Town of Windham

Select Board Meeting

Monday, January 22, 2018

Windham Town Office

**Present:**

Frank Seawright Selectman

Kord Scott Selectman

Maureen Bell Selectwoman

Peter Chamberlain Treasurer

Claudia Voight Select Board Clerk

Vance Bell Planning Commission

Tom Johnson Planning Commission

Louise Johnson

Bob Bingham

Meeting Called to Order by Frank at 6:32

**Changes to Agenda:**

* Changes to Agenda made and approved by Select Board
  + Included items moved to later meeting date due to detailed review of proposed Budgets.

**Approve previous minutes:**

* Need to be drafted by Claudia
  + Delay due to Claudia on vacation with Kord Scott filling in for Claudia

**Public Comments:**

Public comment from Bob Bingham–

* Expressing his concern about how Windham taxes are rising
  + Road Budget is excessively high - Bob referred to Graph that was distributed at Select Board Meeting (attached)
  + As a tax payer bob wants Budget to be kept on a tighter rope
  + Bob commented that we can’t continue this way given size of town, just Road Budget alone is close to triple from 2008, expenses need to be capped.
    - Budget when from $185,000 to over $480,000 during this time period
  + Rodney straight lined his Road Budget from 2002 to 2008
  + Kord responded that there are valid reasons which show spikes in rise for certain years which will be reviewed this evening – just looking at the Graph alone is concerning
  + Is the public aware of the rise in the Road Budget – Frank responded that they may not be and suggested that the last Select Board Meeting prior to the Town Meeting to invite the Public to attend so that the Select Board can explain the spikes and answer any questions
  + Bob suggested getting quotes from private contractors in comparison to the Town doing the plowing/sanding/salting and handling summer road maintenance and compare to Budgeted numbers.

**Announcements/reports:**

Grants, training, meetings, events, other:

* Maureen commented about an email she received in regards to Grants available from VLTC – questioned whether the Town is eligible for anything
  + The Town should be eligible
  + Information given to Kord for review and follow through

**Business:**

Energy Committee/Town Office

* No comments

**Roads**

Roads Budget & Graph distributed

* Reflects historical data on Budgets 2002 – to present
* Kord ran down roads budget line item by line item – copy attached
* Some money in line items are “anticipated” and may not actually be used, however based on history set aside just in case
* Just looking at graph is concerning however does not explain “spikes”
  + Example: 08/09 Budget year a new truck was purchased
  + 12/13 spike – was due to severe mud season which increased Budget by $100,000
  + Line 5 – Electrical being taken out
  + Lind 7 – Peter found 2 yard dumpster which saves $
* Maureen commented on the Uniform line item and asked if an allowance could be given for them to purchase their own
* Reached out for quotes on various line items such as Roadside and lowest quote taken into consideration – other examples of Quotes for service are:
  + Culvert work
  + Guardrail replacement
* Diesel – the $19,185.42 is just want the Town uses
* Non-Tax Revenue - The State Aid for transportation for each year is based on number of Road miles – State sends $ quarterly to Town.
* Frank made motion to approve the Winter/Summer Road Budget with the Warned amount of $398,038 as presented which is minus $65,000
  + All in favor - yes

**Town Budget**

* Town Budget Report will be in Town Report
* Select Board acknowledges that the Town Voters may have questions/concerns in regards to the overall Budget and will use the last Select Board meeting in February prior to the Town Meet for Voters to attend and present their questions.
* Peter ran through some explanations of reductions and the bottom line – some changes as example:
  + Page 5 – Line 136: $236,541 will be reduced from surplus and non-tax income (fees/interest) 90% of surplus will be $51,547 – in Warning $184,994
  + Line item 144 – 10% will to to office M & I which is $3,586
* School Expenses outlined on bottom of report
* Maureen made motion to approve General Account Budget
  + Accept budget with Header changes
  + All in favor – yes

**Vicious dog ordinance –**

* Discussion revolved around how to raise awareness of vicious dog problem
* Legislation from state this year re: vicious dogs – if enacted, not certain of impact for Windham, but will be beneficial to alert community that there is law
* Humane society, imprisoned cow is bull and is farm and trying to separate bull from cow

**Correspondence, Review Bills & Sign Orders**

* Reviewed “Warning” for 2018
* Claudia to type up, ran through figures and misc. changes.
* Select Board reviewed various letters, emails and items to be signed.

Peter stayed for E Session

**Executive Session**

* Select Board went into Executive Session at 8:15 pm
* Peter stayed for Executive Session
* A decision was made to speak with Josh regarding a personal day issue and Windham Personnel Policy.
* The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:30 pm.

Adjourn