

Ferrisburgh Selectboard Budget Meeting
December 8, 2015
6:00 pm

Members present: Jim Benoit, Steve Gutowski, Loretta Lawrence, and Jim Warden

Absent: Michael (Red) Muir

Visitors: John Bull, Bill Sullivan, Monica Tupper, and Peter and Liz Markowski

The Chair, Steve Gutowski, called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Loretta Lawrence made the motion to amend the agenda as follows: change number 3B) personnel reviews and wages discussion to number 6, with possible executive session and add number 7 as adjournment. Motion was seconded by Jim Benoit. Motion passes 4 - 0.

Law enforcement: Liz Markowski tells the board that she was surprised to learn that the Sheriff was currently patrolling the town only 3 hours per week. She doesn't have a preference as to whether the town contracts with the Sheriff or the Vergennes Police Department, she just wants to make sure that someone is patrolling the town. Jim Warden remarks that we contract more hours with the sheriff in the summer. Steve Gutowski mentions that going forward we need to determine what we want. It looks like the Sheriff can provide what we need. The Sheriff's department now has a drug recognition expert available.

John Bull mentions that we need to determine how many hours of coverage we need, what is the cost, what do we want provided by the police/sheriff and to preserve visibility. Then you get a quote and go with the lowest price.

Vergennes Police have quoted 10 hours a week at \$48.10 per hour which includes mileage, and the Sheriff has quoted \$27.00 per hour, plus mileage. Steve Gutowski remarks that this will be a tough decision but going forward we need have open communication, public input and we need to be able to direct what we want, not just leave it up to the law enforcement personnel.

Jim Warden moves to continue the discussion at the next selectboard meeting as an agenda item under old business. Motion was seconded by Loretta Lawrence. Motion passes 4-0.

Highway department – equipment funding: John Bull, Road Foreman was present to discuss using \$4500 to purchase a snow plow and \$600 for a leaf blower, to be paid for out of the Equipment Fund. Jim Benoit moves to allow the purchase of the snow plow for \$4500 and the leaf blower for \$600, from the Highway Equipment fund. Motion was seconded by Jim Warden. Motion passes 4-0.

The board asks John if we need to have funds for the demolition of the old highway shed in the new budget. John feels that we should have enough money left from the building fund to cover those costs.

Carl Cole then mentions to the board that in the current budget the selectboard removed 25% of the assistant clerk/assistant treasurer's salary to have it come out of the Lister's budget, but never added it into the lister's budget. He feels that since both items are part of the general administration budget it makes more sense to have it come out of one account. The board agrees, so the 2015/2016 budget will include funding for the lister's clerk in one line item called the assistant town clerk/assistant treasurer/lister's clerk wages. The lister's clerk will still keep track of her time and tasks while working for the lister's.

Budget: There was no discussion of the budget. That will continue at the next budget meeting.

ANBARIC: Steve Gutowski mentions that he, Craig Heindel, and Vaughn Collins met with a couple of people from ANBARIC for preliminary discussions of the ANBARIC transmission line proposal. This was a very preliminary discussion and much work needs to be done. There are questions as to whether 4ø is deep enough to lay the line. Culverts needs to be looked at. Will there be issues in the future if we need additional culverts? ANBARIC is working on getting a better estimate as to the values for the infrastructure. Carl Cole notes that the value that is used for taxation will be depreciated. They are looking at laying the cabling under the center of the left lane. There will be splice boxes every 2500 feet. The next meeting will be held in January. Steve will continue to update the board as this project progresses.

Monica Tupper asks the board to flat line wages in the new budget and to use common sense in crafting the budget.

Personnel Reviews and Wages Discussion: Loretta Lawrence moves that we need to go into executive session to discuss the personnel reviews since it is privileged information. Motion is seconded by Jim Benoit. Motion passes 4.0.

Loretta Lawrence then moves that the board move into executive session to discuss personnel reviews and wages, inviting John Bull. Motion seconded by Jim Benoit. Motion passes 4-0. The board moves into executive session at 7:13 p.m.

-End of minutes from before executive session.-

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Cousino

-Minutes from after the executive session follow.-

Jim Warden made the motion to come out of executive session at 7:40 pm. Jim Benoit seconded. Motion passes 4 - 0.

Action taken:

Loretta made the motion to set the hourly rates, of the town highway employees, as follows:

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Neil Allen | - \$18.00 per hour |
| Paul Bodington | - \$19.50 per hour |
| Reilly Laberge | - \$16.00 per hour |
| Aaron Schondube | - \$19.50 per hour |
| John Bull | - \$25.40 per hour |

Motion seconded by Jim Benoit. Motion passes 4 - 0.

Jim Benoit made the motion to have Paul Bodington, Aaron Schondube, and John Bull's new rates retroactive to July 1, 2015. The reviews did not happen by July 1, 2015 and the raises were held in the wage contingency fund, which is already in the budget. Motion seconded by Jim Warden. Motion passes 4 ó 0. Jim Warden made the motion to have Reilly Laberge's new rate retroactive to December 7, 2015. Motion seconded by Jim Benoit. Motion passes 4 ó 0.

Jim Benoit made the motion to adjourn at 7:55 pm. Motion seconded by Loretta Lawrence. Motion passes 4 ó 0.

Respectively submitted,

Loretta Lawrence, Board Clerk