

**Board of Selectmen
September 29, 2022**

Present: Richard D. Edwards, Chair; Kenneth G. Fifield; Dino A. Scala, Town Administrator; and Toni Bodah, Secretary. Also present were Wayne Robinson and Alyssa Hall; and Angie Nichols.

Mr. Edwards called the posted meeting to order at 5:20 p.m. Review of the proposed 2023 budget was as follows:

Parks & Recreation

Mr. Robinson reviewed issues relating to the Vehicle Maintenance line (01-45201-660). Mr. Robinson confirmed the \$800 should be sufficient for Gasoline (01-45201-635).

Mr. Robinson stated that we need to make summer camp pay for itself. It would be helpful to put funds into the operating budget to pay for transportation for the summer programs. We may not be able to run the ski program this year. The mountain is closing early and, so far, we are unable to find a bus and driver. There is a chance that Mr. Robinson may be able to drive one of the Paul School buses.

Mr. Fifield referred to wage lines for Mr. Robinson and Ms. Hall and questioned whether they should be reviewed/adjusted. Mr. Robinson will provide available information for other towns.

Ms. Hall noted that summer camp is expensive to run, noting they do not want to increase fees for residents again but do want to provide the needed service to the community. Discussed addition of \$12,000 to the Recreation Programs line (01-45201-681) to help cover the cost of transportation, especially for summer programs. **Mr. Fifield moved to increase the Recreation Programs line (01-45201-681) by \$12,000 (to \$28,900) and to accept the revised section total at \$228,380. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.**

Town Hall Annex

Discussed whether this building could be sold if/when Parks & Rec has a new building. **Mr. Fifield moved the section total at \$16,935. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.** Mr. Robinson and Ms. Hall left the session.

Financial Administration

Ms. Nichols stated she may need to adjust the Deputy/Assistant line (01-41504-110) slightly as an evaluation is due. Mr. Fifield referred to the Tax Collector's wage line compared to other towns. At Mr. Fifield's request, Mr. Scala provided high/low figures from other towns. After various computations, Mr. Fifield estimated that the Tax Collector's wage line in the proposed budget (01-41504-130) should be increased by \$2947 to allow for an adjustment in Ms. Nichols' pay rate to occur, and the Deputy/Assistant line should be increased by \$350. **Mr. Fifield moved the revised section total at \$117,962 (increasing line 01-41504-110 by \$350 and line 01-41504-130 by \$2947). Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.**

Mr. Fifield stated that by year-end we will determine when this rate adjustment will take place, but at least by the first of the year. Discussion followed as to what a merit increase is based upon. Ms. Nichols left the session.

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Mr. Fifield suggested the Board consider other lines that may need adjustment. First to be considered was the wage line for Finance Clerk. Using information provided by other towns, the average high was calculated at \$27.44. A new wage line will be developed for Board approval and ultimate implementation.

The Land Use/Shoreland and Code/BI wage lines were considered. The calculated average high for this line is lower than our current high. Therefore, no change will be made to these lines.

The Town Clerk's line was considered. The average high of \$33.36 will be used to develop a new line for the Board's consideration and implementation.

The line for Sewer Plant Operator will need to be address in the future. Our current Operator's rate exceeds the average high.

Mr. Fifield moved to adjourn at 6:49 p.m. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.


Respectfully submitted,
Toni Bodah, Secretary

Approval of Minutes:


Richard C. Edwards, Chair

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Mark P. Duffy


Kenneth G. Fifield