



BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING

Budget Workshop

RICHARD H. SMITH TOWN HALL

XX Budget Workshop

Date: April 16, 2024

Time: 7:00 PM

Attendance: Board of Finance: George Eckenroth, Carmela Balducci, Jackie Calamari, Carol Handover, Cynthia Torres, Mike Weglarz, Duane Gates, and Kathryn Russell (Selectmen), Annmarie Ryan, Finance Director, Linda Hall, Chair Library Trustees, Susan J. Rooney, Library Director, Eric Waltke, Highway Supervisor, and Dick Leighton, Building Inspector.

The workshop was called to order at 7:01pm by George Eckenroth.

Hall presented the library's requested \$50,100 budget. The \$3,200 increase consisted of \$1,000 for Audiovisual, \$1,000 for Tech support and \$200 for professional development. A discussed followed that included the difficulty in getting a firm to replace the library windows that was funded in prior budgets and the incremental cost being incurred by the town for the outside financial oversight vender associate with the library program expenses.

No Action Taken

Waltke requested that the \$70,000 highway salary reduction associated with a vacant position being considered be restored. He suggested as an alternative, a \$50,000 reduction in the paving line that was determined not to be feasible. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided to not reduce the highway budget but eliminate a part-time position and reduce the solid waste salary line by \$40,000.

No Action Taken

Leighton explained his role as the town building inspector and his fee structure that is designed to cover the cost of his department's operations. A discussion followed that included his obligations and level of fees for the work at both the middle and senior high schools and the potential cost to the town to address water issues on property in Winthrop.

No Action Taken

Since this was the last workshop, the board reviewed and discussed total revenues and expenses and what will be presented to the town at the April 30 budget hearing. At the conclusion of the meeting, the proposed FY 2024-25 budget to be presented represents an increase of \$602,115 over the current year budget that is expected to be funded with a 1.8 mill increase and a \$400,705 draw from the unassigned surplus.

Adjournment: Torres moved, Calamari 2nd, to adjourn the Board of Finance Budget Workshop at 10:45pm.

APPROVED 4-0