

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
January 6, 2025
MINUTES

Present: Shawn Talbot(Chair), Jason Somero, Lou Alvarez, Debbie Deaton (Town Administrator),
Joe Woodworth (FAC Chair), Luke Moran (FAC)

5:00 Open Meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance
This meeting was not videoed.

5:05 Budget Review:

- Shawn said he spoke to Chief Hatcher regarding the Fire Department budget and what they put forward was what they require but they are willing to work with the Selectmen if cuts need to be made.
- Shawn also mentioned the Fire Department put a cap on the amount of volunteers at 36. They are in the process of reviewing how many are active vs. inactive.
- Lou said he spoke to Chief Abel and he accepted the 5% increase instead of the 7.5% increase.
- Joe summarized the budget and explained anything that wasn't supported has been removed.
- Shawn asked to see the scenario of 35% increase in FD hours, 12.5% stipend increase for FD, 5% increase for PD and a 2.5% COLA. The result was an 8.44% overall increase.
- Shawn asked what the total budget increase would be if we could remove 6 months of salary for 1 officer like we did this year. Joe said the result was 6.97%.
- Other reductions were made to the budget that lowered the it by \$13,000.

7:36 Round Table Discussion :

- Jason said the Road Committee discussed the fact that the funding from the warrant articles for the roads has gone down to the wire for the last 3 years in a row. There was some consideration to increase those this year but it was decided to wait until 2026 to review it. Costs of everything (asphalt, labor, culverts, etc.) has gone up but the warrant articles haven't been increased in approximately 10 years.
- Jason added the Board should have a policy regarding maintenance on Class VI roads. The Board will discuss this on January 28th.
- Jason asked Debbie if she had heard from Beth at NHPDIP yet. She replied she hasn't and will email her again.
- Luke informed the Board that the intersection at Timbertop and Hubbard Pond is dangerous. At night, you can't see cars coming because the streetlight shines in your eyes. During the day, it's a very sharp turn and school buses and large vehicles have an issue making the turn. There is a resident that owns the strip of land where the turn is and he is willing to discuss possibilities to make that intersection less dangerous. Debbie will contact him to see if he would be able to come in and discuss this on January 28th.

At 7:54 Shawn made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jason seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Deaton
Town Administrator

Minutes approved by BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Shawn Talbot, Chairman:



Jason Somero:



Lou Alvarez:

