Board of Selectmen
On-Line Via Zoom & YouTube Live
March 1, 2021
Special Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: T. Govert; C. Quinn; R. Smith
Also Present: D. Angersola; C. Varricchio; S. Wheeler; L. Zemienieski, and other members of the public via virtual media

1. First Selectman Smith called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. and provided information on how the public could submit their questions, comments and concerns to the meeting.

2. 2021-2022 General Budget Review Workshop

   A. Budget Review, Discussion & Deliberation

   Ms. Varricchio summarized the revenue and budget information that had been presented in previous meetings. In response to a question from Ms. Govert, Ms. Varricchio advised that the proposed budget on debt service reflects an increase of $962,000.00 which is mainly due to capital projects and open space; she noted that the increase is offset by a transfer of $739,000.00 from reserves. Ms. Varricchio provided additional information regarding the debt service budget.

   There was a general discussion concerning how to best approach the Board's deliberations of the proposed budgets. Ms. Varricchio stated that the Long Range Capital Improvements Committee will be reconvened to evaluate and prioritize the proposed capital projects, with a focus on infrastructure and building project capital requests. She noted that, since the Town had asked all departments to provide a 10-year list of proposed capital projects, there is approximately $1.8M in capital requests for which the funding source is currently undetermined.

   There was a brief discussion regarding the impact of the Federal government's proposed stimulus package on the Town's finances and Ms. Varricchio stated that Representative Courtney's office had projected the Town could receive from $1.2M to $2M in federal funding but there was no information regarding how the money could be spent. Mr. Smith noted that the pandemic and adopting a new accounting program has made the budget process unusually challenging this year.

   In response to a question from Ms. Govert, Ms. Varricchio reviewed a spreadsheet that showed the impact of spending on the mill rate. She suggested the Board begin their deliberations with the operating budgets; however, Ms. Govert stated that would be difficult without the aid of a complete budget binder.

   Ms. Varricchio stated she would provide the Board with the updated budget binders prior to their next meeting. She also agreed to provide them with information regarding the Public Works budgets for comparable CT towns. Ms. Quinn stated she is specifically interested in the number of road crew employees for such towns; Ms. Govert requested, if possible, the data also include the number of miles of town roads for each.

1. General Government Budgets: Individual budgets were not discussed at the meeting.

2. Public Safety Budgets: Individual budgets were not discussed at the meeting.

3. Public Works Budgets: The individual Public Works budgets were not discussed at the meeting,

4. Health and Social Services Budgets: The individual Health and Social Services budgets were not discussed at the meeting.

5. Culture and Recreation Budgets: The individual Culture and Recreation budgets were not discussed at the meeting.

6. Capital Budgets: The individual Capital budgets were not discussed at the meeting.

B. Other Budget Items: No other budget items were discussed at the meeting.

C. Public Comment: There were no public comments discussed at the meeting.

3. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss, a motion was made Ms. Govert, seconded by Ms. Quinn, to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 a.m. Unanimous aye.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Theresa Govert, Secretary