

**Minutes of the  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Wednesday, February 26, 2020 @6:00 p.m.  
TOWN OFFICE BUILDING**

First Selectwoman Catherine Iino called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 6:03 pm. In attendance were Selectman Lou Annino, Jr., Selectman Eileen Blewett. Visitors: Finance Director Regina Regolo, Donald Venuti III.

Regolo distributed the latest drafts of operating, capital and multi-year budgets. Iino distributed a revised narrative from the road foreman in support of his request for an additional full time employee. Iino also shared a quote for transfer station hauling services from American Carting for the board's consideration.

Iino asked that the board consider adding two new projects to the list of capital roads for FY 20/21: Triple Chip Sealing of Beckwith Road and the unpaved section of North Chestnut Hill Road at a combined estimated cost of \$175,000. There was an extensive discussion regarding the annual costs to grade and repair these gravel roads; the existing scenic road designations; the volume of complaints regarding the road conditions; and whether or not triple chip-sealing alone without any drainage improvements would in fact provide a long-term, lower maintenance solution. Iino will reach out to the residents to determine if in fact they would support this project. Iino will ask the road foreman to validate his estimated annual cost to maintain these two gravel roads as well as get an estimate from an outside contractor to provide the same.

With regard to the request for additional personnel, Annino renewed his request for a comprehensive report from the road foreman describing what work is actually being accomplished and by whom. Without this information, it is difficult to quantify the needs and to determine the most cost effective means of meeting those needs.

The board resumed its discussion of the Parmelee Farm operating budget request, capital budget requests, and special activities revenue. In the light of the farm committee's decision to postpone rebuilding the red barn, the selectmen would like to see a formal policy for the use of funds generated by events, syrup, and donations. Blewett raised a question regarding volunteer use of town-owned equipment in terms of liability. Iino said that the questions have been asked in the past. Regolo will follow up with CIRMA to determine if there are any increased exposures to the town given that the machinery has become more sophisticated.

There was a general discussion and review of the fire company capital requests.

The board continued the review of the Highway equipment capital requests. lino shared a revised estimate from the road foreman reducing the capital request for a pay loader from \$200,000 to \$153,000. Annino would like an independent assessment of the current pay loader. He would like an estimated trade-in value and a determination as to whether it could be refurbished and at what cost. With regard to the guard rail mower request, Annino would like to know if there is a smaller unit that could be used with the 2017 John Deere that was purchased a few years ago. There was a general discussion about the current roster of vehicles, hours, and mileage, current value and replacement costs.

The board agreed to have another special meeting to complete the budget review on Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 6 p.m.

lino moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Blewett and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Regina Regolo  
Acting Recording Secretary