

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 3rd, 2019 Town Hall

Present: Chair Ted Connors, Selectman Ken Latchaw, Selectman Mike Marconi, Fire Chief, EJ Hoyt, Board of 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 10:30am, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes Approval: M. Marconi moved to approve the minutes of November 12th, November 21st and November 25th as amended. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

Manifest Approval: M. Marconi moved to approve the manifests for \$48,447.54 dated 11/12/2019, \$72,921.46 dated 11/19/19 and \$54,137.08 dated 11/26/19. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

2020 Budget:

Employee Annual Leave/Severance Trust Account:

M. Roy explained that Finance Director Cindy Saklad recommends that \$30,000 be added to the severance account as a warrant article in 2020. The town expects at least two employees to be retiring in 2020.

Fire Department Budget:

Fire Chief EJ Hoyt presented the updated Fire Department to the Selectmen. The 2020 budget is 9% higher than 2019. The proposed Fire Dept. budget increase and proposed warrant articles would increase the tax rate by approximately \$1.12 per thousand dollars of assessed value. The total town tax rate has not increased by this amount in the last 15 years. Discussion ensued about the increase in health insurance costs in 2020. The health insurance rates increased by 7%, plus a firefighter has decided to get insurance through the town in 2020, plus the assistant chief's position health insurance cost is included in the amounts. There is a new ambulance billing line in the 2020 budget, dental insurance rates have also increased in 2020. K. Latchaw pointed out that the Police Department was able to have only an increase of 3% for their 2020 budget including everything.

K. Latchaw asked E. Hoyt to come back tomorrow with a 2020 budget that is only a 3% increase over 2019, not including the health insurance and ambulance billing budget lines.

Fire Engineer, A. Hebert pointed out that the department is asking for money in their legal line because the Fire Department has had a legal retainer in the past and it is less expensive for services. T. Connors asked if they were getting expertise in legal advice. T. Connors pointed out that the Fire Department got incorrect legal advice when the auditors asked that time cards be sent over with payroll. The Fire Department was told by their legal counsel that they didn't have to send over the timecards even though it is state law. M. Roy pointed out that the Town can get legal services on a retainer for certain services. The Board of Selectmen have never refused any department legal services.

The Fire Department audit, from 2018 through October 2019, should be finished in the next few days. When the audit is complete another meeting will be set up to go over the audit.

Library Parking Lot Warrant Article:

The Board discussed the need for a parking lot. T. Connors suggested that the Library hold their big events like the Winter Warm Up and Candidates Night at the Town Hall where there is plenty of room and parking. The Board decided to keep their recommendation of \$10,000 for the warrant article.

M. Roy stated that \$15,000 needed to be added to the Planning Board budget. This is for development of a Capital Improvement Plan in 2020. The Board was in agreement that this could be added to the 2020 budget.

The Board will be meeting with the contractors that have been hired to do the Mixed-Use study on December 6th at 10am.

Wayne Wood-Land Access Request:

M. Roy reviewed the letter from the town's engineer that outlines all the obstacles and issues with Wayne Wood's request for access to a piece of town property. M. Roy will draft a letter to W. Wood explaining the issues that have been identified.

M. Marconi asked about the Jane Moore property on Old Dover Road. The abutter has trucks parked on the property. **M. Marconi moved to draft a letter to the Town Clerk asking her to get the paperwork completed in 30 days. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.**

Adjournment: M. Marconi moved to adjourn at 11:42am. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Boy

Recorder