

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING
DECEMBER 10, 2019**

PRESENT: Willard J. Boulter, Jr. (Chairman), Arthur P. Boyle, Jr. (Vice-Chairman), John G. Brown, Jr. (Clerk), Jessica M. Rushing (Selectman), Edwin J. Thorne (Town Manager), Michael Buckley (Town Accountant), Catherine Salmon (Chief Assessor), Kathleen McCarthy, Stephen Curley, Sabrina Chilcott (Assistant Town Manager), and others.

NOT PRESENT: Daniel W. Trabucco (Selectman)

At 7:30 pm Mr. Boulter opened the meeting.

7:30 TOWN ACCOUNTANT: REVENUE ESTIMATE, GENERAL FUND; TRUST FUND/LONG TERM LIABILITY TRANSFERS; SHARED COSTS BUDGETS (DEBT, INSURANCE, ASSESSMENTS)

Mr. Buckley presented revenue estimates prepared by the Treasurer and Chief Assessor, and advised that he met with the Advisory Committee last night to present them in an effort to lock in how much funding is available for the fiscal year. He advised that tax revenue can only rise 2.5% and new growth is then added; the Chief Assessor tries to determine in December what construction will occur prior to June 30th and they are forecasting an additional \$1.1million in tax revenue with new growth at \$550,000. Mr. Buckley advised that analyzing trend in the cherry sheet in years past has led to the forecasting of an additional \$30 per pupil in Chapter 70, or an additional \$70,000 and the same weak increase in lottery/general government or an additional \$48,000. Mr. Thorne advised that the figures are formulized when the Governor releases his budget at the end of January. Mr. Buckley cautioned forecasting a net increase as the Charter School Assessment rose significantly last year. He addresses the state reimbursement of Veteran's medical costs and local receipts which is not forecasted to yield any increase.

Mr. Buckley stated that the \$1,900,000 certified in free cash has recommended direction, with \$500,000 recommended to fund snow and ice removal and \$300,000 dedicated to long term liabilities. Recommendations include \$100,000 to OPEB fund, \$125,000 to Separation Pay Fund, \$50,000 to Stabilization Fund and \$25,000 to a new Unemployment Fund. It is recommended that the remaining funds be held in case it needs to be allocated at town meeting.

Mr. Buckley identified shared costs budgets as Ambulance Funds, Water Enterprise and Solid Waste Enterprise Funds and stated that there are other smaller reimbursements such as the Council on Aging's reimbursements from GATRA. Mr. Buckley advised that the Pension Assessment went up 10% due to the hiring of public safety personnel with the Unemployment Assessment at \$150,000 which will begin diverting to the fund. Mr. Buckley advised that Mayflower Health Group will vote insurance rates in March and he is estimating a 5% rate increase with a 1% enrollment increase; additionally, he is projecting a 5% increase in property insurance with worker's compensation doing well and staying flat. He summarized by stating that there is \$900,000 n dedicated, fixed, shared costs and the costs and rates increase but state aid does not increase, with \$15/16million static annually.

VOTE TO APPOINT JOHN GRENIER OF 108 STANFORD HILL ROAD TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, ALTERNATE VACANCY

Mr. Boyle moved to appoint John Grenier as Alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals, term to expire 2022. Ms. Rushing seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

VOTE ON COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES RECOMMENDATION TO APPOINT JOYCE STEVENS OF 704 SCHOOL STREET TO THE COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

Mr. Brown move to appoint Joyce Stevens to the Commission on Disabilities, term to expire 2022; Mr. Boyle seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

VOTE TO APPOINT STEPHEN CURLEY OF 2 GREENWOOD AVENUE AND MEGHAN WATTS OF 68 YALE ROAD TO THE RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Mr. Boyle moved to approve the request for appointment of Meghan Watts to the Recycling Committee, term to expire 2021 and Stephen Curley, term to expire 2022. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

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