

Budget Meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 in Room 34, the Harry B. Butters Chambers, Norwood Memorial Municipal Building, with the Pledge of Allegiance, and a silent moment of prayer and reflection. Meeting is Recorded.

Present: Chairman William J. Plasko, Helen Abdallah Donohue, Paul A. Bishop and Thomas F. Maloney. Also present General Manager Tony Mazzucco, Asst. General Manager Bernie Cooper, Clerk Frances L. Jessoe and Assistant Christina Mulvehill.

Appointments-Budget Hearings

5:00 P.M. – Thomas J. McQuaid, Town Clerk & Accountant

Mr. McQuaid gave a brief overview of the budgeting process. There is a deficit on both the School and Town side. Mr. McQuaid said there is a two-year process for the government budget standards that Mr. Mazzucco made us aware of. In his budget, the biggest change is the split of the Clerk/Accountant, which is reflected in his proposal. There is an increase on conferences for educational purposes. As for the new voting equipment, the public should not see much of a difference. Any money not spent in reserve fund goes back to general fund as free cash. Selectman Maloney asked about the balance of the Stabilization Fund, which is \$4,693,711 after the next payment of \$428,571 is made. Chairman Plasko said this was mentioned at Town Wide Budget Balancing meeting. One of the funding sources we are using is the payment from NSTAR. Mr. McQuaid said the funding for Blue Hills is unknown at this time. There is an initiative by the manager to start putting money in Capital Outlay funding. The Manager spoke briefly about the benefits of this strategy. Among other things, this should help our bond rating.

5:15 P.M. – Mark Redlich, Computer Department

Computer Director Mark Redlich pointed out some changes in his budget. The manager wants to combine all phone and data costs into one budget line. Another change is there is now enough money to do the VOIP project in Town Hall, Library, Police, Fire, etc. Selectman Maloney asked about the \$20,000 for rewiring in his budget. Mr. Redlich said it is unclear at this point. The ground floor and second floor are not finished, but the first and third floors are. We will be adding Wi-Fi and cameras at civic and town hall. Desktops and office applications will need to be replaced in 2020 and will cost approximately \$300,000. Selectman Donohue asked if this could be spread out at all. Mr. Mazzucco addressed this. He also explained the limitations of borrowing for software.

5:30 P.M. – Supt. Travis Farley, Recreation Department

Mr. Farley pointed out a big change in civic incidental building repairs such as the basketball court, which has not been resurfaced down to the wood in many years. Selectman Maloney asked about the wall unit heaters that they have in every room, and about a basketball court divider. Mr. Farley will look into Selectman Donohue's concerns. Chairman Plasko asked about the proposed new kitchen at a cost of \$200,000 and asked if that type of program could be done at some other kitchen. Selectman Donohue would like to see more interest put into programs. Mr. Farley spoke briefly about the lighting in the civic and gave an overview of the playground maintenance proposal. Selectman Donohue suggested seeking donations and funds for the playground. Selectman Donohue suggested getting input from all the people in town about the lower Balch area. Chairman Plasko spoke about the fee increases that were proposed earlier. Mr. Mazzucco said they will start with the camp and swimming lessons fees starting this summer and the increase will be gradual. There will be consideration of sibling discounts and scholarship options.

5:45 P.M. – Supt. Mark Ryan, DPW, Town Engineer

DPW Director/Town Engineer Mark Ryan and Business Manager Sara Winthrop were present. Mr. Ryan pointed out some increases in his line items. Sewer outfall monitoring was taken out of the engineering budget and moved to DPW. There is a \$75,000 decrease in Drain Maintenance in this proposal. Recycling collection and disposal will increase in fiscal 2019. Selectman Donohue complimented Mr. Ryan on the wonderful job he did negotiating the Waste Management contract and asked if there could be some education in the schools about recycling basics. Mr. Ryan agreed that education is a big part of this.

Mark Ryan, DPW Director/Town Engineer-(cont'd)

The biggest increase in salaries is a request for a full time solid waste coordinator. DEP is offering grants for recycling programs. Chairman Plasko said he does not agree with this. Selectman Donohue asked about an increased line item. Mr. Ryan said they have eleven hundred businesses with backflow devices, which they have to test each year according to Mass DEP standards. The cost is recovered through the testing fees. Mr. Ryan explained the goal to line water mains and he recommends expediting this effort and adding \$500,000 to clean and line more water mains. Selectman Donohue thanked Mr. Ryan for what he did in South Norwood. Mr. Ryan spoke about replacing sections of sidewalk to make them safer. Chairman Plasko asked Mr. Ryan and the Manager to work together looking at policy for choosing between asphalt and concrete. Mr. Ryan spoke about the Airport Commission budget. There is an increase in education request for the Manager and Assistant Manager. There is an increase for a third employee, an office manager to handle badges, landing fees, etc. The personnel board study recommended a 3.5 person department. Mr. Ryan spoke about the taxiway A project for this coming summer. It is funded 90% from FAA and %5 from MassDoT and Town pays 5%.

6:00 P.M. – Supt. James Collins, Light Department & Broadband

Mr. Collins said the light budget is level funded. He spoke about the purchase of power, which he anticipates will be lower next year. There are some projects currently being worked on using the depreciation account. Selectman Donohue asked what part of budget is money put aside to do repairs and suggested using depreciation money to put the wiring underground. Mr. Collins explained that underground wiring is sub-contracted out, as it is a specialty service. Access Road facility will require funding over the next few years. Mr. Collins gave an overview of the Broadband situation. The internet numbers keep growing. Mr. Hansen spoke about the decrease in traditional cable viewers as people use internet more for viewing. They are looking for ways to retain customers. The LED program should be complete by July. Mr. Collins said they budgeted \$195,000 for next year, which is down from this year. Selectman Maloney asked about pole mounted traffic control display. Mr. Cooper said it is a request from the police department and pedestrian safety committee.

6:15 P.M. – Chief William G. Brooks, III, Norwood Police Department

Deputy Chief Kelly and Officer Grasso were present and Deputy Chief Kelly gave the budget proposal overview. Much of the increase is due to the 2.5% COLA increase, and overtime pay. The increased request for the Dues and Subscriptions line item is to enable more participation in associations. There is a request for funding to replace Tasers and funding to purchase four new cruisers and an unmarked car. Selectman Donohue spoke about contract negotiations and her opposition to the day/night differential.

6:30 P.M. – Chief Anthony J. Greeley, Norwood Fire Department

Chief Anthony Greeley gave the budget overview for his department. The department is scheduled for a new engine in FY 2019, which would replace the 2000 Engine 1. Selectman Donohue asked where the refurbishment was done ten years ago and suggested driving the engine there for an evaluation. The Chief spoke about the Union MOU, which is currently being worked on, and the numbers on his FY 2019 request are based on that MOU being ratified. The substitution account is up because of the increase in wages, and substitution covers all of the paid time off. There is an additional \$25,000 to build an entryway to make the doorway safer. The chief spoke about an upgrade to the dispatch radio. The entire project would cost \$300,000. Officer Grasso spoke about the consoles. They are fifteen years old and the life expectancy was ten years. Selectman Bishop added that if there were a major disaster they would need a third dispatcher. Chairman Plasko asked if there is adequate lighting in that area. Chief Greeley said Dan Morrissey is going to do an entire evaluation of the lighting in the building. Mr. Mazzucco said this is the equipment you call into when you dial 911. Selectman Donohue commented on the progress.

6:45 P.M. –General Manager

Bernie Cooper, Cathy Carney, and Tony Mazzucco were in attendance. The Manager reported that State Aid has not come out yet. Mr. Cooper said he increased group health premiums budget by 5%. Chairman Plasko instructed the Manager to work with Ms. Carney on a budget for tracking our properties such as Forbes Mansion, OCC, etc. Selectman Donohue thanked Ms. Carney and Mr. Cooper for all their work.

New Business

Jennifer White, General Manager, Monster Mini Golf:

On motion of Selectman Bishop, seconded by Selectman Howard, voted to approve request for reinstatement of Automatic Amusement License (Board revoked the license last week) as they had a change in management within the last few months.

Adjournment

No other business being presented for consideration, on motion of Selectman Bishop, seconded by Selectman Donohue, voted to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned accordingly at 7:45 p.m.

A True Record.

ATTEST: _____
Assistant