

TOWN OF TAMWORTH  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
84 MAIN STREET  
TAMWORTH, NH 03886  
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Selectmen's Meeting 6:00pm  
Public Hearing 6:00pm  
KA Brett School - Cafeteria

Thursday, January 31, 2019

MINUTES

*Approved; February 21, 2019*

Present: Chairman Gray, Selectmen Poirier, Farnum and Mason, Road Agent Roberts, Recreation Director Roberts, Police Chief Littlefield, Asst Fire Chief Bowles, Librarian Cronin, Library Trustee Nason, Trustee of Trust Funds Chairman Wheeler, EDC Chairman Farley, Advisory Budget members Streeter, Johnson, Cook and Siniscalchi, Finance Director Estabrook, Town Administrator McWhirter, videographer from governmentoversite.com and several members of the public.

- I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Gray called the meeting to order at 6:20pm.
- II. OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: Chairman Gray opened the public hearing at 6:21pm.

Chairman Gray stated that the Selectmen are concerned of a possible spike in the municipal tax rate for the upcoming year. The department heads were able to make a number of cuts to their individual proposed budget for the upcoming 2019 budget. Chairman Gray discussed the 2017 warrant article for the fire truck and that the appropriation for the 2018 portion was not raised and will need to be raised this year. Bunker Hill Bridge repair will be on the warrant for this year for \$325,000.

Selectman Farnum stated that the total proposed budget for 2019 is \$4.5 million. The proposed budget to be voted on at town meeting is \$3.651 million, with approximately \$2 million in revenue. Out of the \$4.5 million the town already has some of the funds either in capital reserves, funds already committed, revenue offsets or funds that may not be used at all. The net appropriations for 2019 are very close to last year. The department heads cut over \$260k from their budgets for the upcoming year. Over the last few years money has been used from undesignated fund balance to keep the tax rate reduced, this year this may not be a possibility. There was a lengthy discussion on how to increase revenues and new avenues to generate revenue with recycling.

A suggestion was made to form a committee to look at alternatives for ambulance services in Tamworth. There are 3 years left on the current contract.

The board was asked to be mindful regarding RSA 32:8, not to overspend appropriations. Article #6 was overspent for 2018. There are ways to transfer funds from one item to another throughout the year that need to be adhered to. Procedure needs to be put in place.

The board was asked to research the agreement with the Town of Sandwich regarding Bearcamp Pond. The deed states that the use of the breach should be free for the residents of Tamworth. In 2000, Tamworth agreed to pay \$500/year to help Sandwich deter costs of upkeep and maintenance.

The Library Trustees stated with new bids for outside painting, the overall budget will decrease. The specific number will be available after the trustees meeting.

The board reviewed and discussed each item in the proposed 2019 budget with the public. There was discussion on a number of items: The line items changes are as follows:

- 4326.20 Transfer Station:  
Line 4326-20.191(flexible spending) will be reduced by \$1,000 and Line 4326-20.690 (Household hazard waste day) will increase by \$81.00.

Fire Ward Bowles discussed the warrant article for the purchase of new fire truck this year. The dealer has a stock truck available at the factory for \$400,357. Mr. Bowles asked if the board would authorize a \$10,000 non refundable down payment to hold the truck until after town meeting. The purchase of this truck could be a possible savings of \$35,643.

III. CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING: Chairman Gray closed the public hearing at 9:10pm

IV. OPEN SELECTMEN'S MEETING: At 9:11pm, the board reentered into the Selectmen's Meeting.

*Selectman Poirier made a motion to take \$10,000 from the emergency response budget and made a non refundable deposit on a new fire truck, provided the date to hold the truck is after town meeting. The motion was seconded by Selectman Farnum and passed (3-1).*

The board will review the Police Holiday policy at the next Selectmen's meeting.

V. ADJOURN SELECTMEN'S MEETING: At 9:15pm, Chairman Gray made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Selectman Poirier and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darlene McWhirter  
Town Administrator

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Steve Gray

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Daniel Poirier

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Aaron Ricker

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William Farnum

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Rebecca Mason