

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 21st, 2019 Town Hall

Present: Chair Ted Connors, Selectman Mike Marconi, Selectman Ken Latchaw, Martha Roy, Town Administrator, Cindy Saklad, Finance Director and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 9:35am, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

New Business:

M. Marconi moved to approve the Facility Use Request from Nin Dell Iosola to rent the Old Town Hall on Friday December 6th for an “unplugged” gathering of 8th and 9th graders from SAU 50. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor. N. Dell Iosola would like to continue these Friday night events if the first one is successful. The Board asked that N. Dell Iosola come back to the board for approval of additional events.

Gosling Road Moratorium:

M. Marconi moved to place a 5-year moratorium on Gosling Road beginning in May 2020. If the road needs to be excavated, then a utility inspection fee of \$10,000 per utility will be charged. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor

The Board reviewed the proposed 2020 warrant articles that have been submitted by the various departments for a total of \$1,413,500.

2020 Proposed Warrant Articles

\$4,000	Cemetery Columbarium Cap Reserve
\$80,000	Library Parking Lot
\$25,000	Revaluation
\$50,000	Backhoe-Highway Vehicle Cap Reserve
\$132,000	Major Roads-Eversource Funds
\$12,500	Recreation Cap Reserve
\$125,000	Fire Station Addition
\$100,000	Fire Vehicle Replacement
\$100,000	Fire Vehicle Repair
\$100,000	Fire Ambulance Cap Reserve
\$640,000	Fire Engine to replace Eng 5
\$75,000	Fire Forestry Pick Ups (2)
\$25,000	Fire Department Needs Assessment
\$10,000	Fire SCBA Cap Reserve
\$10,000	Fire Communications
\$5,000	Police Communications
\$20,000	HDC Eversource Funds

\$4,000 Cemetery Columbarium Capital Reserve:

The Board agreed with this warrant request.

\$80,000 Library Parking Lot:

The Board thought that instead of appropriating the whole amount in 2020, \$10,000 could be put in a Capital Reserve account for a future parking lot. The Board would like to know if some of the money for the proposed parking lot could come from the Library's trust fund. Another idea is that the parking lot be gravel instead of asphalt to reduce the cost and environmental impact.

\$25,000 Revaluation:

The Budget Committee recommended that each year, for four years, \$25,000 be place in the Revaluation capital reserve account. This will insure that the extra \$100,000 cost for a revaluation will be saved by the 2024 revaluation. The Board agreed with this warrant request.

\$50,000 Backhoe-Highway Vehicle Capital Reserve:

The Highway Department backhoe is getting old and will need some repairs in 2020 and will need to replacement soon. The Board decided to spread this cost over two years. This warrant will be for \$25,000 in 2020 and another \$25,000 in 2021. The Highway Department will continue to run the current backhoe in 2020. If it breaks down the Town could rent a backhoe.

\$132,000 Major Roads-Eversource Funds:

The Board supports placing the funds given to the town by Eversource, for rental of the Seacoast Reliability Project-Transmission line expansion laydown yard, in the major Roads Capital Reserve fund. This would be used to construct the Wilcox Industrial Corridor Road thus allowing for further expansion of development in the Industrial Zone. This warrant has no tax impact.

\$12,500-Recreation Capital Reserve:

The Recreation Committee would like to purchase new playground equipment, to replace the current equipment in poor condition, behind the Old Town Hall area. The Board decided to reduce this amount to \$10,000. The Recreation Committee currently has \$37,152.83 in their capital reserve account. M. Roy has contacted School Principal Peter Latchaw to see if there are any federal funds/grants that the town could apply for to cover the cost of the new equipment. Any remaining amount needed for the equipment could be taken out of the current capital reserve fund.

\$125,000-Fire Station Addition:

The small addition is proposed for the health and safety of the fire fighters. It would include a firefighting gear decontamination room and expansion of two existing bathrooms. The Board agreed with this warrant request.

\$100,000-Fire Vehicle Replacement Capital Reserve:

The Board agreed with this warrant request.

\$100,000-Fire Vehicle Repair Capital Reserve:

The Board decided to reduce this amount to \$25,000. The Fire Department currently has \$40,000 for vehicle repair in their 2020 budget.

\$100,000-Fire Ambulance Capital Reserve:

The Board reduced this amount to \$50,000. The Ambulance Capital Reserve account currently has a balance of \$152,449.10. The projected replacement date for the current ambulance is 2023. The projected cost for replacement is \$325,000-\$350,000. If the Town puts \$50,000 into this capital reserve account in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, there will be over \$350,000 in the account, the amount needed for a new ambulance.

\$640,000-Fire Engine to replace Engine 5:

The Board does not agree with this warrant request at this time.

\$75,000-Fire Forestry Pick Ups (2):

This recommendation is for a new forestry truck and a truck to be used as a new command vehicle. The Board does not agree with this warrant request. When the current Forestry Truck was acquired by the Fire Department, the Board of Selectmen were told that it would not cost the Town anything. If it had to be replaced later, the Fire Department would get another surplus military vehicle at no cost to the town. The Command Car does not need to be replaced in 2020.

\$25,000-Fire Department Needs Assessment:

The Board does not recommend this warrant request.

\$10,000-Fire SCBA Capital Reserve:

The Board does not recommend with this warrant request. Last year the Fire Department entered into a seven-year lease purchase agreement for 24 SCBA units. The Board was told that these units were good for 10 years.

\$10,000-Fire Communications:

The Board would like more information about the future needs for communications from the Fire Department before recommending this warrant article. The Board thought that the Police Department and the Fire Department could combine some aspects of their communication needs.

\$5,000-Police Communications:

The Board agreed with this warrant request.

\$20,000-Historic District Commission Eversource Funds:

This warrant has no tax impact because these are the funds that Eversource gave the town in 2019 for historic building restoration.

The Board will review the Expendable Trust Funds at the next meeting.

Cemetery Budget:

The Board recommends the Cemetery budget.

Code Enforcement:

The Board recommends that the dues and training line be reduced from \$1,000 to \$800.

Conservation:

The Board discussed the reduction of the Legal line from \$1,000 to \$0 as these funds would be available in the town general legal line as needed. The consultant line be reduced from \$5,000 to \$2,500 and the Town Forest line be reduced from \$500 to \$0 as the Selectmen are managing the Town Forest and there are funds in Land Management.

Debt Service:

The Board recommends the Debt Service budget.

Economic Development Committee:

The Board will review this budget at the next meeting.

Elections:

This budget has increased because there are four elections in 2020. The Board recommends the Elections budget.

Emergency Management:

The Board will review this budget at the next meeting.

Executive Offices:

The Board of Selectmen will not be taking the 1.6% COLA for 2020. The amount was cut from the Executive Office budget.

Fire Department:

The Board will review this budget at the next meeting.

Highway Department:

The Board recommends the Highway Department budget as presented.

Historic District Commission:

The Board recommends that the Care of Trees line be reduced from \$10,000 to \$0. The \$10,000 will be moved into the "Care of Trees" expense in Land Management account.

Insurance/Regional Associations:

The Board recommends the Insurance/Regional Association budget.

Land Management:

The Board recommends the Land Management budget.

The Board would like to take \$3,100 out of the Fox Point Capital Reserve account in 2020 to use for removing invasive species on Fox Point.

The Town will be putting the Assessing Services out to bid in 2020.

Library Budget:

The Library is asking for the Director's salary to increase by 10%. The Board of Selectmen would like the Library to consider a bonus for the director instead of merit pay.

Pest Control/Health/Welfare:

The Board recommends the Pest Control/Health/Welfare budget.

Planning Board:

The Board recommends the Planning Board budget.

Police Department:

The Board will review this budget at the next meeting.

Recreation Department:

The Board recommends the Recreation Department budget.

Sewer Department:

The Board recommends the Sewer Department budget.

Street Lighting:

The Board recommends the Street Lighting budget. This has decreased due to the conversion to LED street lights.

Town Buildings:

2020 Projects:

Town Hall-painting the ceilings/replace 2 windows/install a mini split in Town Clerk's office.

Town Garage-LED conversion

Old Town Hall-Painting the exterior of the building

Meeting House-Painting of front door and window fans

Fire Station-LED conversion/window sill and sash replacement/Shingles on roof (money to be taken out of Major Buildings Capital Reserve)

Police Station-Garage brick sealing/evidence locker install/fence in generator

Stone School-paint trim

The Board Recommends the Town Buildings Budget.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector:

The Board recommends this budget until a final budget is submitted by the Town Clerk/Tax Collector.

Transfer Station/Residential Waste:

M. Roy is recommending that the Board not recommend getting a compactor for the transfer station. When the Board first started looking into the benefits of having a compactor, they were told that the transfer station had three phase electricity, which is needed to run the compactor. When planning the installation, they found out that the transfer station did not have 3 phase power and it would cost the town \$100,000 to have it installed. That meant that the return on investment for the compactor installation and three phase power was not cost effective to justify the expense.

Adjournment: M. Marconi moved to adjourn at 11:15am. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Roy, Town Administrator