



Mr. Hickox proceeded to summarize the highlights of each of the DPW budget components and discuss significant changes. It was noted that there have been various projects that have been ongoing over the last few years, like Bayview, a small project on Tucker Road and the Cedar Dell project. The time of a number of employees have been charged directly to those projects and have resulted in the comparatively large turnbacks that have been made at the end of the year.

Peter Friedman asked for comparative totals to be added to the budget and Larry Fox asked for the budget to be sent to the Finance Committee in electronic form.

Larry Fox noted that the bridge tender costs are part of the DPW budget and asked why they are not part of the Waterways budget. Ed Iacaponi said that he is planning to have some meetings to see what can be done about that. Mr. Hickox pointed out that the bridge tender is mandated.

David Hickox noted that a highway department supervisor resigned in April and from April through Town Meeting, the salary had not been part of the budget. Since someone has transferred into the job, the salary needs to be added back into the budget.

Mr. Hickox highlighted the fact that the transfer station employees work four days at the transfer station and then one day doing general maintenance, so their time is allocated to those areas in those percentages.

Larry Fox asked about snow removal and was told that they were on budget at this point, but the storm that is expected for tomorrow could put them over budget. Peter Friedman asked about the meal allowance line item. Mr. Hickox explained that the meal allowance does not begin until 5:30 pm and is part of their union contract. Employees get an additional meal allowance every four hours after that and is generally used when they are plowing and sanding the roads.

Ed Iacaponi pointed out that a "Legal" line item has been added to all enterprise funds. An effort is being made to not have the general fund pay the legal costs up front and have them reimbursed a year later.

In terms of trash collection and recycling, there has been an increase in recycling and a decrease in curbside collections. As a result, there has been a reshuffling of employees to cover the changes.

The DPW has just completed its 10 year water plan and are in the process of beginning their next 10 year plan. Upgrades are being done with the construction crew and they can be done more economically than with private contractors.

Opportunities to use solar are being explored. There is land around a couple of the facilities and the state and federal incentives may provide an opportunity to use solar power.

### **Other Business**

Greg Lynam asked about the police medical expense for the injured officer. Mr. Iacaponi said there is a line item called 'Police Medical Expenses-Unclassified'. Both agreed to go back and look for the line item.

The Select Board has invited a representative of the Finance Committee to participate in contract negotiating and strategy meetings Monday at 5:30 pm, starting on March 10<sup>th</sup>. The Chairperson will attend and may bring Dave Ferreira who has some experience with these kinds of negotiations.

Ed Iacaponi has indicated that the override funds should carry the budget for three years and maybe year 4. Mr. Iacaponi pointed out that the Select Board has made Public Safety a priority and is not planning to lay off any police officers. The Select Board rejected the question of funding the North Dartmouth Library on Tucker Road.

### **Discussion of Coalition for Dartmouth Forum**

Shannon Jenkins stated that the forum was not to discuss the override, but rather to discuss the existing state of the Town's budget. Peter Friedman said that he and Gregory Lynam would make a short

presentation. It would include highlights of the budget process and changes made in light of the Department of Revenue audit. The plan was to also point out that regardless of the other budget issues, we must stick to our policy on one time revenues. Mr. Friedman indicated that Mr. Lynam would do a brief discussion on revenue and expense trends.

**MOTION**

Larry Fox moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Shannon Jenkins.

9:02 pm Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Haskell  
*Clerk*