



Office of Board of Selectmen

143 Main Street, P.O. Box 310, Belmont, New Hampshire 03220-0310
Telephone: (603) 267-8300 Fax: (603) 267-8327

Selectmen's Workshop Minutes

Wednesday, October 20, 2021, 9:00 a.m.

Belmont Mill 4th Floor Tioga Meeting Room

Chairman Ruth Mooney called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Also present were Selectman Claude Patten, Selectman Jon Pike, Assistant Town Administrator Alicia Jipson, Finance Director Katherine Davis, Brian Winslow of Granit VNA, Beth Howard of Community Action, Representative of CASA, Paul Stellar of Waypoint, Sarah Foster of New Beginnings, Rachel Zellem of American Red Cross, Ann Nichols of Lakes Region Mental Health, Tammy Carmichael of Partnership for Public Health, Lisa Tucker, and Stephanie Boiselle.

Budget Reviews

Health Agencies

South Road Cemetery- Ruth Mooney Treasurer for the SRC, spoke to the budget as presented. The Town meets its obligation to provide an active Cemetery, by supporting the request from the South Road Cemetery; the funds help to maintain the Cemetery grounds, the requested amount remains flat. The balance sheet has been provided. Selectman Patten asked if they really spend \$8,400 for mowing? Mooney replied that yes, they do, it is for mowing and weed whacking and the general maintenance of the cemetery. We have had to take down some big trees and maintain some roads. Selectman Patten motioned to accept the South Road Cemetery budget as presented; seconded by Selectman Pike, Selectman Mooney abstained from voting and the motion passed.

Granite VNA- (Community Health & Hospice)- Brian Winslow Director of Community Relations at Granite VNA was present via Zoom to talk to their budget request, stating that in April Central VNA merged with Community Health & Hospice and now are Granite VNA. Stating that there is a dire need in staffing in healthcare. If we did not merge, we would be seeing a retraction in services. In 2021 Granite VNA made 2,000 more visits than they historically do. The request for 2022 is the same as last year and remains flat in the amount of \$22,000. Selectman Pike asked how does a Belmont resident get care? Brian responded that while they are in the hospital, they can be referred to us, or they can call us, and we can help with getting the referral and the services that they need. Selectman Patten motioned to accept the Central VNA budget as presented; seconded by Selectman Pike and the motion passed unanimously.

Community Action- Beth Hayward Community Services Director discussed the budget stating that they are asking for \$15,000 as they have in the past. Belmont has funded it at \$13,000 in the past. Last year Belmont residents received a total of \$538,496.72 in services. Selectman Mooney asked how much was refunded due to covid? Beth responded that they received \$83,239.21 also stating that all federal funds go right to the applicants and what we receive from the towns goes to funding the staff and the buildings. Selectman Mooney expressed that she is willing to keep it funded at the \$13,000. Selectman Patten motioned to maintain the budget funding for Community Action at \$13,000; seconded by Selectman Pike and the motion passed unanimously.

CASA- The representative present discussed the services they provide, their request for funding for 2022 is \$500, same as it has been in the past. Selectman Pike motioned to accept the CASA budget as presented; seconded by Selectman Mooney and the motion passed unanimously.

Waypoint- Paul Stella discussed the services that Waypoint offers. Also noting that they were formerly Child Family Services. Selectman Pike motioned to accept the Waypoint budget as presented; seconded by Selectman Patten and the motion passed unanimously.

New Beginnings- Sarah Foster discussed the services that New Beginnings offers. They are requesting the same level funding as last year. Selectman Patten motioned to accept the New Beginnings budget as presented; seconded by Selectman Pike and the motion passed unanimously.

Red Cross- Rachel Zelle described the services that the American Red Cross provides. Selectman Pike motioned to accept the American Red Cross budget as presented; seconded by Selectman Patten and the motion passed unanimously.

Lakes Region Mental Health- Formerly Genesis, Ann Nichols described the services that they provide. Selectman Patten motioned to accept the Lakes Region Mental Health Center budget as presented; seconded by Selectman Pike and the motion passed unanimously.

Franklin VNA-There were no representatives in attendance. Selectman Mooney motioned to accept the Franklin VNA budget as presented; seconded by Selectman Patten and the motion passed unanimously.

Partnership for Public Health- Tammy Carmichael Executive Director expressed that they are requesting more in funds this year. The FEMA funds have stopped and the government at this moment is not giving out any funding. We are still providing vaccines to the public. We anticipate the vaccine will be approved for younger children soon, and the booster once they get approved. We also provided the vaccine to those that are home bound. We did a clinic for all 1st responders and will provide that clinic again for the booster when available. Tammy added that communities are accepting PPH Health Inspector on as a Deputy Health Inspector under your Towns current Health Inspector. Selectman Pike expressed that he was in favor of

the increased request from \$2,500 to \$5,000. Selectman Patten expressed that he was not in favor and wished to remain flat. Tammy expressed that funding from the state is in limbo and hinging on the federal money. Selectman Mooney offered up a compromise to meet in the middle at \$3,000. Selectman Patten motioned to provide funding to Partnership for Public Health at \$3,000; seconded by Selectman Pike and the motion passed unanimously.

Elections & Registrations

TC/TC Cynthia Deroy at a prior meeting had discussed that in 2022 we will have three elections, Town Elections in March, September State Primary, and the November General Election. The budget as prepared by the Supervisors of the checklist shows overall increases to the budget due to the increase in the number of elections, wage increases were applied in 2021 for the Town Moderator, Supervisors of the Check List and Ballot Clerks. Selectman Patten motioned to accept the Elections and Registrations budget as presented; seconded by Selectman Pike and the motion passed unanimously.

Insurance not Allocated

The Town will see a 9.8% reduction for the 2022 renewal rate of the Unemployment Compensation, an increase of 10.75% for the 2022 renewal rate of Workers Compensation, and the 2022 requested amount for Property Liability a 13.75% increase. The Town did receive a return of surplus from Primex in 2021 and it was applied and is reflected in the actual expenditures. Selectman Pike motioned to accept the Insurance Not Allocated budget as presented; seconded by Selectman Patten and the motion passed unanimously.

Other Culture

The Heritage Commission is remaining flat with their budget at \$4,750. Selectman Patten motioned to accept the Other Culture & Recreation budget as presented; seconded by Selectman Pike and the motion passed unanimously.

Debt Services

Selectman Pike motioned to accept the Debt Services budget as presented; seconded by Selectman Patten and the motion passed unanimously.

Parks & Recreation inc. Beach

Lisa Tucker & Stephanie Boiselle were present to ask what the intention of the Board is and funding the Parks and Rec program in 2022, as there is a need in the community for this program for families. Selectman Mooney responded that the Board sees the need and is more than willing to entertain any ideas that there are. Currently we do not have a Recreation Director to run any programs. There is no space at the Mill to have the programs and the school last year said no to us using the school and we have not heard from them on their stance on the matter for 2022. The intention of the Board is to get the Mill up and running for the departments at Town hall to move over to the Mill and that be the new Town Hall Offices.

Selectman Mooney expressed that she would ultimately like to see the Old Town Hall converted to a Recreation Department for kids to go to. Without any one to run a program or any place to hold the program it is not financially wise to burden the taxpayers when there is no solid plan in place. The Board is willing to listen and work with anyone who has options on what to do. We understand the need to bring back the Rec program, but we almost need to start all over again from scratch. The Board will hold off on voting on the Parks and Recreation Budget at this time and allow the members of the community to come back to the Town Administrator with suggestions.

The Board discussed the Town Beach portion of the budget. Selectman Patten motioned to accept the Town Beach portion of the budget as presented; seconded by Selectman Pike and the motion passed unanimously.

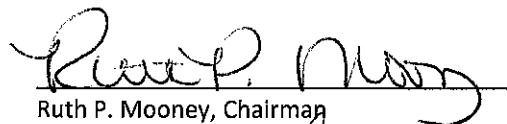
Land Use

The Board had in front of them again the Land Use budget for consideration. The Board is a little concerned regarding the request for additional staffing in the office and where they are going to put them in the already crammed office. We are in the process of hiring a new Town Planner and feel that that person should have some say and input into what the department will need and what kind of personnel they need. The Board wishes to not make a decision on this budget at this time and asks that interim Town Planner and Planning Board Chair meet at a later date to discuss this budget further.

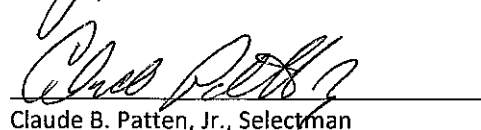
General Government. Buildings

Discussion was had on this budget stating that this budget covers the internet at the Sargent Park Bath House used for the cameras, Fire Department, Town Hall, Public Works, and the new Police Station. There was a large jump in services from Atlantic Broadband at the new PD. All the IT service contracts are covered in this budget. Selectman Pike motioned to accept the General Government Buildings budget as presented; seconded by Selectman Patten and the motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:08 am.


Ruth P. Mooney, Chairman


Jon Pike, Vice-Chairman


Claude B. Patten, Jr., Selectman