

**Preston Board of Selectmen  
Budget Workshop  
Thursday, February 15, 2018  
Preston Town Hall  
5:30 pm**

**BOS Present:** Robert Congdon, Michael Sinko, Lynwood Crary

**BOS Excused:** None

**Budgets submitted for this workshop;**

1. Parks & Recreation's
2. Fire Emergency
3. Library
4. Senior Affairs

1st Selectman Congdon stated that the Parks & Recreation Director and Assistant are not on any payroll schedule, and suggested the assistant be put on the secretarial pay scale. The Director has been employed for over 5 years and makes less than a third step secretarial person.

1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon proposed that the Director be paid top step secretarial rate, which amounts to an additional \$1,000 per year.

L. Crary suggested using the money put aside for the geese, since it has not been used.

L. Crary noted there has been a large increase in Senior Activities.

1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon stated that it is all driven by Seniors On The Go.

M. Sinko stated that he is all about supporting that group.

1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon stated that there is an increase in the website charges, because a new website was developed. Residents can now sign up for Parks & Recreation's programs on line.

1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon noted that some of the hurdles to this year's budget are;

- The Town's Grand List went down by 4%
- Any time a town has revaluations it is a tough year because when the Grand List goes down and mil rates go up it is difficult to explain the whole process. When the Grand List goes up it is easier to explain because mil rates go down and people don't realize they are paying the same amount of taxes.
- Covanta was on a 25 year PILOT payment that showed up under municipal revenue. Last year Covanta paid property tax and the Board of Finance showed the tax payment under the local revenues, not under property taxes.

It is very difficult to continue that process and show it there because you present the revenue, you don't know what the mil rate is until you do the rest of the calculations.

The Covanta plant was assessed at 51 million dollars last year. After Revaluation it has been assessed at 42 million dollars.

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L. Crary asked if the health insurance premiums would be going up a lot this year.

1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Congdon answered a quote on health insurance has not been received yet. Worker's Compensation is going up 3% and liability in the auto policy is going down 10%.

The BOS decided to schedule budget workshops on March 1st with;

Parks & Recreation  
Fire Department  
Preston Redevelopment Agency

L. Crary requested the Town get another compactor for recyclables at the Town dump.

The workshop was adjourned at 6:34 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Charpentier