

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
OCTOBER 24, 2016

PRESENT: Becky Doyle, Chairman, David Lage, Tim Johnson; Budget Committee Members Paul Termin, Chairman, Wendy Juchnevics-Freeman, Judy Spring, Brian Somero; Joanne Meshna

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Office.

Assessor Frank Danisienka: Mr. Danisienka conducted a study of the tax rate over the past twenty-two years. He distributed charts with the tax rates for those years and explained the spikes in the rates. Another chart applied inflation to the rates. The Town tax rate is almost a flat line while the school tax rate runs above inflation. Mr. Danisienka also met with Superintendent of Schools Goguen with his presentation.

Trustees of the Trust Funds 2017 budget review: Trustee Woody Meiszner presented the budget for the Trustees of the Trust Fund. He explained for 2017 the line for dues and subscriptions has been zeroed out because of a warrant article that passed in March allowing for the payment for capital reserve fund investment management services and any other expenses incurred to be paid from capital reserve funds income.

The \$100 in the travel line has not been spent this year. Mr. Meiszner explained there is training provided every year in Concord for Trustees which is free and this line covers the travel. Currently there are only two trustees and if a new person comes on board, they would need the training.

Selectman Lage made a motion to approve the Trustees of the Trust Fund budget as submitted in the amount of \$1,244. Selectman Johnson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

6:30 recess.

The Budget Committee reviewed the minutes of the October 17, 2016 meeting. Wendy made a motion to approve the minutes. David seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Planning Board 2017 budget review: Chairman of the Planning Board Bert Hamill presented the Planning Board budget. For training, the Board is requesting \$500. There are seven members on the Board and alternates. This year only two members attended the Law Lectures series for a total of \$200. This year the Planning Board is requesting \$2,500 for contract services. Mr. Hamill explained the Board uses Brown Engineering. The Board is trying to substitute engineering at \$90 an hour for legal fees at \$250 an hour. They would rather be smarter with engineering and get a better product at the end than pay an attorney for advice. Kent Brown offers about a 25% discount; his fee should be around \$120-130 an hour.

The overage in postage this year is due to mailing of abutter notices for an applicant. Mr. Hamill explained the Board could have fought through legal channels. Since the Board has been to court with this particular applicant before, they decided it was best to try and settle the issue. Selectman Lage

referred to the notices line and the backup which states the Board averages 5 notices a year at \$75.00 and asked if the request should be higher. Mr. Hamill stated they are trying to combine the notices to minimize expenses. The amount requested was left at \$200.00.

Selectman Johnson made a motion to approve the submitted budget for the Planning Board at \$3,801. Selectman Lage seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

New Ipswich Library: The Library submitted a request for a warrant article for \$37,000. This is an additional \$2,000 over last year's article. Dawn Ronanye, Secretary for the Library, explained the reason for the increase was to increase summer hours on Saturdays. Also, they will be relying more on Carol Romerill for bookkeeping services and the increase will help pay for those professional fees.

The Library advertises their programs on facebook and the Ledger. They have a sandwich board sign outside the Library. Small Business Saturday is advertised by flyers to the elementary school. Projects for 2017 will be paid out of the endowments they hold.

Selectman Lage made a motion to approve the \$37,000 warrant article request. Selectman Johnson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Joanne Meshna, Town Administrator

Board of Selectmen October 24, 2016 minutes approved by:

Rebecca M. Doyle, Chairman

David S. Lage

Timothy Johnson II