

Joint Select Board and Budget Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

Municipal Center, Room A, 10 Bunker Hill Avenue, Stratham, NH 03885

Meeting Date: January 18, 2024

Attendees:

- Mike Houghton, Select Board Chair
- Allison Knab, Select Board Vice Chair
- Joe Anderson, Select Board
- June Sawyer, Budget Advisory Committee
- Connie Aubin-Adams, Budget Advisory Committee
- Wayne Young, Budget Advisory Committee
- Tedd Tramaloni, Budget Advisory Committee
- Jennifer Scrafford, School Board Representative
- David Moore, Town Administrator
- Christiane McAllister, Finance Administrator

At 6:00 pm Select Board Chair Mike Houghton opened the joint meeting of the Select Board and Budget Advisory Committee (BAC).

The BAC and the Board received a presentation from Town Administrator David Moore relative to preliminary requests for the Capital Improvement Program and Capital Reserve Fund allocations for 2024. The Board and BAC discussed various the proposals.

Following the presentation and discussion, the Board asked the BAC for their general feedback about the direction of the preliminary budget. Members of the BAC indicated they thought the overall spending proposal was reasonable and appropriate based on what they have seen.

When asked for overall impressions, Mr. Young advised the Board that the town should prepare for the necessity of having coverage in the Fire station in the evenings. The group discussed the evolution of Fire and EMS services in Town. Ms. Scrafford generally advocated for broad support of the recreation offerings given the reliance of Stratham families on the programming, including summer camp programming.

Mr. Anderson inquired about what part of the process could be improved for next year. There were recommendations made about additional information that could be presented including the number of FTEs over time.

Following the discussions the Select Board thanked the BAC members for their time, participation, and ideas. He indicated the Board would take their input into account in the coming weeks as the budget recommendation to Town Meeting is finalized.

BAC members departed and the Select Board returned to the proposal for Fire Department roof repairs discussed at their meeting on the 16th of January. The Board voted to authorize the Town Administrator to enter to a contract for the work proposed and expend up to \$26,000 of ARPA funds for the work.

The Board and Town Administrator then discussed assignment of pro-tem Select Board members for the January 23, 2024 Presidential Primary.

At the request of the Planning Board, Planning Board Select Board Representative and SB Chair advised the other Select Board members that the Planning Board had asked the Select Board to review the January 9, 2024 ZBA decision concerning 13 and 15 Stoneybrook Place for the purposes of evaluating the prospect of requesting a rehearing. The Board resolved to pick this up at a special meeting of the Select Board already scheduled for January 24, 2024 as an additional business item, the primary one being a workshop on the 2024 budget.

At 7:59 pm Mr. Houghton motioned to go into a non-public session to discuss personnel matters in accordance with RSA 91A:3, II(b) hiring. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. Roll call: Houghton-yes; Knab-yes; Anderson-yes

At 8:15 pm Mr. Houghton motioned to come out of the non-public session and seal the minutes noting failure to do so may render a proposed action invalid. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The Board further resolved to add the topic of PREP request for funding support for regional environmental monitoring to their meeting on January 24th.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.