

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 29, 2021 AT 6:00PM
VIRTUAL MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER/OPENING

Chairwoman Provencher called the meeting to order at 6:05pm. Chair Dianna Provencher, Second Vice-Chair John Shocik, Selectman Rick Antanavica, Selectman Herb Duggan, Jr., Town Administrator David Genereux, Assistant Town Administrator Kristen Forsberg, and Assistant to the Town Administrator Bryan Milward were in attendance. Vice-Chair Harry Brooks was absent.

1. SCHEDULED ITEMS

a. 6:00pm – May Annual Town Meeting Discussion

• Reserve Fund Transfer Request – Ambulance Repairs - \$10,614

Town Administrator David Genereux stated that the reserve fund currently has a balance of \$26,000 but will be replenished back up to \$50,000 at May Town Meeting. EMS Director Bob Wilson requested funding to replace the fuel injector, both exhaust gas regulator units and the diesel particulate filter on ambulance 1. Mr. Wilson stated that the EMS budget does not currently have sufficient funding to pay for these expenses and the repairs are urgent to avoid damage to the engine. A motion was made by Mr. Antanavica and seconded by Mr. Shocik to approve the reserve fund transfer as requested. Roll Call: 4:0:0

• Discussion/Vote on Changing the Date of Annual Town Meeting to May 11, 2021

Town Administrator David Genereux explained that the Moderator had an unavoidable conflict on May 4th and asked that Town Meeting be moved to May 11th. Due to the schools returning to full in-person learning, the high school gym is no longer available to host the meeting, but the middle school gym is. A motion was made by Mr. Antanavica and seconded by Mr. Shocik to move Annual Town Meeting to May 11, 2021 at 7:00pm at the Middle School Gymnasium. Roll Call: 4:0:0

• Discussion/Vote FY22 Budget

Representatives from the School department presented their FY22 budget. Board members discussed COVID-19 expenses, existing fund balances in several line items, and the impact of remote learning on the budget.

• Discussion/Vote Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Article 1 – Prior Year Bills

- Two outstanding invoices from prior fiscal years in the amounts of \$4,612.20 and \$9,500.

Article 2 - FY21 Budget Amendments

- Transfers come from the employee benefits line item, as there are surplus health insurance funds.
- Transfers would go to:
 - Assessors Salary due to pay out of vacation days upon retirement of former assessor
 - Reserve Fund replenishment
 - Elections and Registration due to presidential primary and election
 - Snow and Ice deficit
 - Animal Control Salaries due to new Inspector of Animals stipend
 - Animal Control Consultant/Professional Services due to an uptick in rabies cases
 - Police Professional Services for vehicle repairs, fence repairs and the purchase of Adobe
 - Town Hall Building Electric due to underfunding in FY21
 - Highway Department Wages to fund new position from mid-May through June for schools

Article 3 – Improvements at Town Parks

- Annual \$25,000 allocation for parks per Cultivate host community agreement

Article 4 – Elected Officials Salaries

- Only change is a 2% COLA for the Town Clerk

Article 5 – FY22 Operating Budget

- \$30,616,675 – an increase of \$517,167, or 1.72%, over FY21
- Both school and municipal budgets are increasing by a net of 2.38%
- Budget proposes using \$150K in free cash to start a pilot program to reopen the police station lobby 24/7

Article 6 – Vocational Tuition

- Annual article for out of district vocational tuition - \$1,023,000

Article 7 – Central Mass Regional Planning Commission Annual Assessment

- \$3,301 assessment for Leicester

Article 8 – FY22 Cable PEG Access Enterprise Account Appropriation

- Appropriating \$125,000 in charter funds for LCAC operations in FY22

Article 9 – OPEB

- \$70,000 to fund a portion of the Town's \$33.9M liability for other post employee benefits

Article 10 – Stormwater Management

- \$20,000 for operations, professional services, MS-4 permit reporting requirements

Article 11 – Groundwater Studies at Landfill

- Annual appropriation for DEP required testing and monitoring

Article 12 – Police Cruiser

- \$57,672 to purchase and equip one police cruiser

Article 13 – FY 22 Capital Improvement Plan

- \$511,733 for vent and tube replacement on the Town's fuel island, replacement of Fire Engine #1, Town-wide communications upgrades, replacement of Fire Station #3's roof, replacement of the highway department's 1 ton pickup truck, and a new copy machine for the police department.

Article 14 – Purchase of Software

- \$40,000 for the purchase of GIS software and vehicle asset management software and to pay for the first two years of the annual software maintenance agreements.

Article 15 – Authorization of the School Superintendent to Enter into an Agreement for Title IV-E Reimbursement

- Authorizes the School Superintendent to enter into an agreement related to foster care transportation reimbursement.

Article 16 – Town-Owned Dams

- \$19,000 to meet DEP reporting and inspection requirements and to apply for a grant for Greenville Pond Dam through the Dam and Seawall program.

Article 17 – Project Design of Hillcrest Property

- \$105,000 to pay for the costs of design and replacement of the buildings at Hillcrest

Article 18 – Transfer Funds into Stabilization

- \$100,000 transfer from free cash to the Town's rainy-day fund

Article 19 – Establish Revolving Fund Annual Spending Limits

- Establishes annual spending limits for Town revolving accounts

Article 20 – Acceptance of Property from Hillcrest Water District 13 Lehigh

- Completes a land swap deal with Hillcrest Water District for placement of a new water tower

Article 21 – Burncoat Park Environmental Services

- Expands eligible use of funds in this article to planning and infrastructure for Burncoat Park

Article 22 – Prohibition of Engine Braking on Public Ways

- Prohibits the use of compression braking in Town except in the case of emergency or where required by Mass General Laws to reduce noise from downshifting trucks in Town.

Article 23 – Adoption of MGL Chapter 48, Section 42A Governing the Position of Fire Chief

- Dissolves the antiquated Board of Fire Engineers and places the Fire Department under the governance of the Select Board and Town Administrator like all other Town departments.

Article 24 – Adoption of an Architectural District Bylaw

- Establish an Architectural District in the area around Becker College and the Town Common.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Shocik and seconded by Mr. Antanavica at 8:40pm. Roll Call: 4:0:0