

## **Joint Select Board and Budget Advisory Committee Meeting Summary**

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

Meeting Date: January 9, 2020

Attendees:

- Mike Houghton, Select Board Chair
- Joe Lovejoy, Select Board Vice Chair
- Allison Knab, Select Board Chair
- Bruce Scamman, Budget Advisory Committee, Chair
- Gary Dolan, Budget Advisory Committee (needed to leave at 7:00 p.m.)
- Nathan Merrill, Budget Advisory Committee
- June Sawyer, Budget Advisory Committee
- Beth Dupell, Budget Advisory Committee
- (absent) Eric von der Linden, Budget Advisory Committee, School District Rep.
- David Moore, Town Administrator
- Dawna Duhamel, Finance Administrator

Select Board Chair Mike Houghton opened the joint meeting of the Select Board and Budget Advisory Committee (BAC), he provided a brief overview of the evening's agenda.

BAC Chair Scamman discussed the need for the committee to meet separately in the future and the BAC discussed potential dates.

Board Chair Houghton then recognized Town Administrator David Moore to provide an overview of the Capital Improvement Plan. He noted the presence of several department head representatives available for questions on CIP items, including the Police Chief, Fire Chief, DPW Director, P&R Director. This group was eventually joined by the Library Trustees as well as Library Director.

Questions or clarifications were sought on a number of items in the CIP. The Police Chief spoke to technology needs of the department including computer workstation replacements and traffic control equipment. Fire Chief Larrabee spoke to the Special Revenue Fund requests for the upcoming year, including the jaws of life replacement. Several suggestions were made about the need for more information in the CIP, including the usefulness of understanding what future years CIP allocations are lapsing and when (information subsequently included in another CIP submittal dated January 15, 2020). In addition, the BAC encouraged more information be shared about proposed projects in the CIP, especially where the project titles were made to be more broad (Park-wide Recreation Improvements).

Following a discussion of the CIP items the department heads were invited to leave if they wished. The Board and BAC discussed the overall process and strategies for creating cuts. There was general discussion and agreement about the current level of proposed operating budget increase is not acceptable and should be looked at closely by everyone. There were some

clarifications on the amount of the year over year increase and further clarifications of on the overall budget picture.

The Board and BAC discussed the utility of and agreed to meet at another time to discuss the budget as it progresses prior to presenting on the warrant.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.