

MINUTES

**SELECTMEN'S MEETING/BUDGET WORKSESSION
TOWN HALL**

**December 14, 2020
6:00 PM**

ATTENDEES:

Leo Enos, Selectman	Leon Rideout, Selectman	Shane Beattie, Selectman
Edward Samson, Town Manager	Randy Flynn, Fire Chief	Michael Nadeau
Charity Baker		

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Leo Enos

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Leo stated the main focus of the meeting was to settle on the 2021 budget for the Fire/EMS department.

Leo mentioned he spoke with Jon Gainer and Rick Bernier from the budget committee and he believes they agree with setting the Fire/EMS budget at \$1,600,000 for expenditures and \$1,500,000 for revenue.

Randy stated he has concerns with the revenue amount at \$1,500,000. He feels that is a stretch. Leo said, they will have to keep an eye on it. It is their hope the revenue will come close. If after several months it isn't working then they will have to pull the plug. Ed asked Randy just to do his best to make the budget work at \$1,600,000 and work hard to generate as much revenue as possible. They realize this is going to be a tough year trying to work with new staffing schedule.

There was discussion about when to allow the department to hire the additional full-time staff. Leon stated the appropriate hiring procedure needs to be adhered to.

Motion made by Leon and seconded by Shane to approve the Fire/EMS budget at \$1,600,000 for expenditures and \$1,500,000 for revenues. All in favor. Motion carried.

Leon stated the new full-time employees will need to be hired with the stipulation, if the budget does not pass at town meeting, they will no longer have a full-time position.

Shane asked if they should stay status quo until the town meeting. Randy expressed his concern that he may lose more employees. He feels it will be better for morale if he can start hiring effective January 1st with the stipulation they may not continue as full-time after town meeting if the budget fails.

Ed asked if there were any other concerns with the rest of the budget. The board felt the rest of the budget was good as is.

Motion made by Leon and seconded Shane to approve the entire budget to include the change to Fire/EMS. All in favor. Motion carried.

Shane asked if it is common practice to have the new cruiser purchase in the police budget instead of as a warrant article. Ed mentioned it has been done that way most years.

Randy mentioned, he will get the in-house job posting out right away.

Leo asked about the backhoe. Ed stated they found filings throughout the machine. Shane spoke with the John Deere dealer and he asked them what they can do to help the Town to repair it because he feels it is a premature failure. The dealer is going to get back to him tomorrow. Shane wants to meet with Tim Brown and Ed to discuss how to move forward. Ed said he would talk with Tim and get back to Shane with a time to meet.

Ed mentioned to the board that Tammy Sanborn from Smokin' T's made a request for a small business loan to cover payroll for the next month or 2 during their slow season. She feels they will recoup quickly and be able to pay it back as soon as business picks back up in the spring.

Motion made by Leon and seconded by Shane to approve an \$8,000 loan for 18 months with a 2.75% interest rate to Smokin' T's Bar & Grill. All in favor. Motion carried.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charity M. Baker

Board of Selectmen

Date: _____

Leo Enos

Leon Rideout

Shane Beattie