

JOHNSON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
WORK SESSION
MONDAY, January 11th, 2016

Present:

Selectboard Members: Nat Kinney, Doug Molde, Eric Osgood, Howard Romero

Others: Duncan Hastings (Administrator), Brian Krause, Road Foreman, Lea Kilvadyova, CEDC/Asst. Administrator.

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. Call to Order

Eric called the meeting to order at 7:00.

2. Additions, Changes to Agenda:

There were no changes to the agenda

The purpose of the work session was to review the draft budget for 2016-2017. Duncan handed out the first budget draft spreadsheets and back up spreadsheets for salaries, insurances, capital budget, department budgets etc.

The board started review of highway budget items and capital budget planned purchases. Nat asked if the pick-up truck purchase could be deferred to next year. There was discussion of the pros and cons of straying from the capital plan. Nat also pointed out that in the 22-23 year the capital reserves were showing a negative balance. Duncan said he would look at this closer.

There was general discussion over the amount of existing gravel and sand from the town pit and the need to start a process of developing a closure plan. Several highway line items were discussed for increases. Duncan stated that his initial estimate was the town would have a surplus of app \$155,000.00 going into 16-17, but also stated that he was not at all comfortable that that estimate was correct and he needed to do a lot more double checking on the budget. There was discussion about items that could be addressed with a surplus, such as Mill House building painting, engineering services for industrial park and gravel pit, office repairs, paving and mud abatement and purchase of a hydro seeder or mulcher. All of these items would depend on a better review of the budget at the next meeting. Brian was to provide better cost estimates to Duncan for the next meeting for mud abatement projects and hydro seeder.

There was some discussion of waning articles and next steps. One article request was made by Casey Romero in the amount of \$2500.00 to complete the bandstand, for inclusion in the warning by the Selectboard as opposed to collecting signatures. The board felt this was reasonable but also considered simply including the \$2500.00 in their budget, to be discussed at next meeting. The other articles discussed were an article asking for elimination of the office of Listers The meeting was continued to Wednesday January 13th at 7:00 p.m. Continuance at 9:10 p.m.

Wednesday January 13th, 2016 7:00 p.m. Continuance**Present:**

Selectboard Members: Nat Kinney, Doug Molde, Eric Osgood, Howard Romero

Others: Duncan Hastings (Administrator), Rosemary Audibert Clerk/Treasurer.

Discussion continued over the draft budget with new spreadsheets being handed out. Duncan stated at the outset that the estimated surplus was now considerably lower at app. \$92,000.00. Further review by Duncan and Lea had resulted in changes in estimated year-end figures, based on closer examination of year to date comparison to estimated year-end. In the current draft 2 of the budget all estimated surplus was being applied to reduce the amount needed to be raised by taxes in the 16-17 budget.

There was discussion about the status of the Form Based Code and how to include a discussion of it in the Warning for the Town Meeting. Duncan to ask Lea to ask David Butler what the PC would prefer to do and report back to SB.

There were several changes made to the draft by the SB including adding some money to the budget to paint the Mill House. Duncan had reduced some line items, given the reduction in estimated surplus.

With the changes made to the budget it was down overall by 3.06% from last year, but the amount to be raised in taxes was 4.2% higher due to the fact that the Grand List was lower in 15-16 than in 14-15. The Board asked Duncan to try to bring amount to be raised by taxes increase to less than 3% for their next budget work session. The Board voted to continue the work session meeting until Wednesday January 20th at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday January 20th continuance

Present:

Selectboard Members: Nat Kinney, Doug Molde, Eric Osgood, Howard Romero

Others: Duncan Hastings (Administrator), Rosemary Audibert Clerk/Treasurer.

Duncan presented a new draft and explained the changes that would bring the total raised by taxes to under 3%. This draft lowers the overall budget by 3.22% but increases the amount to be raised by taxes by 2.85% because the 15-16 Grand List is actually lower than the 14-15 Grand List. The budget estimates an available surplus of \$109,077.00 and proposed to use \$107,077.00 of the surplus to reduce taxes in 16-17. After review and discussion Nat moved to accept the budget as presented seconded by Howard, unanimous in favor.

The Town Warning was reviewed and discussed. Two articles include the elimination of the office of Lister (to be done before the budget approval) and to hear a report from the Planning Commission on the status of Form Based Code. Doug moved to approve and sign the Warning, seconded by Howard, unanimous in favor. The Board signed the Warning.

Rosemary presented a letter to the Board for their approval to change the signatories on the Union Bank Recreation Committee account. Nat moved to approve the change and the letter, seconded by Howard, unanimous in favor.

Duncan presented a revised draft of the Highway Capital Budget for inclusion on the Town Report. His proposed changes were to move the pickup purchase to 2017 and make the replacement based on a 6 year rotation instead of five year and to add a hydro seeder to the 2016 plan. He also adjusted the annual appropriation figures upward so that there would be a negative balance in 22-23. The draft was reviewed and discussed. Eric suggested increasing the annual appropriation for the years 20-21, 21-22 and 22-23 to \$115k, \$120k and \$125k respectively. The Board agreed with this idea. Doug moved to accept the changes as proposed and to include in the Town Report, second by Howard, unanimous in favor.

There was general discussion about the SelectBoard Report being prepared by Eric, which included the need to carefully explain the article to eliminate the office of Lister, as well as the many personnel changes that occurred over the past year. The personnel changes include the retirement of Steve Smith and hiring of Brian Krause as Road Foreman and the retirement and subsequent re-hiring of Duncan Hastings at reduced hours and reduced pay as a part time Town Administrator. Doug felt that these issues might all be raised and the Board should be prepared to discuss what took place.

3. *Adjourn* The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Duncan Hastings