

**Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen
MINUTES Special Meeting
Tuesday, April 30, 2024 at 6:30 PM
84 South Main Street- Great Hall**

6:30 PM-Special Session

BoS members Present: Linda Murray, chair, David Senecal, vice-chair; Brad Harriman, Brian Deshaies, Paul O'Brien.

Staff: James Pineo

Chair Linda Murray calls meeting to order. Need for non-public session?

Mr. Pineo: No

New Business:

Board of Selectmen, in public, watches a 12-14-2022 New Hampshire Municipal Association [NHMA] webinar video about how to operate a default budget in towns and municipalities in NH.

A. Discussion: NHMA Default Budget webinar video + question and answer

Mr. Deshaies: Asks about posting jobs and changing job descriptions under a default budget.

Mr. Pineo: I think we could – but it might not be in the 2025 default budget.

Mr. Deshaies: Asks about handling higher pay rates – which would not be there the entire year.

Mrs. Murray: We had a half-year firefighter.

Mr. Pineo: That position was removed in the default budget. Half-year position was backed out; the new position was backed out in default budget.

Mr. Deshaies/Mrs. Murray: Inquires how to handle increases in insurance for non-union employees; the funds are not available.

Mrs. Murray: If we don't take it out we should probably... is it part of benefit package.

Mr. Pineo: Gross numbers are in default budget and will do research to find an answer re: collective bargaining employees – or non-union.

Mr. O'Brien: Collective bargaining is under valid contract– Are employees not covered by collective bargaining; increase in benefits increase – is it shouldered by town – or is it out of the default budget? It could be a big or modest number.

Mr. Pineo: Will research; it's a gray area.

Mrs. Murray/Mr. O'Brien: Inquires about town contract related to solid waste contract and tipping fees.

Mr. Pineo: Based on a pre-approved contract. It's in the default budget.

Mr. O'Brien: Are there other contracts that were not part of the budget from the prior year? Such as lease agreements/Peter Ford lease agreement.

Mr. Pineo: Not applicable- lease is revenue.

Mrs. Murray: Inquires about specifics in 100-series in budget.

Mr. Pineo will do more research.

Mr. O'Brien: Asks when unfilled positions are eliminated. Is it a policy for the BoS.

Mrs. Murray: It a job is advertised; the position still exists. And positions can be kept open/unfilled.

Mr. Deshaies: asks about hiring a town engineer – or changing that position to 'assistant town manager.'

Mr. Pineo: Line item transfers can be done by BoS now; the 2025 default budget is the problem. The position could be gone. Transferring funds for town engineer to something else, that's a new line item – which is not part of the default budget; does it go away under reorganization in 2025 – or does it default back to the existing town engineer line?

Board says there was a lot of good information from the webinar video.

Mr. O'Brien/Mrs. Murray/Mr. Deshaies: believe the webinar information indicated board cannot create new line items in a default budget year.

Mr. Pineo: this is a DRA portal that gives you gross number for each department; in town accounting software, the line-by-line items and one-time items have to be backed out when in a default budget. A gross number is approved in the signed default budget.

Mr. Deshaies/Mrs. Murray: Trying to distinguish from webinar on difference between budget hearing and deliberative session. Want clarification on the issue.

Mr. O'Brien: Need to explain to the public line item transfers.

Mrs. Murray: Need more direction on this. Opens public comment session.

Bobbie Boudman: Says the deliberative session includes public comment.

Mr. Pineo: that addresses ups and downs of line items – not budget transfers from previous years' approved budget to the proposed. Does not address line item transfers.

Mr. O'Brien: says we have to explain what we did.

Mrs. Murray: says PPT will outline current year and what is the 2024 budget; We do not go through default budget line-by-line.

Ms. Boudman: Asks about School Resource Officer for the current year town budget; shared cost with school district.

Mrs. Murray: SRO was approved by warrant article and then in the 2023 budget.

Mr. Pineo: SRO is not removed from the budget because it was a standalone warrant article approved. The position stays.

Bob Tougher, budget committee member – with John McDonald, budget committee chair: From webinar, need to look at committee public hearings; default budget not discussed in committee. Mentions questions about contracted salary increases and benefits in default budget. Suggests revaluation in the default budget and RSAs related to this.

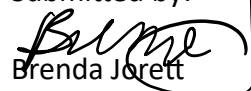
Mr. Pineo: Reminds board/public that the NHMA presentation was 2022 and there could be changes that he'll research.

Mrs. Murray: No other public comments or questions/comments from board.

MOTION by Mr. Senecal to adjourn the special session at 8:10 p.m.. Second Mr. Harriman. Approved 5-0

Next Meeting dates: May 1, 2024, 6:30 p.m. regular session

Submitted by:


Brenda Jorett

