

Board of Selectmen Meeting:  
William Belden Training Room  
Chairman:

May 9, 2019 @ 6:30pm  
Approved: August 22, 2019  
Selectman Edmund Jaworski

Present:

Edmund Jaworski, Selectman, Brian Moriarty, Selectman, Cindy Doty, Selectman, Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator, Finance Committee Dianne Brzozowski, Paul Fisher, Darryl Williams, Sean Barry, Lydia Szych, Town Clerk, Edwina Palmisano, Treasurer's Office, Sharon Strzegowski, Collector's Office, Phil Genovese, DPW Director.

Selectman Jaworski opened the meeting at 6:30 pm continuation. It was announced that Tuesday, May 14 is town meeting. The band concert is the 15<sup>th</sup>, and May 26, Sunday, is Memorial Day activities and afterwards a barbeque. Mr. Genovese announced that Omasta Landscaping will donate mulch and landscaping for the park. They are to be sent a letter of thanks.

Public forum-N/A

Posted Business

Selectman Jaworski mentioned a question after the last meeting turned out to be a problem with a formula, has been worked out. He then turned the meeting over to Mr. Williams, Finance Committee Chair, after thanking Ms. Michonski and Accountant, Justin Cole for their explanation.

Mr. Williams reported the calculated surplus was \$6169.11, down from \$259,000. The change was a result of a problem with a formula being moved between spreadsheets. Current new growth went from \$50,000 to \$60,000. He pointed out other financing sources on page 9. Out of \$404,000 free cash, \$321,619.39 is being spent. In overlay deficits \$31,537 was added because of a settlement between the assessors and the church. Tax title stayed the same at \$25,000. Snow & ice at \$87,000 will be done in the recap, and must be accounted for in FY19. For FY18, \$21,000 is being taken care of via free cash. Insurance was adjusted down to \$600,000 from \$643,000.

Special articles were discussed. FY18 Water/sewer retained earnings will be used to pay \$100,000 for the route 5 water main break. A levy capacity of \$6669.11 would be left. Mr. Williams said water and sewer is an issue that will have to be addressed in the fall. Mr. Cole is comfortable with this number.

Mr. Williams said another item covered with Mr. Cole was what to do with \$83,000 free cash including moving it to finance reserve, perhaps for ambulance. Mr. Cole told Mr. Williams that other towns commonly do this. Mr. Barry talked about previous low levy limits. Mr. Williams said free cash is not used to fund regular budget items which makes good budget sense.

Mr. Williams said Ms. Szych wanted to talk about her budget. Moving funds from Town Clerk's expenses to election expenses for printing of ballots, etc. was discussed. Salary for elections would be \$6559 with COLA. Ms. Michonski said election registrars, and ZBA are not included on the list for COLA. She clarified that everybody who receives a regular paycheck gets the increase. Ms. Palmisano noted this is a hard thing for the fire department because of on call status. They have received it in the past but Ms. Michonski said it's up for discussion, the instructions were for non-union employees. Ms. Strzegowski discussed 'regular' and how to calculate it. Mr. Williams said one way is to do an average of a yearly amount.

Ms. Szych said she wants to get an increase for the wardens. Minimum wage was discussed but the Town needn't pay the federal minimum wage. Ms. Michonski said the increase was for non-union personnel.

She said the increase in the Police Department includes part time officers. Fire Chief increase would be about \$700. Other 2% COLA figures were discussed. Mr. Barry asked about whether money put into the elections line could not be used for something else. Mr. Williams said also included was \$20,000 for the tree warden. There was brief discussion regarding the animal control officer. Mr. Williams suggested Scott Pomeroy come to a future meeting.

Free cash, Ambulance and 350<sup>th</sup>

Options for replacing the 16 year old ambulance were discussed. One idea was to put a portion of the \$83,000 left in free cash into finance reserve in case something happens so a new lease could be established. Chief Gaughan said it will pass inspection there are issues. He described a problem with the ambulance warning console not delivering messages. The ambulance has had some recent repairs.

Chief Gaughan noted that \$23,637 in the ambulance trust, accessible only through Annual Town Meeting, is specifically for a new ambulance. Ms. Michonski said the article is on the warrant. Mr. Williams noted that when the ambulance is in for repairs it costs not only the expense of fixing it but the week of lost revenue. It would take @180 days to get a new ambulance. Ms. Michonski noted that the trust is made up of just donations. Selectman Moriarty said next year we may be having the same conversation. Chief Gaughan noted the cost of a new ambulance goes up @ \$8,000 per year.

Vehicle lease was discussed with Selectman Moriarty noting that if the town entered into a lease now there would be additional monies because a 5-year lease is coming off. Fire Chief appreciates the conversation has come this far. Selectman Jaworski used an example of a 17-year old car, saying it's pay me now or pay me later.

Mr. Williams said he would not participate in discussion of the 350<sup>th</sup> as his wife sits on that committee. The Board then discussed ways to fund \$25,000 for the 350<sup>th</sup>. Options were discussed including taking some funds out of stabilization. Selectman Moriarty suggested giving them \$10,000 from free cash, and then putting \$40,000 in finance reserve. Selectman Jaworski likes the idea of putting money in reserve.

Bobby Betsold spoke about the total budget for the 350<sup>th</sup>.as being \$136,000. The Parade is more than half the money. He talked about fundraising efforts and sponsorships. Mr. Williams asked what was put in for the 350<sup>th</sup> last year. The Town's contribution as per Mr. Lesko, was \$12600.

Mr. Betsold noted that commitments can't be made until you have funds in the account. Mr. Williams did a quick rundown including \$25,000 for the 350<sup>th</sup> and figured \$41,000 would be left to add to finance reserve. He said once the money is certified we can spend it. Certification is expected Monday, and then money can be put in finance reserve. Selectman Moriarty said if it is less than \$374 then we have to come back and redo the math.

Regarding the vote on the budget, Ms. Michonski it must be voted before town meeting and on file with the town clerk. Mr. Williams moved to accept the proposed budget for FY20 as discussed. Mr. Fisher seconded. All voting in favor the motion was approved. Mr. Barry clarified that the vote includes the changes in the clerk's budget.

Selectman Moriarty moved to approve the FY2020 budget as discussed this evening. Selectman Doty seconded. The motion was approved.

Mr. Williams announced that Tuesday the Finance Committee would meet at 6pm in the Smith Academy library.

Ms. Michonski said Baystate Accounting has asked if the Board could start transfers early. Mr. Genovese had some adjustments to be made still. Mr. Genovese reminded about the power surge costing \$17,000, which was reimbursed back to the general fund. He said a lot of stuff was charged wrong, misapplied. Ms. Michonski is to follow up. Mr. Barry said we can't use this spreadsheet again unless it's adjusted. He said it looks like FY18 and 19 are combined.

Selectman Moriarty thanked Ms. Michonski for all the hours and time she has put in with Justin Cole.

Selectman Jaworski said general bids for town hall renovation are due on June 19.

Selectman Moriarty moved to adjourn. Selectman Jaworski seconded. The motion being approved the meeting ended at 7:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ki J. Eno  
Executive Assistant