

**Dover Select Board
Special Meeting Minutes
Dover Town Office
Thursday, January 4, 2024**

These minutes are not official until approved by the Dover Select Board

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86800444071?pwd=RIU2WDQ0cDM3d3AwSGREeFNON2tnQT09>

Meeting ID: 868 0044 4071

Dial in: 929 205 6099

Password: 052648

Select Board present: Victoria Capitani, Sarah Shippee, Joe Mahon, Dan Baliotti

Select Board present via zoom: Scott Salway

Also present in person: Jeannette Eckert, Marco Tallini, Mike Arbogast, Travis Briggs, Eric Durocher, Tabi Freedman

Public present via zoom: none

Special Meeting Called to Order at 4pm by Chair Capitani

I. Capital Plan Review

- Capital Equipment plan was updated by Travis
 - Refurbishing of the 2015 truck
 - Purchase of CV International
 - Funding is the same, just divvied up to incorporate both vehicles
- Capital Paving
 - Added 2 years going out to 26/27
 - Added South Access Rd since Snow Lake Dam project is not likely to break ground until 2027
 - Defined problem roads
 - Bluebrook Rd to Ahmeek Rd – portions over the next three years
 - Joan's Ridge and Stugger Rd added to 25/26 year – easy short projects – have had a lot of calls from residents about paving Joan's Ridge
 - Alpine Loop added in
 - Inflation adjustment for price per ton to \$1.10
 - Maintain at \$600,000
- Capital Building
 - Changes made to Firehouse – moving out the furnace and flooring to 25/26 concentrating mainly on the mold issues in 24/25 at \$15,000
 - Change siding to painting also in 25/26– Rich will get quotes – budget at \$50,000, dropped down from \$80,000
 - Taxes raised for 24/25 at \$120,000 to cover all building needs up from \$80,000

II. General Budget Review

- Wages
 - Looked at both 4% and 5% increase for all including Police Dept.
 - Highway is 5% plus \$1.00
 - Total operational would result in \$4,719,484.83
 - A 6% increase overall
 - A \$14,000 difference overall – which is reasonable
 - For morale purposes feel it shows recognition to all and that all are worthy
 - Police received a hefty increase last year
 - Reasonable option given the inflation we have had over the past few years
 - Insurance versus wages – 14% increase in health coverage costs
 - Insurance represents what percentage relative to wages?
 - Looking at approximately 30 to 40%
 - Can offer a more accurate number with a closer look at it

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- 4% or 5% is not going to break the bank but every dollar does count
- Believe our employees are well compensated in wages and benefits
- Health insurance is always going up – budget will be high this year
- Keep pushing things off on equipment and buildings - costs keep going up
 - Need to bring these things up before finalizing
 - Still 6 months to the end of the fiscal year
- Grant opportunities for Fire Equipment? Don't believe there are
 - Will need a new ladder truck in the future
- Considering larger amount for unique reasons – rate of inflation and cost of living
- Taxpayers can make changes at Town Meeting – more often than not, they ask for increases to the budget
- Select Board needs to have its act together when presenting the budget to voters and defend what is being proposed
- 5% increase - in favor of it - \$14,000 is money well spent
- Fire Dept changes to payroll have been incorporated just this afternoon
 - 50-60% spent at present
 - Doubled where we are now and added 10% to about \$100,000
 - Landed at a total of \$111,362.28 – down significantly from original proposed
 - Actual for 22/23 was \$96,346.65
 - Transitional year for the Fire Dept. added line items broken out in more categories
- Dept heads have the authority to allocate the wage increases as they see fit
- False fire/burglar alarms – will be putting into place for next July – revenue should be seen
- Library budget has been submitted – may be additional costs involved – up 2% over last year – have been submitting financial reports regularly
- Suggest that there be no more changes to the budget – although the last-minute changes reflected in a positive way to the bottom line

III. Other Business: Will schedule final approval of the budget numbers for January 16th meeting

IV. Adjournment at 4:53pm by Chair Capitani

Respectfully submitted by Jeannette Eckert

Public notices of these minutes have been posted at the following locations: Dover Town Clerk's Bulletin Board, Dover Town Meeting Bulletin Board, Dover School, Dover Free Library, East Dover Post Office, Town of Dover Website: www.doververmont.com