Selectmen Present: Morgan Currier and Steve Davis (via phone)

Others Present: Tracy Currier, Austin Albro, George Morrill, Chief Trott, Kay Bailey, Janice Thompson, Sharon Sanborn

Meeting called to order at 5:02 by Morgan, seconded by Steve

In the General Municipal Operations line, a change was made to include line item 4130.07 Health Officer

In the Planning Board, line item 4191.2 Master Plan, Survey, Legal was increased by $1,500 (to total $2,000), due to the need to update the current Master Plan

Under the Highway Department, the line item identifying the Block Grant was removed

The 2019 Budget is $1,121,772, which is a decrease of $82,698.24 from 2018’s actual budget.

Ms. Thompson asked if the Select Board learned if the Historical Society was still in existence. Morgan reported that the Board had nothing to say it wasn’t still in existence, and so the sum of $1,200 would still go to fund the Historical Society.

Ms. Thompson asked why the line item 4312.09X Calcium Chloride was at $9,000 for the 2019 budget, when it was $4,000 for the 2018 budget. Austin explained the increase was based on the actual cost for 2018, which was $7,723.95, and the Road Agent’s expectations that the cost would be higher for 2019. Ms. Thompson noted that there were numerous residents who didn’t like the calcium chloride used on the roads because they walked their dogs. Morgan suggested if that was the case, residents could offer up a petition to request that certain roads not be treated.

The Warrant Articles were presented as follows:

Article 1 Election Officers
To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year. (By official Ballot)

Article 2 Receive Reports
To receive reports from the Selectmen, Town Clerk/Tax collector, Treasurer, Auditors, and other Town Officers; and to vote on any motion relating to these reports.
Article 4 General, ambulance, transfer station, welfare, par

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $325,900 for General Municipal Operations for the purpose detailed in the operating budget posted with the warrant. This article does not include any amounts contained in any other article. (Majority vote required).

Article 7 Planning Board

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate $3000 to be expended by the Planning Board in connection with its activities for such purposes and such uses as deemed necessary by the Planning Board.

Article 9 Fire Department

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $41,250 for the maintenance of the Fire Department for the purposes detailed in the operating budget posted with the warrant.

Article 10 Highway & Streets

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $322,100 for the Highway & Streets for the purposes detailed in the operating budget posted with the warrant.

Article 11 Freightliner Lease

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to continue the fifth year of the 7 year lease agreement, for the purpose of leasing a 2014 Freightliner Dump/Plow Truck for the Highway Department, and to raise and appropriate the sum of $24,679 for the fifth year’s payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause.

Article 12 Conservation & Town Forest

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate $4,600 to be expended on behalf of the Conservation Commission and Town Forest in connection with activities for such conservation purposes as set forth in RSA 36-A and expenses related to the forester.

Article 13 ETF & CRF

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $164,100 to be placed in the following Expendable Trust Funds and Capital Reserve Funds, to come from the 2019 general taxation:

Fire Truck (est 1984) $15,000
Hwy Equipment & Vehicle (est 1973) $25,000
Police Cruiser (est 1993) $9,000
Property Revaluation (est 1995) $10,000
Town Bridges Fund (est 2006) $10,000
Road Paving (est 2002) $50,000
Fire Dept Site (est 2004) $15,000
Webster Library Trust (est 2015) $15,000
Town Office Expansion (est 2017) $15,000
Celebration Fund (est 2018) $100

Article 17 Transfer Station

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $67,202 for the purpose of disposal and hauling of solid associated and costs of maintenance for the Town Transfer Station, to come from 2019 general taxation.

Article 18 Police Department

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $87,654 for the maintenance of the Police Department for the ensuing year for the purposes detailed in the operating budget posted with the warrant, to come from 2019 general taxation

Article 19 Animal and Pest Control

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $3000 for the costs and expenses associated with Animal and Pest Control

Article 20 Ambulance Services

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $36,100 for operating expenses for the Ambulance Services

Article 21 Parks and Recreation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $5,300 for the Parks and Recreation for the general maintenance of parks, including the Common, Library, Riverside Park, and Hamilton Memorial Field to come from 2019 general taxation

Article 23 Webster Memorial Library

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $41,424 for the Webster Memorial Library expenses; $2,762 to come from Library income, $1,400 to come from the Library Fund Balance, and the remaining sum of $37,262 to come from 2019 general taxation

Article 26 Other Business

Transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting
Kay Bailey requested the Library warrant article be modified to include wording for the expendable fund, equipment, and capital improvements. Austin assured her he would make the changes before leaving for the evening.

Morgan made a motion at 5:14 to accept the budget as written and presented. Steve seconded the motion.

Steve made a motion at 5:15 to push the Selectmen Business meeting to 19 Feb. Morgan noted the change had been posted to the Town website, but seconded the Motion.

Steve made a motion to close the Budget Hearing at 5:16. Morgan Seconded.

Approved __/__/2019