UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Call to Order

Chair Towne called the meeting to order.

Additions or Changes to the Agenda

None.

Public Comment

None.

Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Discussion

Badowski, the acting Town Administrator, started the conversation. The first topic of discussion was an answer to a previous request of Quinn’s to analyze the increased expenses and determine which are fixed increases. Badowski shared a spreadsheet of the increased expenses and the board discussed the increases. Badowski then shared a spreadsheet detailing increases year over year, prepared in anticipation of a discussion regarding buying down the debt. If two existing loans, for a truck loan through FY ’25 and the new grader loan through FY ’32, were bought down for $376,000, the annual budget would decrease by $61,729. The changes in expenditure were detailed in the chart given the new figures. The balance in undesignated funds would then be $450,000. Two other truck loans are ending in FY ’22, a $15,000 payment and a $30,000 payment. Conversation continued regarding the buy down of the tax rate. There was a general agreement that the board would like for the budget to only increase by 2% which means further trimming of department budgets where possible.

The board then discussed the abatement of property tax for the Capital City Grange. The abatement of the tax on that property results in absorption of the school tax portion by individual property owners because that tax must be collected. In other words, the school taxes that would be paid by the Grange but for the abatement must still be paid so that cost has been assumed by the balance of tax payers. That amount of tax is $5,200 per year. The proposal for this year’s abatement vote is to offset the municipal tax, rather than school tax, which is an amount of $4,200. This change was recommended by the Town Clerk (to abate the municipal portion but not school tax portion of tax owed by the Grange). Quinn and Smith both expressed a personal desire not to abate but found it appropriate to put the item on the ballot to allow voters to decide, with the abatement duration reduced to 1 year and only abating the municipal tax portion.
The board scheduled a meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. to finalize budget discussion.

Quinn moved to adjourn. Smith seconded. Passed unanimously.

For the Select Board:

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Bethany A. Towne