

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
JANUARY 23, 2020  
MINUTES

**PRESENT:** David Lage, Chairman; John Veesser; Bert Hamill  
Town Administrator Scott Butcher  
Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) Members Marc Fortier, Nicole Saczawa & Jack Low

Chairman Lage called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall. The discussion started with the error in the spreadsheet formulae from the January 20<sup>th</sup> Budget Hearing that didn't include the \$2,460 for Patriotic Purposes or \$6,454 for interest on the Landfill Closure bond. The errors also impacted the spreadsheet calculations for the Police Dept. and Animal Control. There was discussion about the software for Building Inspector/Code Enforcement and that the \$4,950 that is in the budget for the Avitar software was insufficient given that the Avitar solution didn't have the same functionality as the BMSI or iWorQ solutions, but they were considerably more money.

The discussion then turned to the Fire Chief's request to increase the stipend for the Fire Dept. by \$1,500 to cover the inspections the department performs. Chairman Lage agreed with the other Selectmen that the current stipend amount should cover it and there was no need to move funds from the Building Inspector to the Fire Dept. There may be discussion in the future about increasing the overall stipend amount for the Fire Dept.

There was discussion about the possibility of having a Special Town Meeting to address the bond for the Police Station rather than waiting until next year. That was tabled until a future meeting.

Chairman Lage referred to an e-mail from the Moderator, Bob Romeril, about the possible need for tablets, or other devices, for handicapped people to use during elections. The devices being used for federal elections cannot be used for state and local elections. The estimated cost would be over \$2,000 plus the cost for annual maintenance and support. The Town Administrator referenced an issue with another town that didn't provide the device and was sued, however, this isn't an immediate risk for New Ipswich and we should defer budgeting for them until next year.

Discussion about the Fire Dept. facility took place regarding the possible need for a new heating system and the need to address the mold issue. The Town Administrator stated that the facilities person, Mark Hopkins, was aware of the issues and is getting quotes on the new heating system at this time. Chairman Lage thought these types of expenditures should come out of the capital reserve fund for that purpose, not be a budgeted line item.

The Selectmen reviewed the Pool and Parks & Rec budget and discussed some of the pricing provided by the Parks & Rec Director and the lack of competitive bids. The increase in stipends for the Pool and Parks & Rec was also discussed. Selectman Veesser stated that the Parks & Rec Director stipend was increased to \$7,000 and the Pool Director stipend was increased to \$1,600 from \$1,425. The Selectmen

want the Director to get a better handle on revenues and expenses before considering any further increase in stipends.

Chairman Lage asked about the additional money to be received by the state in the same \$75K amount and how that should be treated and whether a warrant article to accept it was necessary. The Town Administrator explained the three options discussed with NH DRA and that the most flexible way to accept it was to have it go into the general fund rather than limiting its use via a specific warrant article.

The discussion turned toward the purchase of a new police cruiser and the availability of funds to do so. The Police Chief has expressed the need for two new cruisers, if possible. The question was whether a warrant article would be required to use the additional \$75K for that purpose. The Town Administrator also stated that there are funds in the Police Detail Fund that could possibly be used for that purpose. There was also the possibility of utilizing a lease as a stop gap measure.

The Selectmen reviewed the warrant articles for the upcoming Deliberative Session. Chairman Lage asked if it would be possible for him to vote on the warrant articles since he was absent for the Budget Hearing. FAC member Marc Fortier asked if the Finance Advisory Committee is able to vote on the articles. The Town Administrator explained that the FAC is advisory only, and that they likely are not able to vote. However, that may be possible at Deliberative Session along with other amendments.

There was some discussion about the petition warrant articles and FAC members asked whether any of them can be amended, specifically the petition that would change the Noise Ordinance. There was also a question of whether the Selectmen or FAC members should be voting to recommend/not recommend any of the petition warrant articles.

The warrant article for Household Hazardous Waste was revisited. Selectman Veese said he felt that in the past the dates for those events weren't publicized enough and suggested promoting them more consistently. Chairman Lage wanted to know how many New Ipswich residents actually took advantage of the program. The Town Administrator said the number Keene gave was approximately 40 per year.

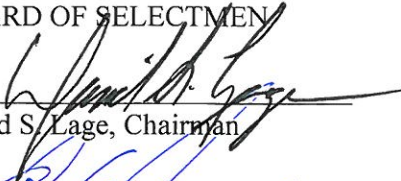
The Town Administrator explained that NH DRA neglected to switch New Ipswich to a different portal on their system for non-Budget Committee towns and that the correct form is an MS-636 instead of the MS-737. The DRA is working with their I.T. vendor to make the correction and, therefore, all of the budget and warrant article information may have to be re-entered into the new portal if they are unable to import the data.

At 8:07 pm Selectman Veese made a motion to adjourn. Selectman Hamill seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,  
Scott Butcher, Town Administrator

Minutes approved by:

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

  
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David S. Lage, Chairman  
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John Veaser  
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Bert Hamill