

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Monday, March 9, 2015 at 6:30 pm.

Present: Martin Crowley, Chairman; David Sheedy, Clerk; William Dowling; George Samia, Town Administrator; Cathy Johnson, Administrative Assistant

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Open Forum**

Open Forum opened by the Chairman.

No one present

Open Forum closed by the Chairman

**BUDGET PRESENTATION**

Robert Charles, Veteran's Services Officer was present to present the FY16 Veteran's Department budget and to answer any questions the Board or public may have had.

**BUDGET PRESENTATION**

Fire Chief Timothy Harhen was present to present the FY 16 Fire Department budget and to answer any questions the Board or public may have had.

**Action Items**

M/Sheedy, s/Dowling, a unanimous vote, approve the minutes of the March 3, 2015 meeting as amended.

M/Sheedy, s/Dowling, a unanimous vote, approve to authorize the debt issuance requested by the Treasurer/Collector as written.

M/Sheedy, s/Dowling, a unanimous vote, approve the appointment of Dorothy Simpson to the position of Administrative Assistant at Step 7 of the Administrative Assistant Pay Grade due to her years of service with the Town.

M/Sheedy, s/Dowling, a unanimous vote, approve to authorize the Animal Control Hearing Officer to send a letter to the resident of 148 Cheryl Drive with his findings.

**Town Administrator Report**

Mr. Samia, in response to him allegedly touting that the Town needs to have an override explained, that at that time, he believed, that an override may have been taken from a discussion with the School Committee regarding overages within the School Department where a statement was made that the Town is just not giving the School Department enough money. Mr. Samia explained that, at that time, he stated that when confronted with a situation like this, one only has two courses of action: 1.) ~~put~~ <sup>pass</sup> back spending <sup>power</sup> to levels that fall within the economic reality that you are faced with or 2.) one would go out and get more money, which I believe, at that time, I prefaced that I do not advocate for or against these thing and 3.) an option, which he stated he detests, is where public officials, appointees and others embark on a will full campaign to put the budget into a hole, so that the taxpayer loses all of its abilities to have choices as the Town goes forward, which has been done before.

Mr. Samia explained that the course, as Budget Director, he would like to go down is the course that he took last year, the year before that, the year before that and the year before that, which is producing a budget that is within the confines of Proposition 2 ½.

Mr. Samia explained to the Board and the public that the Town will produce a budget within the confines of Proposition 2 ½ that takes into account major snow and ice expenditures that could exceed some \$700,000.00 as a result of this extraordinary winter

That the Town will produce a budget within the confines of Proposition 2 ½ that backfills between \$400,000.00 and \$500,000.00 of over-expenditures recently presented to the Town by the School Department

That the Town will produce a budget within the confines of Proposition 2 ½ that will consider close to \$6,000,000.00 of capital/infrastructure requests, some \$700,000.00 being School related

That the Town will produce a budget within the confines of Proposition 2 ½ that takes care of a portion of the afore-mentioned capital/infrastructure requests, while providing adequate financial leverage for the Town.

In short, the Town will not set up the tax payers to fail at some future date as a result of bad decisions today

Finally, the Town will produce a budget within the confines of Proposition 2 ½ that provides the many departments with a reasonable and sustainable increase of approximately 3% and in some cases, as deemed fit, slightly more.

Chairman Crowley stated that in terms of planning, that the rule of thumb, since the inception of Proposition 2 ½, is new revenues to the Town grow somewhere in the ballpark of 2 ½%, coming from several different sources and was put in place to control spending.

M/Sheedy, s/Dowling, motion to adjourn.

VOTE: Yes – Crowley, Sheedy, Dowling; a unanimous vote in favor

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm

  
Clerk  
Board of Selectmen