

**Minutes of the  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Tuesday, February 4, 2020 @6:00 p.m.  
TOWN OFFICE BUILDING**

First Selectwoman Catherine Iino called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 6:12 pm. In attendance were Selectmen Eileen Blewett and Lou Annino, Jr. Regina Regolo, Finance Director, was also in attendance.

Iino moved that Mary Meixell be named to serve on the Charter Revision Commission. The motion was seconded by Blewett and approved unanimously.

With regard to the FY 20/21 budget, Iino provided the following background information:

- The Grand List is up 1.07 percent (still subject to actions by the Board of Assessment Appeals). At the current mill rate, this increase would yield an additional \$213 thousand.
- The Consumer Price Index for 2019 was up 2.3 percent.
- State funding remains somewhat uncertain.

Regolo distributed working drafts of the FY20-21 operating budget and a draft 2020-30 capital improvement plan. She reminded the selectmen that revised draft documents would be distributed frequently throughout the budget process and they should pay close attention to the date stamp.

With regard to wages, Iino explained that:

- The budget draft generally includes salaries increase of between 2 to 2.5 percent increase as a placeholder for nonunion salaries.
- Contractual increases for the three UPSEU positions and the four AFSCME positions are included.
- The elected position of Town Clerk should be considered for salary changes in line with the past recommendation of the Joint Committee on Compensation that compensation for positions with four-year terms be reviewed after two years.

Iino continued the general overview of the operating budget.

- Regolo included an increase in the annual transfer to capital of \$1,000,000 from \$820,000. This is the maximum allowed transfer to the capital reserve fund from tax revenues.
- Iino discussed pending personnel changes in the Assessor's Office, the Building Department, the Health Department, Emergency Management, and Fire Marshal. We will try to include any significant budget impacts in the Selectmen's budget.

- lino stated that the DUI Grant used to offset the cost of trooper overtime will be eliminated in the next fiscal year. The board will need to consider whether or not to fund the related overtime.
- Regolo anticipates that health insurance costs will be higher as a result of changes in enrollment and experience. Blewett thought that the board should consider increasing the employee cost sharing from 14 percent to 22 percent which would bring the town in line with the school district. Further, she thought that the board should consider eliminating the buyout option completely. lino expressed her concern that eliminating the buyout might cause the town's cost to increase if even a few more employees elect to take the insurance. Half of the eligible employees are covered by union contracts, and the board agreed that nonunion and union benefits should match. This concept will be considered for future negotiations.
- Other areas that bear further examination include the Killingworth Library Association's request for a 3.6 percent increase over last year's funding; Killingworth Volunteer Fire Company's request for a 4.5 percent increase; Parmelee Farm's request for a 25 percent increase. While Youth & Family Services has asked for only a 1.6 percent increase over last year, Regolo and the board thought that .
- Upon review of agency requests, the board will decide whether to ask representatives from the Fire Company, the Library Association, HK Youth & Family Services, and Parmelee to attend a selectmen's meeting to discuss their request.

Selectwoman Blewett had a limited amount of time, as she needed to attend a previously scheduled Board of Education meeting . The board agreed to continue the budget review process at the next meeting. The board agreed to cancel the next regular meeting, scheduled for Thursday, February 6, 2020, due to scheduling conflict for Annino. The board will call a special meeting on Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. in advance of the regular meeting to be held at 7 p.m. Highway Foreman Walter Adametz will present his operating and capital budgets.

**Blewett moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by lino and approved unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Regina Regolo  
Acting Recording Secretary