

DRAFT MINUTES  
Selectboard Budget Work Session  
Tuesday, October 22, 2019, 5:30 p.m.

Members present: Jim Benoit, Clark Hinsdale, Jessica James, and Michael “Red” Muir. Rick Ebel absent.

Town Employees present: Deb Healey, and John Bull

Visitors: Mike Quinn

5:30 pm – Jessica James opened the meeting. The Selectboard reviewed the budget worksheet provided by Deb Healey.

Mike Quinn discussed health insurance options for the 4 town employees that we currently provide Blue Rewards Gold CDHP insurance packages for. Mike Quinn stated the options with handouts he provided, with the options of 2020 Blue Rewards CDHP & HRA and 2020 MVP VT Gold 3 HDHP & HRA. Mike Quinn stated the differences with these plans. Discussion ensued around including the employees in these health insurance option discussions along with their total compensation package and change with one employee enrolling in Medicare Part B on January 1 and incurring that annual cost. Clark Hinsdale stated that we value our employees and need to keep that in consideration for the cost difference between both plans and the time to switch plans might not make sense at this point. Discussion on Health Reimbursement Fund Budget Line item. Deb Healey stated that this line item often has rollover costs as it runs on a calendar year cycle not a fiscal year cycle. The Selectboard, Deb Healey and John Bull thanked Mike Quinn for his time and presentation and Mike Quinn will follow up with Deb Healey on life insurance policy quotes.

Deb Healey discussed the schedule for the next budget meetings and will be asking if the Listers would be able to join us on November 19, 2019 at 6:00 pm and our regular meeting would start at 6:30 pm. Deb Healey stated Brian Goodyear from Vergennes Area Rescue Squad responded to Deb’s schedule request that there are no changes from last year and asked if the selectboard would still like to meet. Jessica James stated that it is not needed for VARS to come to a budget meeting if there are no changes. Discussion ensued on the topic of scheduling Vergennes Fire Department. Deb Healey will invite Chief Jim Breur and work on setting that date.

Discussion on employee overtime management. Discussion on employee overall compensation will be reviewed during annual review times. Discussion ensued on possible budget increases from possible school closure including the information provided from ANWSD regarding the mold tests and water drainage. Jessica James stated that the Selectboard received an email from David Spencer regarding the option of the town owning the Ferrisburgh Central campus and leasing it to the school district. Discussion ensued on needing more information on that process, possible mailer and on the creative thinking that many of our residents and neighbors have shared with the selectboard.

The next budget work session is scheduled for November 19, 2019, at 6:00 pm.

Motion to adjourn by Jim Benoit and seconded by Red Muir. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica James