

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

NOVEMBER 12, 2014

MEMORIAL BUILDING

3:00 P.M.

Selectmen present: Chairman, Don Hill; and Leigh Callaway. Absent George McCusker

Others present: Bill Huntoon.

Don reported he attended the fire department meeting last night and they were questioning the status of the dry hydrant easement on Stoney Brook Road. Janet reported the easement paperwork has been sent and is waiting for the landowner to return it.

Leigh stated he would like to put the “draft” of the snowmobile ordinance on the website for public comment prior to the Board moving it forward for approval. The Board agreed.

Leigh noted he is formally making it public that the Selectmen were asked for and approved a pay raise of \$1.00 (4.7%) per hour for Pete Abair, Road Agent. (Non-public session of November 10th). The Selectmen discussed and promised this to Pete six months ago.

Don stated the purpose of this meeting was to allow the Selectmen an opportunity to “brainstorm” hoping to be able to set the tax rate as soon as possible after getting the preliminary information from the state.

Leigh shared his estimates of budgeted expenditures and what amount possibly would remain unspent out of the 2014 operating budget. In addition, estimates of the remaining fund balance (FB), the amount funded from FB in 2014 and possible expenditures that could come from the FB in 2015. The Selectmen have discussed reserving an amount in the FB contingent on the outcome of the current utility appeals. In addition, due to the need for the new septic system at the highway garage, paving was withheld this year with the idea that any money remaining in that line item could be appropriated through a warrant article to be used in addition to budget appropriations for paving in 2015. Leigh estimate for an amount to remain in the FB is 8.36%. Leigh noted his concern with Capital Improvement needs that may be required in 2016.

Don stated that the worksheet does a great job at comparing the numbers. The amount of money estimated to remain in the 2014 budget is almost all of what was supposed to have been used for paving. Don felt there could be some room to adjust the amount held for legal exposure, i.e. the issues could be settled out of court, or some payment arrangement could be made if the issue is not resolved in favor of the towns. There is also the additional \$25,000 from the recent sale of tax deeded property.

Don and Leigh were both in agreement to maintain the town’s portion of the tax rate as close as possible to last year’s rate of \$4.00. Holding funds in abeyance for legal findings and for paving in 2015 is critical. The Board felt they could comfortably take up to \$75,000 from FB to maintain the town tax rate at \$4.00. If the town rate comes in at a lesser number, then FB could be applied to 2015 or 2016 expenditures.

Motion by Don to put up to \$75,000 from the Unreserved Fund Balance to lower the town's portion of the tax rate to \$4.00. Motion seconded by Leigh and unanimously approved.

Submitted by,

Janet Roberts,
Administrative Assistant

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