



Town of Bolton

222 BOLTON CENTER ROAD • BOLTON, CT 06043
TELEPHONE (860) 649-8066 FAX (860) 643-0021

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2020
7:00 P.M. - TOWN HALL
BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES**

The January 21, 2020 Board of Selectmen Budget Workshop was called to order by Chair, Sandra Pierog, at 7:06 PM.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: First Selectman Sandra Pierog, Selectman Michael Eremita, Selectman Robert Morra, and Selectman Robert DePietro.

OTHERS PRESENT: Administrator Joshua Steele Kelly, Highway Supervisor Lance Dimock, Tax Collector Lori Bushnell, Town Assessor Helen Totz, Planning & Zoning Commission Chair Adam Teller, Inland Wetlands Commission Chair Ross Lally, and Board of Finance Chair Emily Bradley.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

AGENDA ITEM 2A – Highway

DISCUSSION: Dimock spoke about the fact that he did not feel it was fair of the Administrator to present a budget to the Board that did not reflect his original request. Eremita echoed that sentiment. Kelly agreed that the budget document could be changed to reflect both the original ask and the recommendations that he developed with the Director of Finance. The Highway budget that Dimock presented reflects an approximate 1% increase over the FY 2020 budget, or a 9.8% increase over FY 2019 actual expenditures. Dimock spoke to the need for increase tree trimming operations to ensure that trees affected by the Emerald Ash Borer are taken down properly and before they cause a severe risk to the public. He advocated against cuts to the budget for fear that it would put the town in a tough position if there were a critical vehicle failure that required repairs. Kelly added that all proposals from his perspective are based on past actual expenditures rather than increasing off of the prior year, and that based off of those prior expenditures there may be room for reduction.

AGENDA ITEM 2B – Tax Collector's Office

DISCUSSION: Bushnell also noted that her budget had been adjusted by the Administrator by a total of \$1,100. The proposed budgets reflect a 2.75% increase in Payroll, a reduction in Other Payroll to allow for seasonal collection assistants rather than a year-round collection assistant, and a maintaining of most other lines. Kelly's proposed cut came from the Office Operating Expenses line, where considerably more was requested by the Collector's Office than was expensed in prior years. Bushnell provided the Board with backup to show her calculations.

Kelly reiterated that future budget sheets would include both the original ask and recommendations from himself and the Director of Finance.

AGENDA ITEM 2C – Assessor’s Office

DISCUSSION: Totz stated that she was very happy with her budget overall, and noted that the proposal from administration increased her total ask. Payroll was increased from her ask to the admin recommendation due to the Assistant to the Assessor taking on additional roles and responsibilities (and subsequently being compensated for that work), and the Office Operating Expenses line was increased to ensure that the Assessor’s Office at least maintained the same purchasing power as they had in FY 2019.

AGENDA ITEM 2D – Planning & Zoning Commission

DISCUSSION: Teller presented his budget, which included an increase over FY 2020’s budget due to adding the Advertising line to the mix. He said that there may be room for a small \$400 cut in the payroll line. Kelly has not presented a recommendation this commission to date.

AGENDA ITEM 2E – Inland Wetland Commission

DISCUSSION: The Board discussed the presented budget, which maintains all costs from FY 2020 with the addition of the Advertising line. Lally entered after this and said that he felt his budget recommendation was sufficient to keep the Commission running with some contingency. Kelly has not presented a recommendation this commission to date.

AGENDA ITEM 2F – Economic Development Commission

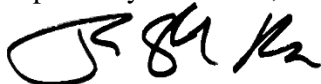
DISCUSSION: Kelly presented the budget, as no member of the Commission was present to make comment and no Commissioner submitted a budget to his office. The budget presented to the Board was written by the Director of Finance and Kelly based off of prior-year expenditures. It represents a \$500 decrease from prior years.

AGENDA ITEM 2G – Other Departments/Commissions

DISCUSSION: Kelly presented information about why the budget was presented in the manner that it was after some questions from Board members. He also highlighted the new Transfers budget after a question from the Board regarding transfers to other funds, as has been past practice within the Economic Development Commission.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Joshua Steele Kelly, Administrator

See minutes of subsequent meetings for approval of these minutes and any corrections hereto.