

TOWN OF EATON, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03832
EVANS MEMORIAL BUILDING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET
February 3, 2022

The Public Hearing on the budget took place on Thursday, February 3, 2022 at the Eaton Town Hall and also via Zoom. Present at the Town Hall were Selectmen Edward Reilly, Joyce Blue and Richard Fortin. The Public Hearing was called to order at 6 pm.

Copies of the budget, proposed Warrant, proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments, 2021 detailed payments and revenues were distributed.

Dick Fortin reviewed the operating budget expenditures from last year versus the proposed operating budget for 2022. Paul Hennigan stated that a good retirement program should be offered to keep qualified help at the Town. Dick Fortin noted that the Selectmen are moving forward with an IRA this year and will consider the NH State Retirement program moving forward. Ed Reilly stated that the known cost of the State program is 14% but that there are unknown costs that the Selectmen want to review prior to making a decision as to whether the State program should be offered to employees. Dick Fortin explained that the cemetery budget was overspent due to the removal of trees that were dangerous. Dick Fortin noted that the ambulance line item is reduced based on the number of calls each year. Dick Fortin explained that the highway budget has increased due to the proposal to hire another full-time employee and to cover increased costs of supplies and materials.

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

Ed Reilly reviewed the Warrant Articles. Ed Reilly noted that Articles #10 & #11 address Cemetery Trust Funds and that they correct the split of perpetual care and general maintenance monies. Jane Gray gave an overview of the funds and stated that the Trustees will be writing a policy for all the funds.

George Diller questioned the Articles for service agencies and stated that there should be information to justify the costs to the Town. A representative of Starting Point gave an overview of the program and services provided to the Town.

Ed Reilly stated that the funding for the Sheriff's Department covers 168 hours of Deputy patrols. Kevin Flynn questioned whether the patrols work to reduce speed. Ed Reilly noted that the Selectmen are reviewing data from the digital speed signs but that it will take additional time to decipher the statistics. Joyce Blue noted that the State will be replacing a culvert just south of the Store, which will slow traffic in the Village.

The Board reviewed Article #21 regarding adoption of elderly exemptions. Based on the questions that arose during discussion of this Article, the petitioner will be invited to address the questions at Town Meeting.

George Diller stated that the Town has infrastructure needs and that those projects should be funded rather than social programs. George Diller further stated that Articles #15 through #19 should be voted on by secret ballot. The Selectmen explained the method for voting on an Article by secret ballot at Town Meeting.

There being no further questions, the Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lianne M. Boelzner

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