

TOWN OF LEMPSTER
BOARD OF SELECTMEN Budget Meeting
Approved January 30, 2024

Board Present: Traci Homol, Everett Thurber and Mark Lightner

Administrative Assistant Robin Cantara

Others Present: Daryl Simino, Phil Tirrell, Theodore Kraus, James Cheever, Dave Hershey, Tom Peplinski, Jonathan DeLisle, Carol Stamatakis, Cody Johansen, Linda Callahan and Jon Thomas.

Traci called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

The Board reviewed and approved the payroll and accounts payable manifest.

Traci read the 2024 Warrant line by line.

Ted Kraus asked why we have a police budget when we don't have any police; Traci explained that we contract with the Sullivan County Sheriff's office for police coverage.

Traci explained that the original department requests for funding were up \$59,838.00 and the Select Board reduced those requests by \$34,600.00 netting an increase of \$25,238.00 in the operating budget.

Everett pointed out that the overall budget (including Warrant Articles) had decreased by \$98,636.00 after the changes made by the Board.

The Board discussed the Highway Department budget details with Daryl, he stated he would work within any budget the Selectmen approved.

Jonathan DeLisle inquired why the Road Materials/Sure Pac line was reduced by \$10,000.00. Daryl explained that many of the expenses go into the gravel line which was increased by the Board by \$5,000.00.

James Cheever expressed his disappointment with Sand Pond Road not being repaved, mark stated that he had heard that it costs a million dollars a mile to repave roads. Daryl explained it is an accurate cost for digging them up and rebuilding but not for just repaving. Daryl will look into blacktopping the short section of Sand Pond Road that has not been repaved.

Traci reminded the attendants that this was a budget meeting not a regular Board meeting and we need to stick to budget items.

The Board discussed the Town Clerk/Tax Collector budget details with Linda, she stated her disappointment that the Board did not speak to her prior to recommending changes to her budget as has been done in prior years. The Board separated an estimated cost for envelopes from the executive line and added \$350 to the Tax Collector's budget and \$250 to the Town Clerk's budget, Linda doesn't like that the postage line is now postage/envelopes and would like it separated, Traci stated there was no need to separate them as when you use postage you also use an envelope.

Linda also requested to have the Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector wages split 50/50 with the Executive Department; Everett suggests we leave it as it is and track actual hours.

The Board discussed with Jon Thomas the Fire Department's budget, Jon had not reviewed the changes made to the department's budget prior to tonight. Jon expressed he did not know changes were made as the

changes were not emailed to him. The minutes of the meeting and the changes are on the website.

Jon quickly reviewed the changes and asked for the return of \$7,000 into his budget; after much discussion Traci moves to increase the Fire budget by \$7,000, seconded by Everett; all in favor.

There being no further business, Traci moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:29 PM, seconded by Everett; all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Cantara
Administrative Assistant