



OFFICE OF SELECTMEN

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SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES

January 7, 2021

Selectman Paight stated, as Acting Chairman of the Marlborough Board of Selectmen, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during the meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

Roll call attendance:

Chairman Pitt Not Present

Selectman Paight Yes – Present on Zoom No one else in the room

Selectman Nelson Yes – Present on Zoom No one else in the room

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm. Also present in the Zoom meeting were Ellen Smith, Town Administrator, Budget Advisory Committee Members Jeff Miller, Glenn Parker and Beverly Harris and Ted Mead.

2021 Budget Session #1:

Heritage Commission: Ted Mead presented the proposal and noted the projects in 2020 that were not accomplished due to COVID-19 but that the needs still exist. There was some discussion about utilizing the Town's groundskeeping vendor for brush cutting, this will be looked into further. TA Smith asked about the approximately \$250.00 in a PDIP account for the Commission, what it was for and could it be used up to cover any 2021 expenditures? Mr. Mead will discuss the account with Dick Butler to see if we can get an idea of what the funds are for. With no further discussion, Mr. Mead left the meeting.

SWNH Fire Mutual Aid Dispatch: 2021 will see a 5% increase. It was noted that the annual expenditure is derived from a formula that takes into consideration calls for service, population, assessed value and an allocation of certain overhead costs.

Regional Associations: TA Smith explained that annual dues for both the New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA) and Southwest Region Planning Commission (SWRPC) are based on population.

Insurance: TA Smith went through the line items highlighting noteworthy items such as a decrease in Workers Compensation Insurance due to a Premium Holiday. The Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) line item was explained. This was a new line item in 2020 due to the change in health insurance plans to reduce premiums for both the employer and employee. This was achieved with a higher deductible plan with the addition of the HRA. Employees are responsible for the first \$500 in deductible and the employer pays the second \$500.

Financial Administration: All items stayed at 2020 levels with the exception of printing due to the additional forms now required at year end.

Cemeteries: This budget saw reductions in trustee stipends as new members opted out, tree removal saw a drastic decrease as it is reported that the big trees that needed to be removed have been and over the next few years, there will only be a need for tree trimming.

Welfare: With the uncertainty brought about by COVID-19 and not being able to judge what the impact will be moving forward, the Welfare Director recommended that direct assistance line items stay at 2020 levels. The one change in the budget was due to the change in Welfare Director that occurred in April 2020 changing from a subcontractor to an employee.

Recreation: Peter Switzer was unable to join the meeting but provided a detailed explanation of the budget items. TA Smith noted that just like the Heritage Commission, several items proposed for 2020 were unable to be accomplished due to COVID-19. Several items were excluded from the 2021 budget because programs will still be limited for a good portion of the year, for example Senior Activities. The item that received the most discussion was the future purchase of a tractor for field maintenance. This will need to be further investigated and Mr. Switzer did explain in his narrative that additional information would be forthcoming.

Members of the Budget Advisory Committee left the meeting at 5:55 pm.

Motion to enter Nonpublic Session made by Selectman Nelson, seconded by Selectman Paight, under RSA 91-A:3, II(b) The hiring of any person as a public employee. Roll Call vote to enter nonpublic session Selectman Paight – Yes, Selectman Nelson – Yes, motion passed. Entered nonpublic session at 6:00 pm.

Public session reconvened at 7:10 pm. Motion made to seal these minutes made by Selectman Nelson, seconded by Selectman Paight because it is determined that divulgence of this information likely render a proposed action ineffective. Roll Call Vote to seal minutes Selectman Paight – Yes, Selectman Nelson - Yes, motion passed.

Selectman Nelson moved and Selectman Paight seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 pm, roll call vote Selectman Paight – yes and Selectman Nelson – yes.

Respectfully submitted

Ellen Smith, Town Administrator