

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING  
February 8, 2023**

**PRESENT:** Daniel W. Trabucco (Chairman), Tracy Marino (Vice Chair), John G. Brown, Jr. (Clerk), Rebecca Coletta (Selectwoman), Steven Ciciotti (Selectman), William Chenard (Town Manager), Sabrina Chilcott (Assistant Town Manager), Erin Obey (Superintendent), Kathleen McCarthy (Treasurer/Collector), Michael Buckley (Accountant) Donna Badger, Mike Quinn, Susan Bollinger, Linda Peterson, John Scholl, Liz Benotti, Sandy Beaton, Don Bryant, Fraser Townley, Elin Flashman, Stephen Walsh and others.

At 7:00 pm Mr. Trabucco opened the meeting with the Chairman's statement.

**SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT: TREASURER KATHLEEN MCCARTHY: VOTE USEFUL LIFE EXTENSION FOR ITEMS AUTHORIZED AT TOWN MEETING FOR BORROWING**

Treasurer Collector Kathleen McCarthy asked the board to vote the useful life extension of the equipment listed for borrowing purposes. The items were previously approved at town meeting.

Mr. Ciciotti moved to vote that the maximum useful life of the departmental equipment listed to be financed with the proceeds of the borrowing authorized by town meeting be as printed, Ms. Coletta seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

**SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT: TOWN MANAGER'S ANNUAL BUDGET PRESENTATION FY24**

Ms. Coletta discussed not receiving the budget presentation in advance which did not allow her to properly review and prepare for the presentation. Mr. Chenard stated that the presentation was an overview and that in upcoming meetings the board would receive much more detail and review each section of the budget with the appropriate department heads.

Mr. Chenard detailed his budget process for the board, which began in October. He stated the from February 8 through April 19, the budget will be in review in preparation for town meeting. He discussed that departmental budgets would be presented by Mr. Chenard and the respective department head; Mr. Chenard planned to present the board and committee budgets. He detailed and discussed his expected general revenues as well as general fund expenses. At the date of the presentation, there were still unknowns in some categories including healthcare, property & liability, state aid & local assessments. The school budget presentation is set for March 8 to the Select Board. Mr. Chenard stated that healthcare increases are unknown, but he had planned for a 5% increase. Mr. Chenard stopped for questions and answers pertaining to the overview. Ms. Coletta would like shared services broken down between the school and the town, Mr. Chenard stated that he could produce that request.

Mr. Chenard discussed the revenue section of the budget in depth for fiscal year 2024. A point of discussion was proposition 2 ½ along with new growth and how it has affected the budget. Mr. Chenard summarized the tax levy as well as new growth. He stated as a reminder that many of the numbers were fluid and could not be finalized yet. He moved into excluded debt which does include many projects still, like the Community Center and DPW equipment purchases. He also estimated that there would be an increase in state aid based on the trend historically. Discussion ensued about the different kinds of state aid that the town receive.

Mr. Chenard and the board discussed the pavement management plan that would be presented at a future meeting. Mr. School asked Mr. Chenard for an estimate that residents are sending to the state in the form of assessments, Mr. Ciciotti seconded Mr. Scholl's question. Mr. Chenard did not have the estimate at the time of this presentation. Ms. Coletta would have liked to see the amount of grant money that the town had received in revenues. Mr. Chenard then discussed anticipated local receipts, excise tax receipts, and meals

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tax receipts. He also detailed other funds such as water enterprise, solid waste enterprise, capital stabilization, among others.

Mr. Chenard moved on to expenditures portion of the presentation. He reiterated that there would be more detail forthcoming regarding this section when each department head presented their budgets to the board in the coming weeks. Mr. Chenard moved from departmental budgets to healthcare benefits, property & liability insurance, workers compensation, contracted services, and pension expenses. He noted that pension and healthcare numbers would be known on March 8. Mr. Chenard stated that he was expecting large numbers for new growth in the coming years. He concluded his presentation by thanking all staff, committee and board members for the hard work and services that they provide to the residents.

Mr. Chenard updated the board on the community center project. He recommended that the town use granite curbing at the project site as it does last longer than asphalt or concrete. The board supported Mr. Chenard's recommendation.

Ms. Coletta asked Mr. Chenard to explain to the board about the recent application to demolish the Turner House at the proposed public safety building site. Mr. Chenard stated that his plan was not to demolish the Turner House, it was to provide options when discussing the project with the Historic District Commission. The topic will be placed on the next meeting agenda for further discussion. Mr. Chenard provided the board with context regarding the filing of demolition paperwork including the cost to move the Turner House. Discussion ensued between the board and Mr. Chenard on the topic.

At 9:10pm, Mr. Brown moved to enter executive session, Ms. Marino seconded, the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

At 9:50pm, Mr. Trabucco asked for motion to adjourn, Mr. Ciciotti moved it, Ms. Coletta seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

### **MATERIALS & EXHIBITS**

FY24 Budget Presentation (TM Office)

Useful Life Extension (TM Office)