

Town of Newington, NH  
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes  
Monday, November 25th, 2019 Town Hall

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

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 11:00am, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Police Department Budget:**

The Police budget has an increase of 2.45% for 2020. This includes the 1.6% COLA and an increase in the health insurance rates. The Police have also proposed a new cruiser and a finger print scanning system in the Capital Outlay account for \$62,430. The Board of Selectmen recommends this budget.

**Fire Department Budget:**

The Fire Department budget has an increase of 5.94% for 2020. The 1.6% COLA only applies to the Chief and the Assistant Chief. The Union members have no increase until a new contract is in effect. There will be a new expense line in 2020 called ambulance billing fees. In the past the ambulance billing fees were paid out of a revenue account. They should be paid out of an expense line.

The Board of Selectmen would like the Fire Department to hold their budget increase to 2.45%, the same as the Police Department. A 2.45% increase from 2019 would make their 2020 budget \$1,876,310. The Fire Department would need to decrease their proposed budget by \$62,310. M. Roy suggested that the Board not include the new ambulance billing fees expense line of \$5,700 in the amount they needed to reduce. The Board would like the Fire Department to reduce their budget by \$58,610. M. Roy will email the Chief and let him know the Board's recommendation and that the new figures are needed by Monday December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5pm. M. Roy will also ask the Fire Department to prioritize their proposed warrant articles and let them know the Board's recommendation for their warrant articles.

**Economic Development Committee:**

The committee met on Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. They requested an increase in the hours for Karen Anderson, who will be working for the committee in 2020. Contracted services will be 8 hours a month. The Board recommends the Economic Development Committee budget.

**Emergency Management:**

The Board recommends the Emergency Management budget.

**Land Management:**

K. Latchaw would like an invasive species removal plan and action for Fox Point and the Town Forest in the budget. M. Roy will get a quote for the removal of invasive species. M. Roy will come back to the board on Monday December 2<sup>nd</sup>, with some number for removal.

M. Marconi would like all the legal expenses, except the Planning Board, to be in one place. No department has ever been denied any legal expenses. The Fire Department has included \$6,000 in their legal expense line in their 2020 budget. M. Roy pointed out that many times when departments reach out to an attorney to get their opinion, the attorney they reach out to is not an expert, so they get incorrect information and waste the Town's money. M. Roy gave an example; when the town

auditors told a department that they were required to submit timecards with their payroll the department reached out to an attorney, that was not an expert on the subject, and were told that they didn't have to submit timecards. In the end, K. Latchaw added, the department had to submit the timecards, per the town audit and attorney, because it is the state law.

**Adjournment: M. Marconi moved to adjourn at 11:30am. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Eleanor Boy, Recorder