

MINUTES

BOARD OF SELECTMEN/BUDGET MEETING
Town Hall

November 30, 2020
5:15 PM

Board of Selectmen Members Present: Leo Enos, Leon Rideout, Shane Beattie

Budget Committee Members Present: Jon Gainer, Keith Kopp, Tricia Frenette, Rick Bernier, Leo Rideout, Jr., Dana Southworth

Others in attendance: Town Manager Edward Samson, Finance Director Michael Nadeau, Benjamin Gaetjens-Oleson, Charity Baker

Board of Selectmen Chairman opened the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Leo mentioned, this meeting is to discuss what was presented by the fire department since the last meeting. The budget committee asked Charity to calculate what the 2020 budgeted amount would have been if all the insurance and payroll lines (FICA, Medicare, retirement) had been included. Leo reported that Charity calculated the budget and it would have been \$1,263,516 with the added expenses. She also reported to the committee via email that the actuals for 2020 were already at \$1,306,066 which included payroll figures out till the end of the year but did not account for other expenses till the end of the year like electricity, gasoline, fuel oil, etc. So, the actuals may already meet what the committee is suggesting for a 2021 budget.

Charity also emailed to the committee and board a proposed \$1,350,682 budget the fire department worked up as requested with a projected revenue of \$750,000.

Motion made by Leo Rideout Jr to set the 2021 budget at \$1,300,000. There was no 2nd to the motion.

The committee moved right in to discussing what direction they would like to see the ambulance service go. They discussed whether they were going to be a business or scale back. It was explained that scaling back to a 911 only service would cause a larger deficit between the expenditures and revenues because the department is going to lose transfer revenue where the larger budget would allow for transfers to be taken and the ability to generate revenue which will lessen the deficit between expenditures and revenues. There was concern that if they move forward with a \$1,750,000 budget and hire the 6 full-time employees and it doesn't bring in the anticipated revenue will the Board of Selectmen be able to tell the 6 employees, they are cutting their positions. There was continued discussion on the pros & cons of scaling back or moving forward with the \$1,750,000 budgets.

Keith feels they should set the budget at \$1,350,000 which is the amount Charity calculated for the 2020 budget including additional \$100,000. That way they can hire one full-time person to help cover the hours the part-timers will no longer be able to cover. He also thinks they should be

able to make \$1,000,000 in revenue which will help make the numbers work at tax rate setting time. Ben stated there is no way the department will be able to meet a \$1,000,000 anticipated revenue without hiring more staff.

Leo Rideout Jr feels it is in the best interest of the taxpayer that some of the surplus fund balance be used to offset the deficit.

There was a lot of discussion back and forth on which direction to move.

Finally, Keith suggested changing the motion made by Leo Jr to \$1,350,000 with \$1,000,000 anticipated revenue.

Motion made by Leo Rideout Jr and seconded by Keith to set the 2021 Fire/Ems budget at \$1,350,000 with an anticipated \$1,000,000 revenue. 4 members of the Budget Committee voted in favor (Jon, Keith, Leo Jr, Dana) and 3 members opposed (Tricia, Rick, Shane-Selectmen Rep). Motion carried.

Motion made by Shane and seconded by Leon to adjourn. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Charity M Baker

Board of Selectmen

Date: _____

Leo Enos

Leon Rideout

Shane Beattie

Budget Committee Chair

Date: _____

Jon Gainer