



OFFICE OF SELECTMEN

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SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES

January 27, 2023

Chairman Paight called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Selectman Pitt and Selectman Nelson were present. Also in attendance were Ellen Smith, Town Administrator and members of the Advisory Budget Committee (ABC), Jeff Miller, Glenn Parker, and Trent Boehmler.

The group discussed the wage pool and the ABC provided some alternate models to consider.

TA Smith went over the New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA) data she collected and explained that the Board relies on data from surrounding towns as well as those in our population bracket to gauge how competitive Marlborough is. When looking at the average minimum and average maximum wage scale, most employees fall within the range when hit with an 8.7% increase.

Selectman Pitt wants to be sure people working in town get paid a living wage. Selectman Nelson voiced concern over employee retainage stating that at the state level, there are a large number of open positions and wages are getting a 10% bump later this year.

The selectmen had questions about the data collection for the models the ABC shared and asked if companies that report are middle to high-end companies that pay better than a municipality. The data is collected from those companies that choose to participate in all different industries.

Some discussion regarding the RTC and how the BOS is looking into a restructuring of the facility.

TA Smith explained the plan for the fire truck replacement and provided an overview of the funding sources. Fire Wards/Officers changed course with the type of truck, from pierce pumper to an apparatus built on a commercial chassis. Originally, they were considering a truck at a cost of \$700,000. This truck will come in around \$550,000. Interest income from several trust funds as well as a portion of the funds in the Capital Reserve will offset the cost, leaving \$400,000 to be bonded. TA Smith is gathering financing options and it is looking like a 20-year bond through the NH Municipal Bond Bank will be the way to go.

ABC members also asked if we need to replace the truck. If we had no truck, what would happen? What would be the effect on homeowners' insurance? These questions will be passed along to Chief Manning.

Trent left the meeting at 11:30 am.

Selectman Nelson moved and Selectman Pitt seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 am, vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Smith, Town Administrator