

**Minutes of the  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Tuesday, February 5, 2019 @6:00 p.m.  
TOWN OFFICE BUILDING**

First Selectwoman Catherine Iino called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 6:06 pm. In attendance were Selectman Lou Annino, Jr., Selectman Nancy Gorski and Finance Director Regina Regolo. Visitors Robert & Marcella Sassi were also in attendance.

Iino opened with some background:

- The Grand List is up 0.82 percent (still subject to actions by the Board of Assessment Appeals). At the current mill rate, this increase would yield an additional \$157 thousand.
- The Consumer Price Index for 2018 was up 1.9 percent.
- State Funding remains uncertain. The governor will release his proposed biannual budget on Feb 20<sup>th</sup>. The current fiscal year 18/19 projected state funding is \$2.3 million.

With regard to wages, Iino outlined the following:

- The budget draft generally includes salaries with a 2 percent increase as a placeholder for nonunion salaries.
- No increase is shown for the three UPSEU employees and the Road Foreman, since we will be in negotiation with them shortly.
- The elected positions of First Selectman and Tax Collector should be considered for salary changes if we are to adhere to the past recommendations of the Joint Committee on Compensation.

With regard to other concerns in the Operating Budget, Iino mentioned the following:

- Proposed increase in the annual transfer to capital of \$1,000,000 from \$750,000. This reflects on-going commitment from the current and past boards of selectmen and finance to support the town's current and future capital needs.
- We expect substantially increased tipping fees from both MIRA for municipal solid waste and CWPM for bulky waste. Selectwoman Iino outlined the challenges that many municipalities face with regard to the lack of options for trash removal. The status of MIRA as a quasi-governmental agency was discussed.
- Pending request from the Highway Foreman for additional personnel. Iino stated that the Road Foreman will be requesting two additional full-time positions in the Highway Department, which currently has a staff of three. Selectman Annino once again asked for a comprehensive labor utilization plan that will both quantify and qualify the need for these additional positions. The expectation is that the additional cost will be offset

by lower expenses in contracted services or other areas and will result in improved services.

Finance Director Regolo pointed out that current budget (FY 18/19) numbers draft include the mid-year emergency appropriations for road repairs, \$250,000, and fire company turnout gear, \$27,500. These inclusions create a seemingly small overall increase to the operating budget for 19/20. The board ask that she find a clearer way to reflect this expenditure without distorting the impact of other changes to the 19/20 budget.

There will be a more in-depth review of the operating budget following completion of the capital and multi-year capital improvement review.

The board began a preliminary review of the capital requests for 19/20. There were concerns regarding some fairly significant deviations from Year 2 of last year's town approved multi-year capital improvement plan. The board will ask both the Fire Chief and the Highway Foreman for clarification with regard to the changes in priorities.

The board agreed to ask the following people to attend a future budget meeting: Richard Bauer, Fire Chief; and Laurie Ruderfer, Director of Youth & Family Services. Walter Adametz, Highway Foreman will attend the next meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 7, 2019.

lino moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Annino and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Regina Regolo  
Acting Recording Secretary