive repairs to this vehicle and is very concerned about its road worthiness. It is the opinion of the mechanic that this vehicle should not have any more money put into it; it should be replaced. Jerram stated that there is the option of leasing a vehicle, if the Selectmen preferred to go that route.

Selectman Garay expressed her concern regarding the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) and their need for assistance with expenses related to the town wells. Selectman Kennerson agreed that she, too, is concerned with the challenges they are facing; adding that she is agreeable to continuing to assist them with their problems. However, at this time, she does not feel that there is enough firm data regarding potential costs to include funding in the budget at this time.

Garay stated that she does support the need for a vehicle and a lift, but she also felt that \$80,000 should be included in the budget to help the WPCA. She stated that the townspeople elected them to make responsible decisions on their behalf and the WPCA needs assistance.

The Selectmen continued discussion of the budget; turning their attention to the general operations.

The position of building inspector remains in the budget as a full time position and the Board discussed

whether or not that should remain that way. It was noted that one building inspector already left due to it not being full time. The current building inspector has already made it known that the office is extremely busy and he cannot meet the demands of the residents in the current allocated hours. It was noted that the department brings in revenues that offset the cost of the position.

Selectman Garay asked the Board to reconsider restoring funding to the Foothills Visiting Nurse line item. She suggested adding \$12,000 to the current \$3,000 which would result in a \$15,000 total allocation. Selectman Kennerson responded, “my position remains the same, no more than \$3,000.”

Garay suggested a cut in the paving line item to offset this addition, rather than adding to the total budget. Garay stated that restoring the funding is “the right thing to do for our senior residents.” Kennerson stated that she has no doubts that there are individuals who could benefit from the services; but did not feel that the town should pay for individual expenses. Garay countered that there is a need in the community for these services and it is her belief that with the aging population, the need will continue to increase. She then asked if the Board would consider \$10,000 more, rather than the \$12,000 she originally suggested.

Selectman Garay questioned the use of fund balance to offset some of the expenses that were being discussed as possible additions to the interim budget.

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to add to the Capital Interim Budget- \$35,000 for a lift, \$18,000 for a land use vehicle, \$40,000 for well improvements for the WPCA; and to the Operations Interim budget \$10,000 to the Foothills Visiting Nurse; seconded by Garay.

First Selectman summarized that the addition of these funds address the WPCA, the Department of public works and the land use department; to which Garay added “and our seniors.”

*Unanimous.*

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to recommend to the Board of Finance this modified interim budget, dated October 10, 2017, as the budget to be recommended for approval at a town meeting/referendum using the attached recommended budget timeline; seconded by Garay.

*Unanimous*

**Temporary healthcare structures:**

First Selectman Jerram informed the Board that the Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing as required to discuss the Public Act 17-155 – An Act Concerning Temporary Health Care Structures. Discussion was held at their September 27, 2017, meeting and the Commission decided that it would be best to recommend to the Selectmen to opt out of this Act as written and use local regulations to address these types of structures. Land use Attorney Mark Branse was present at that particular meeting and it was his advice that the Commission implement their own regulations.

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to opt out of PA 17-155, Temporary Health Care Structures, as recommended by the Town Land Use Attorney due to the lack of controls as written and instead implement local regulations regarding these health care structures; seconded by Garay.

**Special Town Meeting – acceptance of Evergreen Crossing:**

First Selectman Jerram informed the Board that the developers of Evergreen Crossing have made a request to the Selectmen to consider the acceptance of Evergreen Crossing as a town road. Jerram stated that the engineer has reviewed the requirements and has made a favorable report regarding this request.

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to recommend to the Planning and Zoning Commission to consider acceptance of Evergreen Crossing as a town road; seconded by Garay.

*Unanimous.*

**Request for additional hours by the Registrars of Voters:**

Jerram informed the Board that the Registrars of Voters have asked for consideration of additional hours so that they can prepare for the upcoming election. They have additional duties and are still learning what needs to be done. They have asked for an additional 7 hours each per week up to the election.

**MOTION:** by Garay to approve the request made by the Registrars for additional hours (7hours per week) effective now through the election; seconded by Kennerson.

*Unanimous*

**Minutes:**

This item was removed from the agenda due to lack of time. Jerram noted that he needed to prepare for the Board of Finance meeting that was being held at 7:00 PM and asked that approval of minutes be addressed at the next regular Board meeting. The Selectmen agreed to this change.

**MOTION:** by Garay to adjourn at 6:36; seconded by Garay.

*Unanimous.*

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Christine Hayward, Administrative Assistant*