

**SELECT BOARD AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**JOINT BUDGET MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 17, 2016**

The Select Board and Finance Committee had a joint meeting for the purpose of a 2017 budget discussion. The meeting was held at the Ashfield Town Hall in the Main Hall on February 17, 2016 at 7:00 PM. There were no audio recorders at the meeting.

**Select Board:** Chair -Tom Carter. Vice Chair- Ron Coler, Todd Olanyk

**Finance Committee:** Ted Murray-Chair, Carol Lebold, Lindy Gougeon

**Town Administrator:** Kayce Warren

**Asst. Municipal Clerk/Scribe:** Lynn Taylor

This meeting was to discuss the budgets for the following departments: Tom Poissant: **Highway Capital needs**, Pat Thayer –**Highland Ambulance Service, Town Hall & General Government** and **Sewer Commissioners.**

*SB meeting called to order @ 7:00PM*

*Fin. Comm. meeting called to order @ 7:01 PM*

Sewer Commissioners were unable to make the meeting they will be meeting with the Boards on February 29, 2016.

**Minutes of February 08, 2016:**

**SB MOTION:** Coler makes a motion to approve the minutes of 02/08/2016 as amended, seconded by Olanyk. **VOTE: 3-0-0**

**FIN COMM. MOTION:** Lebold makes a motion to approve the minutes of 02/08/2016 as amended, seconded by Gougeon. **VOTE: 3-0-0**

**Highway Department Capital needs discussion:** Thomas Poissant Highway Superintendent distributes a list of Capital expenditures from 2017-2021 to the Boards. **(document 3)**Poissant starts by giving an overview of the expenditures on the list.

For FY17 Poissant is asking to replace the 1997 John Deere backhoe that has 8850 hours on it and will require about \$45,000.00 worth of repairs if we were to keep it. The backhoe is the most widely used piece of equipment at the Department. The cost of a brand new backhoe would be \$130,000.00. For FY17 Poissant is also looking to replace the 2006 GMC red pickup the cost of a new one would be \$32,000.00. Boards ask questions regarding the ability to hold these purchases off for a few years and repair them, It's possible this could be done however you then overlap with other equipment scheduled for future years, and dealing with breakdowns could paralyze the department. Carter has a discussion with Poissant asking him not to fill the salt shed and carry it over this year as it looks as if we will be looking for money for the upcoming FY17 budget.

**Highland Ambulance Discussion:** see budget book. Pat Thayer and Douglas Mollison are at the meeting to present the FY 17 Budget. The Budget has an overall increase of Ashfields assessment of \$12201.00, this includes a pay raise of \$1 per hour for the EMT's and paramedics. They have a discussion pertaining to the new Ambulance building that is being built in Goshen. It looks as if the building will be finished on time and within budget.

**Town Hall Building Committee:** Stuart Harris and Nancy Garvin are at the meeting to present their FY17 budget to the Boards. They need to have the panic bars installed on the front doors at a cost of \$4500.00 and roof issues that come at a cost of \$5000.00. Carter suggests taking \$5000.00 from Fred Cross fund and \$5000.00 from taxation. Still need to put away the \$20,000.00 towards the steeple repair. They are still waiting for the completion of the upstairs curtains.

**General Government:** see budget book Warren gives an overview of the Town Hall budgets. Mostly all line items are level funded there are a few changes within budgets. Increases are seen in the property insurance line item increasing \$2091.00.

**Tax collector** line item is increasing by \$849.98 the increase is partly 2% cola and the increase in contracts.

**Treasurer:** Asking for a salary increase of \$2100.00 in order to be brought in line with what other Treasurers make in surrounding Communities.

**Town Clerk:** Asking for salary increase of \$2201.00 this position is salary and an increase in salary for Municipal Clerk of \$1817.83 this position is hourly. Warren explains that the amount of municipal law changes and unfunded mandates is

really increasing. The responsibilities for the Municipal Clerk should be noticed through this increase in salary. Murray questions such salary increases, noting that from FY2012 to FY2016 total staff hours have increased 30% and total administrative compensation has increased 84%. Warren adds that if the people in these positions leave for higher paying municipal jobs they take a lot of municipal knowledge with them. Lebold and Gougeon agree with what Warren says regarding salaries, they suggest maybe doing the raises over a period of time versus all at once. The election line shows an increase of \$2200.00 this cannot be helped there are more elections than normal and the line needs to have the funding for these elections.

Coler advises he cannot support these raises on the Town meeting floor without data to back up the request. Warren suggest doing a salary survey. It is decided to put in the 2% cola for now and will have more discussion at a later date.

**Sewer Commissioners:** not available

**Mohawk Trail School system-appoint a representative to newly formed Strategic Steering Committee:** Ted Murray advises that David Newell has offered to take on this position Murray feels that he would be a good fit with his background. Carter feels they should send a very strong message to other Towns, School Committee, and Superintendent that they need to make a commitment to implement this plan they come up with. Coler feels that sending this message would be a complete waste of time. Coler makes a motion to appoint David Newell to the Strategic Planning Steering Committee and authorize the Chair to sign the letter, seconded by Olanyk. **VOTE: 3-0-0**

Finance Comm. Gougeon makes a motion to adjourn at 10:15 PM, seconded by Lebold. **VOTE: 3-0-0** adjourned at 10:15 PM

### **Liaison Reports:**

Olanyk gives quick overview of the MCAP meeting that he had recently attended. They are getting to the point where they are starting to look for funding from the member Towns Northfield and Montague are some of the Towns you already committed money.

Coler would like the Board to establish and account for people to donate money in opposition to the pipeline. A brief discussion takes place regarding this issue.

**MOTION:** Coler makes a motion to establish and account “opposition against the pipeline fund”, seconded by Olanyk. **VOTE: 3-0-0**

Carter has a draft of the Select Board Report that will go into the Town Report. Members review the draft Carter will do a little more polishing and get it submitted to Taylor. **(document 4)**

**Public Comment: none**

Next Select board meeting will be February 22, 2016

On the agenda for February 22 will be bylaws and or ordinances regarding pipeline. Warren will invite the Planning Board to the meeting

Next Select Board and Finance Committee budget meeting will be February 29, 2016

Olanyk makes a motion to adjourn the SB meeting at 10:29 PM, seconded by Coler. **VOTE: 3-0-0**

### **Document List**

1. Agenda for February 17, 2016
2. Minutes of February 17, 2016
3. Capital expenditures from Highway Department for years 2017-2021
4. Draft of Select Board report
- 5.