

**TOWN OF CASTLETON SELECT BOARD MINUTES**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**Tuesday, November 28, 2023 6:00 p.m.**  
**Castleton Fire Station Community Room**  
**273 Route 30N, Bomoseen**  
**In-Person & Zoom Virtual Public Meeting**

**Zoom Meeting Recording Link:**

**[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/sztMBWqSBfenzoGibpyxF3TbN832IOkncYbQ6NtquVfWr0Vrxbw05X\\_xAvkilOem.SODJs3Hrb3d5NNCF](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/sztMBWqSBfenzoGibpyxF3TbN832IOkncYbQ6NtquVfWr0Vrxbw05X_xAvkilOem.SODJs3Hrb3d5NNCF)**

**PRESENT:** James Leamy, Chair, Joseph Mark, Parliamentarian, Richard Combs, Mary Lee Harris, Michael Jones, Town Manager

**PRESENT VIA ZOOM:** Robert Spaulding, Nedra Boutwell, Melanie Combs, Allison Harvey, Recording Secretary

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Select Board Chair J. Leamy at 6:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Pledge of Allegiance was lead by J. Leamy.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**ML Harris made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. J. Mark seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.**

**BUDGET DISCUSSION 2024-2025**

J. Leamy briefly reviewed the budget process and how the figures before the Board were arrived at, and that this was the budget numbers being proposed by the town Manager. 13.9% health care increase are a large increase, as well as payroll. Total budget came in at \$4,161,287 which is \$439,588 more than last year for a total increase of 11.8%.

M. Jones stated 3.9% increases for payroll for full time staff has been proposed. ML Harris questioned the increase of the accountant and treasurer positions when they are both retiring and will have new people in those positions and if those new employees are going to be hired at a rate higher than the outgoing employees. M. Jones explained the numbers he used for salary for those positions in today's wage rates from other towns.

Brief discussions on various areas of the budget, such as other position salaries, maintenance, legal fees, highway carry-over, ARPA funds and their use, and whether it hinders the budgets down the road in the next few years to make up for the use of the ARPA funds and how it affects the budget in future years. It was decided that the board would go through the budget by department at this time, after reviewing the individual questions of each board member based on what is being proposed. Discussion on how the CVS figures would change the budget, M. Jones estimated \$50-60,000 for those expenses annually and whether it should be included in the budget. It was felt by board members it should be included. Also discussion on the school budget and whether it will have a large increase, and whether the Town budget could be cut at all from where it is at right now. J. Leamy stated he would like to see a 5% increase at the most. Further discussion on the costs being incurred and whether there are any places that the budget can be cut.

**ADJOURN – 7:31 p.m.**

**R. Combs made a motion to adjourn at 7:31 p.m. ML Harris seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.**

Respectfully Submitted  
Allison Harvey, Recording Secretary