

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 14, 2020

7:00 PM

Town Hall - Selectmen's Meeting Room

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Approved
1/28/2020

Present: Benjamin, Boyle, Hurd, Lauer, Myerson

Absent: Colangelo

6:32 p.m. Meeting called to order. The entire meeting can be viewed by going to:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=odFbx0mVL84>

Account 292: Animal Control (Susan Latham)

Requested amount: \$21,103, an increase of 1.83% over FY2020, which represents COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) .

BOARD ACTION: Approved unanimously (motion made by Myerson/seconded by Hurd).

Account 135: Town Accountant (Ninotchka Rogers)

Requested amount: \$95,214, an increase of 6.38% over FY2020, representing COLA and stipend increases, and a decrease in assistant's wage (new hire), as well as increases in supplies and meetings lines.

BOARD ACTION: Approved unanimously (Myerson/Hurd).

Account 294: Tree Warden (Mark Caisse)

Requested amount: \$52,042, which is level-funded.

BOARD ACTION: Approved unanimously (Lauer/Myerson).

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS ACCOUNTS: (Joe Lynch/Leslie Caisse)

Account 190: Town Buildings

Requested Amount: \$145,542 (Increase of 1.11% over FY2020).

After discussion, amount requested for Grounds Maintenance, largely for contracted maintenance of Town Common, was reduced by \$4,000.

BOARD ACTION: Revised total of \$141,542 approved unanimously (Benjamin/Hurd).

Account 293: Traffic Lights

Requested Amount: \$1,800 (increase of 20.0%, \$300, over FY2020 due to utility charges.

BOARD ACTION: Approved unanimously (Benjamin/Myerson)

Account 421: Highway

Requested Amount: \$826,200 (increase of 1.85% over FY2020 due to COLA and other anticipated higher costs).

BOARD ACTION: Approved unanimously (Lauer/Myerson).

Account 422: Construction and Maintenance

Requested Amount: \$211,100 (level-funded from FY2020).

BOARD ACTION: Request of \$8,000 for wages (line 5137), to cover anticipated police details was pared to \$6,000. Revised request of \$209,100 approved unanimously (Benjamin/Myerson).

Account 424: Street Lighting

Requested Amount: \$8,100 (increase of 1.89% over FY2020, or \$150, due to cost of replacing underground cables eaten by rodents).

BOARD ACTION: Approved unanimously (Benjamin/Myerson).

Account 423: Snow and Ice Removal

Requested Amount: \$180,000 (always the same, since this account may be over- or under-spent, depending on weather conditions).

BOARD ACTION: Approved unanimously (Benjamin/Myerson)

Account 433: Transfer Station

Requested Amount: \$226,135 (9.49% increase over FY2020). Lynch explained that the market for recycled trash has collapsed, even though the state mandates a recycling program. Selectman Bob Czekanski explained that the Selectmen may revisit the entire issue later this year.

BOARD ACTION: Approved unanimously (Lauer/Myerson)

Other accounts: (Acct. 450 – water; \$5,500) (Acct. 491 – cemetery, \$8,000) (Acct. 692 – celebrations/Memorial Day, \$2,800) These accounts are level-funded, except for a \$500 increase to #450, which covers increased cost for compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act.

BOARD ACTION: Approved unanimously (Lauer/Myerson)

The Committee then reviewed anticipated capital requests by Lynch's department, but deferred any action until Lynch and Advisory meet with Town Administrator Don Lowe at a later date.

8:42 p.m. Adjourned unanimously (Benjamin/Myerson)

Respectfully submitted by Joe Myerson (acting secretary)