

Board of Selectmen Meeting:

William Belden Training Room

Chairman:

Selectman Edmund Jaworski

5-7-2019 @ 6:30pm

Approved: Nov. 5, 2019

Board of Selectmen: Edmund Jaworski, Brian Moriarty, Cindy Doty, Town Administrator Marlene Michonski, Finance Committee members: Diane Brzozowski, Betsy Rider, Darryl Williams, Paul Fisher, Sean Barry, Edwina Palmisano, and Sharon Strzegowski, Treasurer/Collector's Office.

Selectman Jaworski opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

He announced that Tuesday, May 14 is Annual Town Meeting, Sunday, May 26 is Memorial Day. Selectman Moriarty reminded that Town Election is May 21.

The budget will be settled tonight. There have been some updates this week. Mr. Williams said after conference calls with Justin Cole the free cash figure is now \$404,000. Snow & ice have already been deducted from that number. The water main break on route 5 was \$100,000, but there is still some money in water/sewer surplus that can be used for that deficit.

The spec-ed overrun of \$64,000 and additional deficits were discussed. There is a \$24,000 deficit for FY18 snow & ice. Mr. Genovese said 3,000 was the settlement for grinding. Also, there is \$50,000 for the i&i study, and \$13,000 in ongoing paramedic costs for ambulance. An additional \$7,000 is needed for Town Hall workstation replacement costs. Assessors overlay was in deficit \$163,000, it was certified by the auditor and the State, but needs correction. Mr. Williams noted the amount left in free cash as \$83,381. Ms. Rider said the 4 things to consider are: ambulance, stabilization, 350th committee, and the other half of the Memorial Town Hall workstations. Mr. Genovese also mentioned \$11,000 for the electrical half of the town hall generator.

Mr. Williams asked to go to the actual budget. The levy limit was briefly discussed. The group consulted the distributed budget. Ms. Rider discussed last week's figures vs this week's figures with Ms. Michonski. Ms. Strzegowski texted Justin Cole as there appeared to be something wrong with the figures on the master budget presentation page 2. Mr. Williams asked to go to page 7 expenses and go line by line. Mr. Williams called for a time out saying a discussion with Mr. Cole was necessary.

Ms. Strzegowski said one of the formulas was wrong. Ms. Michonski noted that all the changes made last week were included, with \$20,000 added to the treasurer/collector line and updated Assessors line. Mr. Williams asked about an additional \$178,458 for the school, and 2% COLA. The levy limit is at \$24,000. Mr. Williams said he is not comfortable adopting this as the budget. Mr. Cole sent the budget with corrections to Ms. Michonski via email.

The school budget was discussed with Mr. Williams saying he was not comfortable with the \$259,000 surplus. Selectman Moriarty said the vocational school should not be part of this budget. Cherry sheet figures, state and local receipts of \$2,309,004.00 and \$2,145,000 respectively, were also discussed. Ms. Michonski noted an error on page 1 under other expenses to be raised.

The Finance Committee discussed other taxes, fees and local receipts. Mr. Williams suggested getting the information to Justin Cole and reconvening tomorrow or Thursday night to get this taken care of. He asked

for a conference call with Mr. Cole tomorrow morning. Ms. Michonski said Mr. Cole needs to take a look at some of the pages he's worked on. All changes made at last week's meeting are in the workbook.

Mr. Williams said there is a conference call tomorrow at 1:00, which would give Mr. Cole the morning to look at it. Ms. Strzegowski texted Mr. Cole with this information. Ms. Michonski said Mr. Cole can't come to our Annual Town Meeting.

Mr. Williams asked to reconvene tomorrow or Thursday. The Selectmen being available, a meeting was planned for Thurs at 6:30pm. It was decided that free cash could be discussed tonight. Of \$404,000, there is \$83,000 left after required expenditures of i&i, paramedic equipment, and workstations.

There was discussion about a replacement ambulance which may cost \$302,000 for a 7-year lease @\$50,000/year. The ambulance has been on a list to be replaced for the last 3 years. There is \$23,000 in the ambulance trust and some money built into ambulance surplus. Mr. Williams explained money falling to the trust which could help offset the ambulance cost. Selectman Moriarty explained the 7-year rent-to-own program. Taking \$30,000 out of the 83 for the 1st year lease payment was discussed but subsequently dismissed as free cash cannot be used to pay for a lease. Mr. Genovese noted that one of the leases is up next year.

Mr. Williams said we need to sit down this fall and make a comprehensive plan because the Town's budget isn't ever really going to change. Mr. Barry noted that infrastructure is getting worse. Mr. Genovese commented that the pipes are stamped 1895. Selectman Moriarty said there is the conference call with Mr. Cole and then meeting again on Thursday.

The 350th committee asked for \$25,000 last year but was given \$10,000. Mr. Lesko of the 350th Committee anticipates spending 125 to 150 thousand. Ms. Michonski asked for a budget. Mr. Barry asked about the seed money. Mr. Lesko discussed the gala and the fireworks at Luminarium. The committee is soliciting businesses in town for sponsorships. Selectman Moriarty discussed his experience with the Holyoke parade.

Stabilization

There was brief discussion about putting some money into stabilization or finance reserve. Free cash not used stays in free cash but if it's not assigned then it can't be used until next year. Ms. Rider talked about replacing all the computer workstations for \$14,000. The money must be encumbered and used before June 30th. Ms. Strzegowski gave a rundown of the computer workstations.

Ms. Rider asked about Finance Committee recommending articles. Articles were discussed with emphasis on those necessary for maintaining a fiscally sound town government. Selectman Moriarty said solar panels at the school are going up because the contract has been signed. Ms. Michonski said the accountant recommends \$20,000/year go into a trust for unemployment claims. The difference between revolving funds and trusts was discussed. Ms. Strzegowski had 4 layoffs last year and said that money gets eaten up easily.

Ms. Rider moved the Finance Committee recommend the following warrant articles: 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,12,14,16,18,28,29,30,32,34,35. Mr. Fisher seconded. All voting in favor the motion passed. The Finance Committee will reconvene Thursday at 6:30pm.

Selectman Jaworski asked for a 5-minute break and the Board reconvened at 8:40. He said phase 2 of town hall renovation will be discussed at a meeting with the architect tomorrow.

The resignation of Judy Zahn from the Council on Aging was accepted with regret on a motion made by Selectman Jaworski and seconded by Selectman Moriarty.

Selectman Moriarty moved to adjourn. Selectman Doty seconded and the meeting ended at 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ki J. Eno
Executive Assistant