

**TOWN OF CASTLETON  
SELECT BOARD MEETING  
Minutes of DECEMBER 18, 2017**

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

Others Present: See attached listing

Meeting called to order at 7:16pm by Chairman J. Bruno.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Z. Holzworth made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by R. Spaulding.  
All in favor. Motion Carried.

**2018-19 BUDGET REVIEW**

J. Leamy noted that the way M. Combs made up the budget the loan for the town office is not in here because it would be payed off and therefore, that's about \$195,000.00 when we look at the bottom line is down 2%, is a considerable portion of the \$195,000.00 is now built into this.

M. Combs replied it could be as she did not take the analysis that far.

The Board went thru the department line item budgets individually.

J. Leamy noted that they had to wait on wages to see exactly what they have.

**TAX LISTING**

J. Bruno noted the huge increase in the Assessor budgeting personal services.

R. Combs noted that he could not support a pay increase from \$30.00/hr. to \$60.00/hr. and if this was not negotiable then it would have to go out to bid.

J. Leamy asked who would be responsible to notify the Assessor that this was not acceptable.

J. Bruno stated he would have Administrative Assistant write a letter and J. Bruno would sign it.

Z. Holzworth asked the Board if he could research some of the Assessor budgets of surrounding town's that have around the same number of parcels and amount of hours worked.

**MUNICIPAL PLANNING/ZONING**

J. Bruno had a concern about the line item for the safety officer. He asked P. Eagan and J. Jordan if the Safety Officer was coming around monthly and checking fire extinguishers.

P. Eagan and J. Jordan noted that the he had not been around for a while and they check their own extinguishers at the beginning of each month.

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M. Combs noted that maintenance costs for the new town office are hard to figure out as it has not been a full year of expenses.

### **CASTLETON POLICE DEPT**

Chief Mantello stated he would be willing to repeat what he did with last year's budget regarding his reserve line item.

J. Bruno stated that they needed an explanation regarding how to correctly "encumber" monies and hold them over to next budget and place in reserve account.

### **CASTLETON FIRE DEPARTMENT**

R. Combs commented that he and Chief Goyette had talked about how the Fire Dept. Reserve fund had been under budgeted for years.

J. Leamy objected to R. Combs advocating for the F.D. Budget, he asked that the Chief attend the next meeting to discuss the 28% increase.

R. Combs stated that he and Chief had figured out expenses over the next 20 years and how to fund them and that is how the amount of \$62,750.00.

J. Leamy noted that he wanted the members to have the equipment they needed to safely perform their jobs.

### **HISTORICAL CEMETERIES**

J. Bruno noted an increase in both Cemetery budgets.

R. Ladd noted that he cannot find any contractors who will work on the restoration of stones for \$2,000.00.

### **HILLSIDE CEMETERY**

J. Leamy noted that the Hillside budget had been discussed and they will change increase from \$5,000.00 to \$2,000.00 increase this year and \$1,000.00 increase for the next three years.

### **DEWEY/CES FIELD**

J. Bruno had a concern about why the town was subsidizing the CES fields. They should be maintained through the Union budget.

J. Bruno asked that M. Clifford, B. Ward and Chief Goyette attend the Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

R. Combs noted that the Board will either need to justify or eliminate the \$127,500.00 increase in the bottom line of the 2018-19 budget.

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J. Bruno stated that there was a \$150 increase in the Memorial Day/Indep. Day budget. N. Boutwell noted that the Independence Day committee is petitioning for additional funding.

**Adjourn**

J. Leamy motioned to Adjourn at 8:50 pm. R. Spaulding seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully

V. Waldron

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Date of Approval