

Town of Boscawen
 Budget Committee Public Meeting
 Boscawen Municipal Complex
 February 27, 2019 at 6 p.m.

Present: Barbara Randall, Chair, Alan Hardy, Mark Varney, Roger Sanborn, Edward Cherian Jr., Katie Phelps, Kevin Wyman, Ray Fisher, Dean Hollins, Nicole Hoyt, Sherlene (Doddy) Fisher, Bruce Crawford, Brian Fleury, Rhoda Hardy, Gail Egounis, Kellee Easler, and Sarah Gerlack, Paul Dickey

Meeting began at 5:40 pm. Roll call completed. Barbara Randall, Chair.

Review and Approval of the February 8, 2019 Minutes – Page 3, line 9 after the word ‘cheat’ there should be a “?” instead of a “.”. Line 170/171 Rhoda Hardy wasn’t quite sure what Nicole Hoyt explained about tractor trailers being registering in other states and what they can do there. She’s not sure what that means. Nicole Hoyt explained that in the notes the question was asked why they could register the tractor trailers elsewhere. The answer is that because the laws are different in other states and because they have a presence in Indiana they can register their tractor trailers there now. Page 4 first paragraph, line 117, after the word ‘school’ there should be a ‘?’. Same page line 152 after Paul Matthews should be an apostrophe. Line 155 after Mr. Matthews it should read ‘Mr. Matthews asked ‘what’ the town’. Page 8 second to last paragraph due diligence needs to be spelled correctly. Line 350, it was Ed Maloof, not Fred Egounis that spoke. Change it on line 355 also. On the old draft. A **motion** to accept the Minutes as edited was made by Gail Egounis, seconded by Paul Dickey and passed by a unanimous vote.

The purpose of tonight’s meeting is to hold another public meeting. Mr. Varney says they will go through the revised budget numbers and open public meeting.

Mark Varney went through the revised budget and added the amount of decrease for each budget account.

	2019	Decrease
Line 4130 Executive Budget	\$181,780	\$1,000
Line 4140 Town Clerk/Elections	\$78,429	\$3,800
4150 Financial Admin.	\$67,111	\$18,626
4151 Tax Collector	\$40,904	\$23,820
4152 Assessing	\$60,183	0
4153 Legal Expenses	\$45,000	\$5,000
4155 Personnel Administration	\$686,029	\$650
4191 Planning/Community Development	\$122,745	\$9,900
4193 AgCom	\$2,000	0
4194 Town Buildings	\$69,218	\$11,750
4195 Cemeteries	\$3,500	0
4196 Insurance	\$39,905	0
4210 Police	\$594,772	\$3,000
4220 Fire	\$197,711	\$25,000
4240 Life Safety Officer	\$7,852	0
4290 Emergency Management	\$7,046	\$1,000
4312 Highway Streets	\$549,468	0
4316 Street Lighting	\$21,000	0
4319 Other Highways and Streets	\$5,800	0

4324 Solid Waste	\$215,556	0
4325 Solid Waste Clean-up	\$30,000	\$16,000
4329 Other Sanitation	\$72,000	0
4410 Health Dept.	\$10,222	0
4441 Welfare Admin.	\$75,660	\$5,000
4520 Parks and Rec.	\$34,000	\$2,000
4550 Boscawen Public Library	\$104,602	0
4583831 Old Home Day	\$5,000	\$2,500
453803 Town Beautification	\$1,250	0
4611 Conservation Commission	0	\$2,200

Warrants: Police Department vehicle contribution down to \$10,000 going into capital reserve vs. \$20,000.

5:50 pm Public Hearing was opened.

Ed Maloof thanked everyone for their diligence. A change of 3% is quite good. He can support this new budget with the provision that they need to do something with Penacook Rescue. He believes the Selectmen should look at other towns involved with Penacook Rescue and come up with a base level for each town.

Lori Murphy had a question about the budget. Based on what was spent this past year compared to the budget, reflected that everyone did a great job. She's worried that longtime residents won't be able to stay in their home due to taxes increasing. She is mindful that the budget got cut down to a 2% increase. Does the town need to tax people to the extent that it is reflected in there? Is there any other way of reducing that? You do need extra money from December to March to pay bills. The town employees did a great job with their budgets. Her big concern is that 10 years ago someone got up and said they wanted to cut the budget by 10% and the town employees didn't get a dime. Look at the budget and look at the line items as well. Mr. Hardy noted that they have a long time practice of putting money towards taxes. Mr. Cherian gave a further explanation. Unused money rolls over and helps reduce the burden the following year.

Bill Murphy asked a few questions on Warrant Article IX; the roof. Mr. Hardy noted that \$150,000 is the amount in the budget. The Warrant Article is for \$150,848. Mr. Hardy said that number was from the engineer's estimate if they did the roof in two sections. Mr. Murphy asked if it had anything to do with the Capital Reserve budget. Mr. Hardy explained there is \$150,000 in the capital reserve at this time. They are asking to have that repurposed so they can do the roof repair. When they go through the bidding process they are hoping the number will go down. Mr. Cherian said it is tied to Article X which is a standalone. If they do it in one year. Mr. Murphy asked if \$145,000 is going into the Warrant Article. They aren't spending another \$15,848? What kind of roof? Mr. Varney explained it would be a shingle roof. This roof and the connector. Mr. Murphy asked about Warrant Article VI, Capital Reserve IT for \$10,000. How does it correlate with the municipal building that is listed at \$9,950? Hardy explained. The IT was never set up as a separate Capital Reserve Fund. The recommendation from DRA was to transfer the total amount in the municipal building, which included the money that was in IT, and let it go for repairs in the building and dedicate \$10,000 for only IT. Mr. Murphy noted that there is \$9,902 in the IT account. Going back a few years \$55,000 was appropriated for 3 years 2015, 2016, 2017. There's \$9,900 here. Did you spend \$45,000 on IT? Mr. Hardy said over that time, yes they did. Mr. Murphy noted that the Warrant Articles specifically say IT. The people that voted on those Warrant Articles believed it was going to the IT account. The \$9,902 right here is now being taken out of that and being rolled into the roof. MR. Varney explained. Mr. Hardy concurred with what Mr. Murphy is saying. When IT funding was created it went into the LCHIP account. DRA now says they need to clean this up. Mr. Cherian explained that the Warrant requires a 2/3 vote, not a simple majority. Mr. Bill Murphy asked how many more computers they need. Hardy noted the \$9,000 was in there as a time line reserve for when they need to get equipment. It goes through an individual

approval for any withdrawal from that account. There was no deliberate attempt to mislead when that wasn't set up as a capital reserve fund. Mr. Murphy noted that every year they passed Warrant Article IV contingencies – he understands they spent over \$26,000 out of the contingency fund. If they came up good with the budget and didn't spend it all, why did they spend the contingency? Mr. Hardy explained that they were hit by lightning. Mr. Varney explained that they had to spend the money for the equipment and the insurance reimbursed them \$26,000. He explained that they were reimbursed for everything but the police radio. Mr. Murphy asked why that money isn't back in the contingency fund. It was explained that contingency, under the law, cannot be carried forward from one year to the next. It returns to the general fund.

Mike Fisher. He sat during the Selectmen's meeting earlier and saw 3 Selectmen be very discouraged on what the State has to say about cross walks and how much it will cost for one crosswalk. Town individuals are trying to get as much for the town's money as they can. Last year they had 2 Administrators. Co-administrators were a lot cheaper last year than having just one this year. When this revised budget came out, he thought they were going to cut money from the roof fund. But the roof needs patching in this NE state, you probably need to replace it. It seems like we took away from the roof to fix the budget? Mr. Varney said no. Going from Co-Administrators to salaried positions being created is confusing. Mr. Fisher commended them on cutting back, but they cut a lot of things important to people and important to the town. Did they look at everything? He apologizes as he thought they took away from fixing the roof but he misunderstood.

Fred Egounis agrees with Mike. Great job getting the budget down. Look at the percentages. He doesn't understand how they justify large raises.

Mr. Cherian explained that they made a decision that the town had outgrown the Co-Administrator's rolls. Both Nicole Hoyt and Alan Hardy were doing 3 jobs each and they were worried that they would burn out. Salaries creates less overtime. As far as the salary for the Town Administrator, they looked at similar sized towns. The pay their Administrator gets doesn't compare to same sized towns in the area. There is only so much they could pay. If they had to attract an Administrator from another town, it would be tough to do that with what they could pay.

Todd Bartlett. He'd like a definition of executive overtime. He works a salary position and doesn't get overtime. Those have non-salary positions that work under the executive umbrella. Mr. Cherian explained that there is no overtime for the Administrator.

Barbara Randall explained that due to time constraints they had to send the Warrants to the printer. She believes that at the town meeting 3.12.19, the Select Board will present and read the Warrants as is. They will then introduce the new revised budget. Charlie Niebling will read the Warrants. He will read it as written and then one of the Selectmen will make a motion to amend the Article to the revised number provided. At that time he's hoping he can say it's recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

At 6:21 pm the public hearing was closed.

The Article with the revised numbers: In favor? Aye (5). Opposed? (2). Ms. Egounis said she thinks more oversight needs to happen with salaries and increases so that 20% doesn't happen every year. Bruce Crawford agreed with Gail Egounis. Bruce Crawford abstained from the vote. Gail Egounis also abstained. The Warrant Article was recommended by 5; 2 abstained. Mr. Cherian noted that what they have is a budget advisory committee. It is subject to town vote to have a different type of budget committee. It's worthy of discussion. If they want to put a Warrant Article together next year to change that, they are welcome to do that. Mr. Cherian noted the department heads came up with a lot of these cuts. The department heads are the ones to thank. People that work for the town as employees deserve credit.

Mr. Varney noted that they have had 4 meetings with the towns and Penacook rescue. Mr. Cherian noted that next month they will meet with Salisbury and Canterbury. Mr. Varney noted that from Penacook's perspective, they are addressing is the salaries and the benefits. They are not addressing equipment. If they need to replace an ambulance, they will be looking for more money.

Mr. Crawford suggested that they publish the Selectmen's agenda in advance.

A **motion** to adjourn was made by Bruce Crawford, seconded by Rhoda Hardy and passed by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted by Rose Fife