

Board of Selectmen Meeting
April 1, 2014 Minutes

Present: Selectmen - Mark Gilmore, Carolyn Shores Ness, David Wolfram
Interim Town Administrator - Kayce Warren

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm. Purpose of this meeting was to discuss the budget.

Items discussed:

How to determine whether there have actually been reductions in consumption of natural gas and electricity resulting from energy conservation measures being put in place.

SCEMS - Discussion of what the CIC grant can be used for. It will cover start-up time and some equipment.

Discussion of items used in calculating the levy limit and how budget requests can or cannot be met. It appears that there is a large shortfall which will require cooperation of both the municipal departments and schools to make adjustments.

The possibility of going for a proposition 2.5% override, which would not be an easy sell, was discussed. The observation that Facebook is displaying the message that Deerfield Police are putting out more patrols because there is extra money in the budget. The schools need to justify how in the face of decreasing enrollment the budget continues to increase.

Suggestions for reducing the municipal budget include reducing payroll by 2%, in the face of requests for additional half-time people. Money could be taken from stabilization by a 2/3rds vote. A Proposition 2.5% override article would need to appear on the warrant and also on the ballot; it would require an exact amount and specify its use.

Conclusions: Kayce was asked to provide additional information that would include showing a reduction of overall payroll by 2%, adding in additional staff, a number showing funds not expected to be expended (free cash), and any other potential "pots" of money.

The meeting was adjourned in a motion made by Carolyn, seconded by Dave, and unanimously voted.

Respectfully submitted,
Priscilla Phelps