

**TOWN OF EATON, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03832**  
**EVANS MEMORIAL BUILDING**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET**  
**February 4, 2021**

The Public Hearing on the budget took place on Thursday, February 4, 2021 at the Eaton Town Hall and also via Zoom. The Public Hearing was called to order at 6 pm.

As Chair of the Board of Selectmen, Dick Fortin found that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order #2021-01, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

In accordance with the Emergency Order, Chairman Fortin confirmed public access to the meeting via Zoom for this electronic meeting. All members of the Board have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and participate in this meeting by clicking on the following website address <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9569071146>.

Notice was given to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting. Instructions have also been provided on the Town website at [eatonnh.org](http://eatonnh.org). If anyone has a problem accessing the scheduled Selectman meeting, please call 603-447-2840. In the event that the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled.

Dick Fortin started the meeting by taking roll call attendance and noted that all votes taken during this meeting will be done by roll call vote.

Present at Town Hall were Selectman Dick Fortin, Road Agent Richard Heath, Paul Hennigan and Jane Gray. Those attending via Zoom were Selectmen Ed Reilly and Joyce Blue, Thaire Bryant, Holly Fortin and Ele and John Border.

Copies of the budget, proposed Warrant, proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments, detailed payments and revenues were distributed.

Dick Fortin opened the Public Hearing and reviewed the proposed operating budget. Dick Fortin explained that the Executive line item has increased by \$10,000 to cover the cost of updating the Hazard Mitigation Plan and noted that \$7,000 in State grant funds are projected to offset 75% of the cost. Dick Fortin noted that a Revaluation is scheduled for this year and will be totally funded through the Capital Reserve account. Dick Fortin explained that funds have been budgeted in the Recreation line item to cover the cost of working on the drainage at the boat ramp.

Joyce Blue reviewed the revenues from last year and proposed for this year.

Ed Reilly reviewed the Warrant Articles. Ed Reilly noted that Article #13 raising additional funds for the Potter Road bridge is to cover the increased cost of building materials due to the pandemic. Ed Reilly explained that he spoke with Peter Klose regarding the digital traffic signs and that information will be available at Town Meeting on the cost of purchasing one or two signs.

Road Agent Heath questioned whether the funds for gravel can be increased rather than putting the money into the Capital Reserve. Dick Fortin explained that the funds were put into the Capital Reserve in anticipation of asking the Town to approve \$1.5 million in road projects next year. Ele Border questioned expenditures for equipment rental by the Highway Department. Dick Fortin indicated that RL Heath Inc. is actually Stewart Heath and not Stubby and noted that most of those payments are for plowing and rental of his large equipment. Dick Fortin explained the policy for obtaining three price quotes on equipment and materials. Paul Hennigan noted that other Towns follow the same procedures and stated that putting items out to bid will cost more for engineering plans and specifications.

There being no further questions, the Public Hearing was adjourned.

***Ed Reilly made a motion, seconded by Joyce Blue, to adjourn the meeting. Motion unanimously carried by roll call vote (Dick Fortin-Yes, Ed Reilly-Yes, Joyce Blue-Yes).*** The meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lianne M. Boelzner*

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