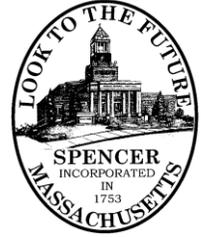


Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen



Date: Monday, March 31, 2014
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: McCourt Social Hall Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA
Present: Chair Woodbury, Vice Chair Berthiaume, Clerk Stevens, Members Fritze and Pepe and Administrator Gaudette

At 6:00 p.m. Chairman Woodbury called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Town Administrator Report

FY2015 Budget Development Update

Administrator Gaudette reviewed FY15 Budget documents with the Board including the FY15 Preliminary Budget, Override Matrix, Tax Implications, and Capital Request List. The Finance Committee will hold a public hearing on April 1st and the warrant will close on April 7th.

He reported at this time there is a \$1,133,909 deficit in the FY15 Budget, leaving a \$595,000 shortfall to consider as an override question.

The Board agreed to have separate ballots for the amounts needed for the Town and the District.

The Override Matrix was reviewed. It listing the following reductions if an override does not pass:

- Close Town Hall to the public for 2 days and eliminate night hours and reduce full-time support staff to part-time. The building will remain open 4 days with department heads working on days the building is closed to the public.
- Police overtime for events will be eliminated.
- Fire Department part-time assistant position will be eliminated and the building will close to public.
- U & F Highway Engineering Aide position will be eliminated.
- Streetlights will be turned off.
- Board of Health Fluoride Coordinator position will be eliminated.
- COA will not move to Maple St. School building.
- COA Sr. Worker program will be eliminated.
- Library hours will be reduce to the minimum 32 hours and still maintain certification.
- Parks & Rec expenses for swim lessons, lifeguards, and maintenance will all be eliminated.

There was discussion on cutting \$25,000 of the \$90,000 for stormwater expense.

Mr. Stevens said he was hoping to reduce the amount of the override to under \$500,000 and believes the budget can handle a 1 to 2 % reduction.

The Board and Administrator discussed the following items in consideration of an override:

- The cost to relocate the Senior Center to Maple St. School at \$90,000
- Parks & Rec expenses - swim lessons, lifeguards, and maintenance. Cut completely at \$61,000, without lifeguards, Luther Hill Park may need to close for safety reasons.
- Library expenses reduced by \$92,000
- Police overtime for special events at \$8,000
- Town Hall – open 2 days to the public, reduce full time support staff hours to part-time at \$181,000. Mr. Berthiaume was in favor of remaining open 3 days per week, or 2 ½ days. After discussion on paying for benefits plus unemployment costs, the Board agreed to open only 2 days. Plus reduce the hours of the Building Inspector at \$20,000.
- Position of Highway Light Equipment Operator at \$38,000.
- Highway expenses at \$29,0000
- Fire Department part-time assistant position at \$22,000. Building will close to the public.
- Fire Department training at \$30,000.
- Fluoride Coordinator position at \$4,000.
- Multiple board stipends at \$10,000.

The COA Senior Worker program at \$15,000 was removed from consideration. Mr. Woodbury mentioned this is funded from the Overlay Surplus account, therefore cannot become part of the override.

The Board did not want the U & F Highway Engineering Aide position to be considered for the override. Mr. Stevens and Mr. Berthiaume agreed. \$11,000 will be removed from the deficit. The new amount is \$584,000.

Mr. Pepe asked about the effect on the Library if a clerical position and a children's librarian associate position were cut. Ms. Baker-Wood said that would have a major impact.

There was some debate on whether items removed from the override list are ever added back into the budget. The total override number is \$584,000. Mr. Gaudette will have a final list for the Board to vote on next week.

Mr. Gaudette noted his appreciation for all staff and the Board throughout this difficult process. He is hopeful the Town will support the override.

The FY15 Capital Program Request sheet was reviewed. There is a \$242,000 balance available for capital items.

There is \$125,000 available for the Town Hall boiler conversion from oil to gas. The existing underground oil tank needs to be removed as well. \$1,000 was recommended to add to the Town Hall stair tread replacement account. The Board then discussed setting aside the

remaining \$116,000 by letting it roll over to free cash or putting in Stabilization in case the Department of Education and Secondary Education awards the District addition funds.

Meritorious Service Award Nominations due on April 7, 2014

Mr. Woodbury announced that Meritorious Service Award Nominations are due on April 7th.

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Administrative Assistant

Referenced Materials:

FY15 Preliminary Budget
Override Matrix of Reductions
Tax Implications Memo
Capital Request List