

**Board of Selectmen  
Special Meeting  
Monday, February 24, 2020  
MINUTES**

**Present:** First Selectman Dan Jerram, Selectman Alesia Kennerson, Selectman David Rosengren; Member of the Public Jay Bailey, Administrative Assistant Christine Hayward.

First Selectman Jerram called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM.

**2020-2021 Budget Workshop – development and discussion with possible action:**

First Selectman Jerram stated that a general discussion of the budget had occurred at the previous Board of Selectmen meeting held on February 4, 2020.

The meeting this evening is to discuss the budget more specifically. The local Board of Education has approved their proposed budget. Mr. Jerram stated that there are still holes in the town budget due to some unknowns, such as the outcome of contract negotiations. Jerram noted that he has used 2.25% as a “placeholder.”

Mr. Jerram reviewed several line items in the budget. He stated that liability and property insurance remains flat and worker’s compensation will be reduced by 5%. He credited this to best practices being utilized by the town on a regular basis. The pension contribution number remains an unknown, but there is a phone conference scheduled with the actuary on February 25, 2020 to discuss level of funding. The Health Insurance line item was over estimated for a couple of years due to changes in coverages. Additional information related to pricing for Quality Data and Neo-Geo Mapping is still pending. Ambulance Services are in the midst of discussion regarding upgrading/renovating their space. They would like to add additional space to their quarters. Beekley Library received a Grant to add on to their existing building; but they may have to reconsider the plan due to an issue with prevailing wages coming into play. Farmington Valley Health District will request an increase in assessment of between 6%-8%. Regional Refuse Disposal District #1 will increase their sticker prices, but the assessment to the Town will remain flat.

A slight discussion occurred when reviewing the debt service section of the budget. Selectman Rosengren questioned where the debt service obligations of the WPCA were noted in the budget. Mr. Jerram replied that debt obligations that are solely the responsibility of the WPCA are not part of the general government budget; they are in the WPCA budget. The WWTP upgrade obligation is part of the budget as this was voted on by the residents of the town at a referendum. There is also a revenue line item associated with the WWTP upgrade listed in the budget. However, due to the fact that the WPCA has not been able to meet this obligation for 13 quarters, Jerram suggested that consideration be given to removing that as a revenue from the revenue sheet. The First Selectman indicated that the Senior expenses line item should be reviewed due to increased expenses that are occurring as a result of increased use of the Senior Van. The Economic Development Commission (EDC) line item was discussed, with Selectman Rosengren stating that he would like to see this line item increased to allow for directional signs to be purchased by EDC and placed at high profile intersections in town. He suggested that the corner at Route 219 and Route 44 would be a good spot for signage that would list several businesses/attractions with a directional arrow showing where the businesses are located. Mr.

Jerram replied that there are currently places of interest signs attached to street signs in some locations. Selectman Kennerson added that signage along the state highways requires approval from the Department of Transportation.

Focus turned to the Capital Expenditures portion of the budget. First Selectman Jerram stated that the Board of Education recently increased their proposed capital budget to include funds for panic buttons for increased security at the schools. The Capital plans for both Education and the Town were approved by the Capital Expenditures Advisory Commission and will be forwarded to the Board of Finance at their next meeting. Selectman Rosengren questioned where the funds for the wash bay (\$25,000) were listed on the proposed capital budget. Mr. Jerram replied that the wash bay funds are in the current fiscal year capital budget and are still available.

Mr. Jerram informed the Board that the Grand List figures are not yet completed and there will be a need for additional budget planning meetings.

No formal action was taken with respect to a proposed budget.

**MOTION:** by Kennerson to adjourn at 7:03 PM; seconded by Jerram.

*Unanimous.*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Christine Hayward, Administrative Assistant*