

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Stumpf at 6:38 p.m. in the Third Floor Conference Room B at Town Offices.

In attendance were Chairman S. Jon Stumpf, Margaret (Peggy) Kruse (arrived at 6:57pm), Linn Anderson, Bonnie Zahorik, Max Arai, and Eugenie (Janie) Moffitt. Also in attendance was Donna Walsh, Finance Director. Absent were Joanne Marden, John Barry and Greg Serrao. The meeting was voice recorded but not live cablecast.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Stumpf suggested that minutes received by email just prior to meeting need not be approved until following meeting in order to allow time for review.

Approval of Snow and Ice Over-Expenditure

Ms. Walsh advised the Committee that according to MGL ch44, sec 31d, municipalities are authorized to overexpend their snow and ice removal budgets, if the present budget is at least as much as the previous year's budget. This year's budget of \$1,247M complies with that condition, and has been overexpended to date in the estimated amount of \$538,236.17 (see attached schedule). Historically, we have been either 50% over or 50% under budget. How the amount of money is appropriated to cover these costs, i.e. free cash, transfer from other line items within current budget, etc., is presented as a warrant article at Town Meeting. In the meantime, the one-time approval of the Finance Committee and Town Manager is needed as a formality to move forward. Ms. Walsh will advise the Committee of updated costs at subsequent meetings.

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Arai, it was unanimously voted to authorize the overexpenditure of FY2015 snow and ice budget as above stated. Motion passed 5-0.

FY2016 Budget

Mr. Stumpf opened the discussion on the FY2016 budget.

Ms. Zahorik noted that last year the Board of Selectmen had voted to not tax to the levy limit, and had indicated at that time to continue this practice going forward. Although this was not formalized in a letter to the Town Manager, he did accede to the Board of Selectmen's request this year that the FY2015 excess tax levy capacity of \$1.1M be included in the FY2016 budget. Although the excess levy capacity was actually \$900K higher, the amount was kept at \$1.1M. Discussion ensued insofar as resident's expectations of the BOS' intent, whether the actual amount of \$2M should be carried forward this year.

Other topics discussed were: a) the necessity of knowing the full costs of employment including salary, pension, current health benefits and OPEB; b) the part-time custodian position for the Youth Center and the Youth Foundation's commitment to bear 50% of economic burden, including personnel if this position became a benefit-eligible position in the future; and c) the critical importance of presenting information correctly for the public's understanding of actual compensation numbers.

Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Kruse and seconded by Ms. Anderson, it was unanimously voted to adjourn to the Board of Selectmen meeting in Conference Room A. The motion passed 6-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Martin Barraford
Recording Secretary

Snow and Ice Overexpenditure Schedule