

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Tuesday November 30th, 2021

Present: Chair Ted Connors, Selectman Bob Blonigen, Finance Director, Sheryl Bagley, Budget Committee Members Emily Savinelli, Fire Chief EJ Hoyt, Police Chief Mike Bilodeau, Police Commission Chair Brenda Blonigen, Police Commissioner Bill Wright, Fire Engineer Chair John Klanchesser, Fire Engineer Ann Hyland Hebert, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 4:03pm. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

M. Marconi will not be at this meeting because he is attending the Lamprey Regional Co-op Meeting where they are reviewing the 2022 contract for all the towns.

2022 Budget Cuts/Delays Discussion:

M. Roy reviewed additional cuts that have been identified since yesterday's meeting. The \$85,113 in unanticipated funds can be used to offset the Highway paving budget line. The Police Department's CALEA certification will reduce the town's insurance.

The Historic District Commission's wages line has been reduced from \$7,000 to \$2,000.

The Capital Outlay-Coakley Projects has been reduced by an additional \$20,000.

The Police Department has reduced their cruiser costs by \$6,100.

The new amount for the cuts to the 2022 budget is \$482,401.

Bob Blonigen wants to make sure that the new phone system for the Police Department will not be cut. The new phone system will save the Town \$1,500 to \$2,000 in the coming years.

Bob Blonigen explained that he is torn between cutting the \$50,000 Capital Reserve amount for the Fire Station or the \$50,000 for the Ambulance. E. Hoyt said that his preference was to go with the ambulance funding. Bob Blonigen said that funding repairs for the Fire Station is important but can't do it in 2022 because of the new revaluation of the utilities. Bob Blonigen reassured the Fire Department that he will not forget about the building. It is his #1 building priority in town.

Bob Blonigen asked if the Fire Department could delay the purchase of the pick up in 2022. E. Hoyt is concerned if the current command car breaks down and amount of

money that would be needed to repair it. T. Connors mentioned that even if the pick-up truck was approved it would take a year to receive the pickup. E. Hoyt reminded the board that the state bid is \$25,000 less than buying it off the lot. T. Connors said that if anything goes wrong with the command car, they will deal with it then.

The new total for cuts to the 2022 budget is \$482,401.

Cemetery Budget Review:

The 2022 budget is \$20,333 which is \$200 more than the 2021 budget.

B. Blonigen moved to approve the Cemetery budget for \$20,333, pending the approval of the warrant article that combines all the cemetery trustee accounts. T. Connors seconded the motion. All in favor.

Historic District Commission Budget:

The HDC added a wages line in their 2022 for a minute taker and someone to start the preservation of town records project. The Board of Selectmen cut the wages line from \$7,000 to \$2,000 which would bring down the 2022 proposed budget to \$15,336. Bob Blonigen would like the HDC to look into a grant for the preservation project. **B.**

Blonigen moved to approve the Historic District Commission budget of \$15,336. T. Connors seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Economic Development Committee Budget:

The 2022 budget is \$34 less than last year. T. Connors thinks the EDC is doing a great job retaining local businesses and reaching out to potential new businesses.

T. Connors moved to approve the Economic Development Committee budget for \$14,610. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Paul Deschaine is taking over the EDC support position. Karen Anderson, previous EDC Coordinator, is the new Town Administrator for Hampton Falls.

Recreation Committee Budget:

The 2022 budget is the same as the 2021 budget of \$51,850. B. Blonigen asked where the cost for the new Recreation Director is located. M. Roy said it is in a warrant article.

B. Blonigen moved to approve the Recreation Committee budget of \$51,850. T. Connors seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Library Budget:

The 2022 budget is \$3,300 more than the 2021 budget. B. Blonigen would like to know the expense that make up the operating expense budget line. S. Bagley will get the numbers to him. **B. Blonigen moved to approve the Library budget for \$258,676. T. Connors seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

Fire Department Budget:

E. Hoyt said that he added back the \$1,000 he had originally cut from the fuel expense line in light of rising fuel prices. The 2022 budget is \$15,654 more than the 2021 budget.

B. Blonigen moved to approve the Fire Department budget of \$1,884,789. T. Connors seconded the motion. All were in favor.

M. Roy stated that the transfer switch on the Police Station generator has been fixed.

Adjournment: T. Connors moved to adjourn at 4:38pm B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Boy
Recorder