

TOWN OF CASTLETON
SPECIAL SELECT BOARD MEETING
Minutes of December 4, 2018
TOWN OFFICE

MEMBERS PRESENT: J. Bruno, R. Combs, J. Leamy, Z. Holzworth, R. Spaulding

OTHERS PRESENT: See attached listing

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER by J. Bruno at 7:00pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: J Bruno makes a motion to approve the agenda. Proposed budget is the only item on the agenda. Approved with the addition of executive session for real estate.

J Bruno starts at the beginning for review. J Leamy discusses wish list versus needs list. Mentions last year and references the town report. Hands out copies and notes the bottom line was a 5.1% decrease. \$167,000. In that year no departments were eliminated, and no services have been reduced. J Leamy states that we have done well with less and this proposed budget is an 8% increase. Also states that the Cost of Living Increase is 2.3%. J Leamy proposes a 2.3-2.5% cost of living increase across the board and the rest of the budget level funded. Not cutting not increasing.

M Jones mentions there are departments that were woefully underfunded. For example: Tree Warden, Animal Control and Assessor. These departments now have people in those departments who are out there doing the work. J Leamy states that if you need to increase that then find the money to off set somewhere else. M Jones has researched the last 4 years looking for trends. In order to calculate the proposed budget a wage figure for union employees needed to be entered. M Jones used what was originally offered for union employees. If accepted, it would be a 9.5% increase. This number was used as a tool in the budget as no contract has yet to be agreed upon. This number is based upon the offer (compounded over time) that has yet to be accepted. Recreation attended the meeting to advocate for their requested increase. A proposal was provided for review.

R Combs mentions that the biggest reason the budget was down last year was that third payment was made for the Town Office.

J Bruno advocates for continuing through the budget and states that level funding isn't always possible. And states the most departments on the proposed budgets appear to be level funded. Wants to just go through each as there will be further discussion at the next meeting.

*This is the preliminary budget meeting to review the proposed Town budget. Select Board Members went through each item pausing on occasion to question a formula or number. The budget is attached. The next budget meeting will cover more in-depth discussion regarding any items that have impact on the 8% proposed increase. No items proposed for action, no motions made, and no action taken.

MOTION: J Bruno made a motion enter executive session for real estate at 8:51 pm. R Combs seconded. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Select Board emerges from Executive Session at 9:11pm. No action taken.

MOTION: R Combs made a motion to adjourn. Z Holzworth seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

DRAFT