

WARREN BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUDGET HEARING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Present: Donna Hopkins, Bob Giuda, Kaitlin Baker, John Semertgakis, Sheila Foote, and Sharyn Washburn

Chairman L. Romano called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM. All Select Board Members, Charles Sackett, Lesa Romano, and Charles Chandler were present.

Mr. Chandler stated that warrant article #1 through warrant article #12 are operating budget articles and have been discussed throughout the budget process.

Mr. Chandler noted that the Town is in the final year of its 5-year contract with KRT Appraisal. This means that the Town will undergo a complete cyclical revaluation. The Town has saved over \$13,000 to help offset the cost, however that line of the budget increased by \$8,000. Mr. Chandler noted wage increased for the Town Administrator and the Facilities/Transfer Station Manager.

Additional increases in the budget in the general government section of the budget can be attributed to an increase in NH Retirement System contributions. There was approximately \$5,000 in savings presented in the Legal Expense line of the budget.

Mr. Chandler reviewed the Public Safety budget noting an increase of less than \$5,000 overall. The most significant increase comes from a \$6,000 line item for police prosecution. The Police Budget overall was up \$4,301. The Fire Department Budget was up \$597 and Emergency Management Budget was level.

Mr. Chandler stated the Town's Highway Operating Budget was done approximately \$5,000 citing less earmarked for vehicle and repairs. Selectman Chandler did note that there were some highway related expenses to be considered as Warrant Articles.

The Selectman reviewed the Sanitation budget citing a nominal increase due to operating costs and a small wage increase for our transfer station attendants. There was a slight decrease presented in the Culture and Recreation portion of the budget.

The Board reviewed contributions to the Trust Fund, which were down \$11,719 compared to the previous year

Town Administrator Austin Albro informed the Board of minor changes to two warrant articles and the addition of one new article for consideration.

Article 19: To see if the town will vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into a five-year lease-purchase agreement for a 2021 International CV515 SFA for the Highway Department, for a total price of \$120,297, of which \$20,000 is to come from the anticipated trade-in value

of the Highway Department's 2016 International, leaving a balance of \$100,297 to be paid under the agreement. The lease-purchase agreement contains an escape clause. Further to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) for the first year's payment under the agreement.

Article 23: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred twenty-seven thousand two hundred and sixty dollars (\$127,260) for the purpose of complete replacement of 14 SCBA equipment. The Town is applying for a grant for one hundred twenty thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven dollars (\$120,897). Five thousand five hundred and two dollars (\$5,502) to come from the unreserved fund balance. Eight hundred sixty-one dollars (\$861) to come from the Fire Department Expendable Trust Fund. No funds to be raised by taxation. This article is contingent upon receipt of the above grant. This article is non-lapsing. The Selectmen recommend this article, 3-0.

Article XX: To see if the town will raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-four thousand dollars (\$24,000) to complete necessary repairs to the Town's 2016 International Highway Department Truck.

The Board discussed the revision and addition of the articles brought forth by the Town Administrator.

The Administrator asked if there were any questions or comments about the budget or remaining Warrant Articles.

D. Bagley asked if the Pine Hill Road Reconstruction Article should be non-lapsing. The Board acknowledged that this had been agreed upon at the last Board of Selectman meeting.

There being no additional questions or concerns, Selectman Chandler moved to approve the budget as amended and adjournment of the budget hearing for the Town at 6:35 PM. The motion was seconded by C. Sackett. Voting in favor of the motion were Sackett-yes; Romano-yes and Chandler-yes. The motion passed 3-0-0.

Submitted by
Austin Albro

