

**TOWN OF NEW DURHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
September 29, 2021, 6:00P.M.
Town Hall, New Durham, NH 03855**

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Meeting ID: 833 5447 4878 Passcode: 247854 One tap mobile
+16465588656,,83354474878#,,, *247854# US (New York)*

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PRESENT

David Swenson, Select Board Chair
Dorothy Veisel, Select Board Member
Ron Uyeno, Select Board Member

ALSO PRESENT

Nicole Zoltko, Town Administrator
Anina Soucy, Finance Manager
Shawn Bernier, Police Chief
Reginald Meatey, Police Sargent
Peter Varney, Fire Chief
Don Vachon, Road Agent
David Bickford, resident – via Zoom
Kevin Ruel, Fire Department
Ty Tyler, Emergency Management
Pam Ward, DPW Administrative Assistant
Alicia Housel, Finance Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Swenson called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

APPOINTMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

2022 BUDGET REVIEW Continuation

Account 4210 Police

The Board reviewed the proposed budget. Police Chief Bernier presented an employee retention plan outline which is being used by the Town of Middleton, which is also struggling with retaining employees. He stated he put in a 5% wage increase throughout the department; the overtime rate was increased, noting he is already over the overtime budget year to date. Police Chief Bernier explained their radio system is outdated; he explained the costs for the budget lines and explained why some had increases. Police Chief Bernier summarized the number of calls received by the department and stated the K9 program is being discontinued. He asked if the Board wants to change how outside detail and grant detail system works into a revolving fund. He explained the way it is done now a percentage is taken from the budget to cover those.

Selectman Veisel made a motion to approve account 4210 Police for FY 2022 Budget in the amount of \$687,072. Selectman Uyeno seconded the motion. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

Account 4220 Fire

The Board reviewed the proposed budget. Chair Swenson went over lines which were recalculated for an amount different than presented, noting most lines were flat-funded. Fire Chief Varney explained the lines which increased, which includes the costs of epi-pens which used to be at no cost but are now very expensive. He stated they are still using supplies from last year but the costs of medical supplies are going up. Fire Chief Varney explained the process for mutual aid with other departments; he stated if they keep members on-call it would help but it's tough them remain a part of that and difficult to keep people to fill the hours. Chair Swenson stated he would like additional information for line 90, including the number of employees and hourly rates. Fire Chief Varney explained the number of calls the department received for fire and ems; he stated calls are a minimum of 2 hours. The Board agreed more details are needed to be brought forward on the October 4th meeting.

Account 4290 Emergency Management

The Board reviewed the proposed budget. It was noted the increase is in the wage line. Fire Chief Varney stated in the past, he was covering the position but he and Police Chief Bernier were not supportive of that system so they worked towards getting another individual in the position. He explained the position can sometimes be later reimbursed from FEMA or other grants, although it has to be in the budget. Town Administrator Zoltko explained a lot of time is being spent on the ARPA grant which some administrative costs could be covered by this position. Fire Chief Varney stated that the current Assistant Emergency Management Director is working on updating the emergency management plan and mitigation plan with Strafford Regional Planning.

Selectman Veisel made a motion to approve account 4290 Emergency Management for FY 2022 Budget in the amount of \$8,691. Selectman Uyeno seconded the motion. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

Account 4291 Forestry

The Board reviewed the proposed budget.

Selectman Veisel made a motion to approve account 4291 Forestry for FY 2022 Budget in the amount of \$12,832. Selectman Uyeno seconded the motion. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

Account 4312 Highways & Streets

The Board reviewed the proposed budget. Road Agent Vachon noted there are some lines that need to be adjusted from the proposed budget. The Board reviewed the changes. Chair Swenson noted most of the increases are in the wage, rental and advertising lines. Road Agent stated he needs to get a couple new portable radios as the current equipment was bought in 1979. Town Administrator Zoltko noted that the ACIP Committee would be again recommending that gravel be added to this budget for this year to be in line with the advisory guidelines. Gravel is not currently in this budget. Chair Swenson stated there was discussion with Parks and Recreation regarding the mowing; he stated there were concerns about when DPW is unable to do the work. It was noted there are also the same concerns with the cemeteries.

Selectman Veisel made a motion to approve account 4312 Highways & Streets for FY 2022 Budget in the amount of \$944,041. Selectman Uyeno seconded the motion. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

Account 4324 Solid Waste

The Board reviewed the proposed budget. It was noted a part time seasonal position was added; wage adjustments were calculated. Chair Swenson noted the primary increase is under wages. It was noted the rate for C&D has increased. Chair Swenson stated they are looking in to whether they can using ARPA funds for a scale and there has been discussion about moving forward with that soon. There was discussion about the purchase of a scale having been on a warrant article and turn down by voters at one time.

Selectman Veisel made a motion to approve account 4324 Solid Waste for FY 2022 Budget in the amount of \$380,198. Chair Swenson seconded the motion. Motion passed, 2-0-1.

Chair Swenson stated the Board's review of the 2022 budget is almost complete but there are a few accounts which will be revisited at the next meeting. He stated the Budget Committee will then review the proposed budgets accounts.

Chair Swenson stated that line item 4200 Titled 319-1 Grant was set up for the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services grant for the Merrymeeting watershed project. He stated there is a matching requirement; most of it was in-kind from the Department of Public Works and it was included in the budget. Road Agent Vachon stated he has talked this over with Mr. Quimby and work will be starting soon. Finance Manager, Soucy confirmed up to \$31,000 could be "in-kind" and approximately \$31,000 should be matching funds and the Town will be responsible for a total of approximately \$62,000. Town Administrator Zoltko stated that this work must be tracked appropriately by Mr. Quimby, DPW, and Finance for this project to be completed accurately.

Account 4550 Library

The Board reviewed the additional information presented since last night's meeting. Town Administrator Zoltko explained the line for maintenance and items it is used for included more

than just fertilizer but also included cleaning of gutters, fixing a broken window, or other maintenance tasks.

Chair Swenson made a motion to rescind the action taken on account 4550 Library on September 28, 2021 and approve the new number of \$136,521 for account 4550 for the FY 2022 budget. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

Account 4520 Parks and Recreation

The Board reviewed the additional information presented since last night's meeting. Ms. Soucy explained the revaluations reflect additional hours for the director during the beach season due to minors being hired for the seasonal attendant and part time positions.

Chair Swenson made a motion to rescind the action taken on account 4520 Parks and Recreation on September 28, 2021 and approve the new number of \$74,173 for account 4520 for the FY 2022 budget. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

NEXT MEETING

October 4, 2021, 6:00PM.

ADJOURN

Chair Swenson made a motion to adjourn. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned 10:12PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Riel

Jennifer Riel, Recording Secretary