

SELECTBOARD 01/07/2020

Present: Chair Jerry Storey, Vice Chair Jaime Heins, Colleen Parker, Mary Kehoe, Mike Ashooh; also Town Manager Lee Krohn, Finance Director Peter Frankenburg, and as per sign in sheet.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

Approve agenda: Kehoe, Heins, 4-0

Public Comments: Happy New Year offered. Rick Bessette, Poet Laureate invited all to his capstone poetry program tomorrow evening 7:00 P.M. at Town Hall. Also hoping someone else may step up to be considered for the position. Thanked Board for support; has been a great experience; time for a new voice. The Board thanked him for all he has done.

Parker arrived at this time.

Meeting minutes: 12/10 Heins, Ashooh, 4-0, Parker abstained. 12/17: Heins, Kehoe, unanimous.

Selectboard Comments: Ashooh Happy New Year, thoughtful comments, others agreed. Storey spoke of and thanked different groups for various submissions; goals and objectives in process for TM for 2020, draft for 01/14, related to TM performance evaluation and SB priorities. TM evaluation to come 1/21. Ideas welcomed.

Town Manager Report: budget.

LOAN: bought in 2015 finance, renew... rolling financing, better rates short term/1 year rather than longer term while rates trend down. Parker, Ashooh, unanimous.

TECHNICAL CORRECTION: Dean Pierce explained technical correction to a map in the form based code zoning amendment proposals as submitted previously, related to upcoming hearings to be warned. Heins approve as presented, Parker, unan.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY AMENDMENT: Heins, Ashooh, as amended; pursuant to counsel review

EXEC SESSION: Kehoe, Heins, unanimous.

Returned to open session at 8:20 P.M. Ashooh, Parker unanimous.

BUDGET

Krohn introduced context and overview.

PD start. Lt. Mike Thomas, Officer Bob Lake, Dispatcher Tim Francis presentation of budget drivers, esp. holidays/OT/doubletime, shift differentials, shift coverage during trainings, sick days, vacation, etc. and contractual obligations to operate a 24/7/365 operation. \$139,000 sought for OT. Concern regarding Dispatch overtime and whether additional staff hiring would help offset 15% increase. 30 fire + 2 PD coverage for Dispatch. If 50 weeks of OT, why not hire a person? One person can't necessarily fill all scheduling holes... Have hired several staff in recent months, reducing OT costs... if need hire one person, really need to hire two persons to cover in a 24/7 operation. Do our dispatch contracts reflect additional costs? Are we getting money's worth on holidays, reducing OT? How does our OT:salary ratio

compare with other municipalities? Hard compare, due to very different circumstances. Hinesburg not 24/7; Colchester has more staff on each shift so if one can't work, doesn't need to be filled with OT. Are there other alternative approaches to reduce key cost? Opportunities to enhance retention? Important overall as 20% of the budget. Be helpful to review mid-year for operational and financial information. LK to distribute PD/Dispatch presentation.

Parker departed at this time.

Discussion.

Issues of interest/concern to residents present:

Pond Road: presentation of a less cost proposal, deferred to next year or two, put in CIP as placeholder, plus new development adding new property tax revenue, and seeking to address other concerns raised. Chip seal from Dorset St to Frog's End, reduce cost from \$350K to \$210K, address amphibian concerns. Further info available about safety issues? Suggestion to keep in context and overall priorities. Evidence and data re: safety? Environmental impacts? Highway reserve fund? No commitments made at this time.

Paving Beach Road this year in existing highway budget? Examine overall paving plan? Paul? Timing of Beach Road? Safety and reputation... Next week.

Open Space: Stated that \$1M spent leveraged \$5M. 900+- acres. Pros and cons. Consensus to add \$30,000?

Traffic Safety: LK intro. Proposed combining line items into comprehensive whole, and 50% increase increase overall from \$20,000 to \$30,000 for sidewalk maintenance/pedestrian safety. Break out?

Economic Development: \$30,000? Half time staff cost?

Add back in \$6300 for SB salaries.

More detailed budget review will continue over the next two weeks.

Adjourn Ashooh Heins 10:37 P.M.