

Minutes for the budget Committee
Tuesday Oct 29, 2019

Board Members present:

Lindseigh Picard- School Board rep, Chester LaPointe- Chairman, Ben Kilanski- Selectman rep, Tiffany Melanson, Theresa Sepe- Vice Chairman.

Meeting Called to order at 6:00 PM

First Order of Business: Motion to approve minutes from Oct. 9, 2019 Ben Kilanski- Second- Lindseigh Picard 5/0 -Motion passes

Motion to approve= MTA

Second order of business:

The board discussed and agreed to wait to review the budget line items with Departments Heads on Saturday, Nov 16th. These include: Cemetery, Ambulance, and Thayer Library

Budget lines as follows:

- CONSERVATION COMMITTEE:

Discussion on what requires monitoring/ MTA \$ 2,277.00- Theresa- second Ben -5/0 motion passes

- DEBT SERVICES:

MTA \$ 135,626.00- Theresa-second Ben-5/0 motion passes

- EXECUTIVE SALARY:

Discussion on what and whom is paid. Theresa asked for examples of the projects the Grant Writer has been successful obtaining and what the success rate of the projects are. Also, how much and how does the Grant Write get compensated.

The examples that were given are the sidewalks on main street, culverts, and the church steeple. It was stated that the Grant Writer bills the town and there is not a set amount. Theresa asked if he was compensated based on the dollar amount of the grant. The answer given was the amount that has been paid out is less than \$5000.00 - MTA \$80,929.00-Theresa-second Ben- 5/0 motion passes

-FINANCIAL:

Theresa would like to know why the selectman had decided that this year the town has voted to give a 1 % raise with up to a 3 % merit raise whereas last year they didn't give any raises at all. Gloria Leustek (audience member) gave her reasoning as a Winchester Selectman that a merit raise is how many companies in the private sector award raises due to fairness. Reasoning being, if an employee is guaranteed a specific raise, he or she does not have any incentive to ever perform the job any more than is required. An employee in the same position may perform above and beyond what is expected and still only be compensated the same. Whereas a merit raises(in addition to a COLA) will recognize individual efforts and that employee will be rewarded. It will be the responsibility of each department

supervisor to perform an honest and impartial review of each employee and to present those reviews to the BOS.

It was discussed and the general agreement is that the town employees should have at the least a minimum raise. -MTA \$116,890.00 -Lindseigh-second Ben 5/0 motion passes

-HEALTH:

MTA \$5897.00- Theresa second- Ben- 5/0 motion passes

-HIGHWAY BLOCK GRANT:

There will be a Warrant article. Per Auditor suggestion, keeping \$1.00 to hold line item
MTA \$1.00- Lindseigh- second Ben 5/0 motion passes

-INSURANCE:

MTA \$ 67,262.00- Lindseigh - second Theresa -5/0 motion passes

-LANDFILL:

3% Contractual annual increase MTA \$311,759.00- Ben -second Tiffany 4/1 motion passes

-LEGAL:

Discussion on reasons for increase. The town is experiencing an increase with tax levies
MTA \$ 75,200 - Ben - second Tiffany -5/0 motion passes

-OGG:

MTA \$3300.00- Theresa -second Lindseigh -5/0 motion passes

-PATRIOTIC:

MTA \$1,100 - Ben-second Theresa- 5/0 motion passes

-PROPERTY RECORDS:

Discussion about increase in service fee for Avitar, Accessing company. MTA \$34,692.00 - Lindseigh-
second Ben-5/0 motion passes

-RECREATIONAL:

Keeping \$1.00 to hold line item. MTA \$1.00- Ben- second Lindseigh -5/0 motion passes

-SWRPC:

Discussion on the services performed for yearly fee.
traffic study, EPA grant, hazard / environmental study. MTA \$5,000.00 Lindseigh- second Theresa -5/0
motion passes

-STREET LIGHTS:

MTA \$28,000- Theresa -second Lindseigh -5/0 motion passes

-TOWN BEACH:

MTA \$ 33,851 Lindseigh- second Theresa -5/0 motion passes

NOV 5th MEETING CANCELED

NEXT MEETING NOV 12th TOWN HALL WITH HEALTH AGENCY

FEB 6th SCHOOL DELIBERATIVE (THURSDAY)

Motion to Adjourn - Ben- second Lindseigh

5/0 motion passes

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Rhodes November 2, 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JR' or similar initials, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.