

Town of Fracestown
Board of Selectmen and Budget Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Selectmen Present: Chairman Brad Howell and Abigail Arnold

Budget Advisory Committee Members Present: Chairman Charlie Pyle, Stewart Brock, Judi Miller, Thom Anderson and John Thalhauser

Others Present: Town Administrator Jamie A Pike, Town Clerk/Tax Collector Pam Finnell, Road Agent Gary Paige and Library Trustees Jan Hicks, Maureen Baptiste, Robin Haubrich, Mindy Pobst and David Luther.

Chairman Howell called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Ms. Finnell was present to speak about her office's 2020 budget. The major item of discussion was the increase in travel reimbursement. It was explained that due to the closing of the TD Bank branch in New Boston, deposits were now being made in Peterborough. Ms. Arnold asked about the time that would need to be paid to whom made the deposits, it was estimated an hour a day would be required. Ms. Finnell explained that she planned on starting to have the deposits made during regular office hours so no additional payroll would be required. It was noted that TD Bank had offered a courier service upon the closure of the branch in order to make things easier. More time will be spent researching the courier service.

Mr. Paige was present to speak about the Highway Department's 2020 budget. The major change in the budget was a request for an additional \$3,500 for asphalt. This line item is used for overlays and crack sealing. Other items discussed were a change in the CIP and moving out the reconstruction of Red House Road to accommodate an overlay of the Turnpike South in 2022 at an approximate cost of \$340,000. It was suggested that the Road Advisory Committee be re-activated.

The Library Trustees were present to discuss their 2020 budget request. Ms. Hicks explained how the new Director, Laura Abrahamsen studied the budget and moved certain funds around to more appropriately budget some line items. The major change in the Library budget is a pay increase proposal for all the staff. This pay increase is approximately 20% and targets the median pay of similar positions in surrounding Towns. The Selectmen and Budget Committee were supportive of the proposed pay plan.

Mr. Pike reviewed a number of other departments. There were multiple requests from health related agencies seeking new funding. These will be reviewed and discussed again on December 16th.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie A Pike

Approved 01.13.2020