



Office of the
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
272 Main Street
Townsend, Massachusetts 01469

Nicholas Thalheimer, *Chairman*
Andrew J. Sheehan,
Town Administrator

Sue Lisio, *Vice-Chairman*

Robert Plamondon, *Clerk*
Office (978) 597-1700
Fax (978) 597-1719

SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 16, 2012 - 7:00 P.M.
SELECTMEN'S MEETING CHAMBERS

- 1 The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. Roll call showed the following present: chairman Nicholas Thalheimer (NT), vice chair Sue Lisio (SL), clerk Robert Plamondon (RP).
- 2 Budget work session.
The Board discussed the budget deficit and ways to address it. Town Administrator Andrew Sheehan (AS) gave a summary of the budget picture. AS offered potential additional reductions or revenue sources as discussion points:
 - Negotiate a reduction in the janitorial contract reflecting the reduced hours at Town Hall, Library, and Senior Center. He estimates potential savings of about \$5,200.
 - Reduce the Facilities Department energy line item by another \$10,000 for a total reduction of \$30,000.
 - Increase the transfer of ambulance receipts by another \$50,000 for a total of \$300,000. Fire Chief Don Klein was in attendance and said there are a number of capital items whose lease payments are being paid from the ambulance receipts. After a discussion he agreed to the additional transfer, but asked that it return to \$250,000 in FY14.
 - Use the reserve excess levy of \$40,777. This excess levy is available as a result of an error in the levy calculation in 2001. The Dept. of Revenue previously informed the Town it had no objection to the Town using the excess levy, but AS reminded the Board it has been a topic of some concern. The Board decided to not use the excess levy.The following topics were also discussed:
 - Changes to trash collection, including charging for bags. The Board decided to take no action on this item now as the savings would not be immediate.
 - Carolyn Smart of the Capital Planning Committee and Finance Committee recommended transferring \$100,000 less to capital stabilization than AS has recommended and using the balance to reduce cuts. A discussion ensued about creating a structural deficit by such action.
 - A long discussion ensued about the use of a modest amount of free cash and an appropriate override number. The Board came to consensus that the override amount will be around \$199,000. AS will work with the finance team to confirm the numbers in time for the 10/23/12 meeting. The Board concurred on a special town meeting date of November 14, which is the day after the special election.
- 3 Sign election warrants. The Board took no action.
- 4 Items not anticipated at the time notice was posted. There were none.

9:15PM The meeting was adjourned.