



BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING

Budget Workshop

RICHARD H. SMITH TOWN HALL

XX Budget Workshop

Date: April 9, 2024

Time: 7:00 PM

Attendance: Board of Finance: George Eckenroth, Carmela Balducci, Jackie Calamari, Mike Weglarz,

Duane Gates, and Kathryn Russell (Selectmen), Annmarie Ryan, Finance Director, Stephen Krause, Resident State Trooper, Anthony Bolduc, Chair, Planning and Zoning Commission.

The workshop was called to order at 7:02 pm by George Eckenroth.

Tropper Krause presented the proposed \$524,791 police budget, which he described as being held constant from the current budget. Eckerroth informed Krause that since the current police budget for full and part-time constables is underspend, the board is considering reducing their next budget by \$50,000. The presentation was followed by a discussion of the efficient use of full-time versus part-time constables, the trade-off of constables work regulator duty versus special duty, potential maintenance savings if new cars are purchased more frequently, additional requirement if constables are no longer allowed to take their cars home.

Anthony Bolduc discussed the planning and zoning proposed \$77,500 budget that included a \$15,000 cost for the Online Permitting License. The online permitting has been in use for the last year with the initial fee paid by a state grant. The planning commission has proposed a fee increase that they expect to cover a substantial portion of the license fee.

No Action Taken

The board determined to hold the current planned reduction in the police budget plus reduce the requested accreditation of \$3,000 to \$500.

Ryan discussed the results of the board's request to all departments to suggest cuts of 1 and 2 percent. Other items discussed: do not fill the current vacancy on the town crew, the cost sharing agreement with Chester for use of the transfer station, the shortfall in current budget Park and Rec revenues and the effect on the proposed budget and the expected cost of a revaluation.

The board ended the workshop with an anticipated 1.9 mill increase, using unassigned surplus of \$362,841, which results in a ratio of unassigned surplus to expenditures of 11.69 percent.

No Action Taken

Adjournment: Weglarz moved, Calamari 2nd, to adjourn the Board of Finance Budget Workshop at 10:30 pm.

APPROVED 4-0