

The board of selectmen met in open session at the Town Hall on January 12, 2016 at 6:30.

Selectmen Joel McCarty, Chris Rietmann, and Rock Wilson, department heads, David Crosby, Kim Kercewich, Marcello D'Alessandro, and Jesse Moore were present and 32 residents.

Joel McCarty called the meeting to order at 6:40. He announced the meeting was being broadcasted by a citizen.

Chris Rietmann reported that there is a 2% increase over last year's budget but within the 3% cap. A change in the executive budget reflects funding for a Town Administrator, a full time administrative assistant and Linda's part time to help continue to train. Chris explained what a Town Administrator role would be for the town, and all three selectmen agree this is the right move for the town. Both the AABC and the HR advisory committee have done extensive research and also feel a Town Administrator would benefit the town.

There was a lot of discussion about the change in the executive office. Mike Jasmin shared his experience with the Town Administrator he works with and all the town issues that come up in a day that need to be dealt with but it shouldn't be confused with saving his/her yearly salary. Others asked if there is a job description. Joel is working on restructuring the current job descriptions for the executive office. Kelly Wright spoke on behalf of the executive office and explained to the group the need for change. She explained the workload has increased tremendously and in order to provide high quality attention to all of the work, it is time to have more than just one full time person, with defined roles. She also explained the executive office cannot be have a high turnover rate. It is imperative this office is running at all times for the success of the town or any town.

Liz Landry about the increase in the proposed budget but we don't spend all the unassigned fund balance. She feels it is "sneaky" Joel explained it is "her opinion but not an educated one". Chris said it is a statutory requirement by DRA that the town has a certain amount in the UFB.

Juliana Stevens shared the importance of having money in UFB to help keep this in balance. If the UFB is depleted then tax rates will increase. If the town needs money it will not be available for future years.

Joel shared this year the town had unexpected revenue for a timber sale and an increase in car registrations because the residents bought more new cars.

Jesse Moore stated he will need a new defibrillator. They are \$30,000. He asked if this should be added to Article 2 or as a warrant article.

David Crosby stated he needs a new dump truck. He said it would be approximately \$200,000. He also stated paving costs had gone down and he would like the option to use extra money to pave more. Joel shared we are behind on paving.

Glenn Elsesser is looking into a multi- purpose truck and possibly leasing. More discussion in February.

Chris said Marylou Huffling has turned in a petition for Article #19. A Discussion about any surveying or site plan that was previously discussed but was never completed. Bobbie

Wilson told the group that Alstead was the only one who has petitioned it to be a warrant article.

Liz Landry asked if the road striping was done. David Crosby answered yes it was but it should be done yearly because it wears off.

Chris asked if any of the department heads had any concerns. Marcello D'Alessandro said there is two new item lines on his budget for the vehicle lease and PD fuel. He explained the need for more money into his telephone line that was cut. The selectmen agree to add an additional \$600.00. He would like to add \$4,000 to the bottom line. Marcello told the group the PD is currently looking for another officer. He would stay on for 3 years and work 4-10 hours a week. He will train one of the two officers for the police chief position. They will be interviewing applicants next week. They plan on 80 hours a week coverage.

Glenn Elsesser shared Sam Sutcliffe's concern about the removal of trees in the Alstead Common. Sam thought it could be a warrant article but Glenn thought it could be in the budget.

A discussion about the retaining stonewalls at the town offices are breaking down. Slade Cemetery's stonewalls are in need of repair.

Article #10 shows a decrease amount from previous years. The AABC would like to the amount back to \$250,000.

Bobbie Wilson asked about amending warrant articles. Susan Norlander answered amending the dollar amount is legal, but changing the subject matter is not legal.

John Mann asked for \$4,000- \$5,000 added to Article #2 for energy audit efficiency.

Susan Norlander shared with group she needs volunteers for counting votes on February 9, 2016. She would like at least 20 counters.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55.