

**Board of Selectmen
Special Meeting
Budget Workshop
Wednesday, March 1, 2023
Preston Town Hall**

Call to Order

1st Selectwoman Sandra Allyn-Gauthier called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm

Roll Call

Sandra Allyn-Gauthier

Jerry Grabarek

Ken Zachem

Also Present

Cindy Varricchio, Financial Director

Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2023 – Special Meeting Minutes

Tabled

Correspondence

None

Reports

None

Appointments and/or Resignations

None

New Business

2023-2024 Budget for General Government

Library

Follow-up and Discussion

1st Selectwoman Allyn-Gauthier presented the library's draft budget request and narrative and noted that she and C. Varricchio met with Library Director Diane Deedy last week.

Library Narrative;

Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Major Level Service Accomplishments

Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Major Service Level Goals

Additional Goals

- Line items 5430 Repairs and Maintenance and 5432 Equipment/Building Maintenance are going to be consolidated and become 1 line item.

- The library gives \$2,000 as revenue to offsets their expenses

Discussion on changing this policy;

move it as a revenue and leave expenditures as they are, or remove the \$2,000 from budget and forget the revenue

- Pay Review Request

1st Selectwoman asked Library Director to look into grants to possibly pay for some of that and that the BoS revisit this request after the Salary Compensation Classification Study.

Town Employee Salaries and Draft Salary summary presented

1st Selectwoman noted the salary study is not ready so suggested a 3% increase for everyone

- Cross training to help out various departments instead of new hires
- Contracting with SCOG instead of a ZEO hire
- 80 additional hours budgeted for Parks & Recreation due to mild winters resulting in the Park being used longer in the year.
- Accessor is under contracted services because the Town is now contracting with Ledyard.
- Planner Assistant went from 28 to 21 hours.
- Building Department went from 28 to 21 hours
- Another full time firefighter will be hired to ensure coverage
- Discussion and agreement on 4% wage increase
- Discussion on including ~\$25,000 for Grant Writer

Special Meeting March 8th at 5:00 pm to go over everything again and make adjustments. The Budget's increase will be at ~6% increase

Old Business

None

Tax Refund

None

Public Comment and Questions

No public present

Adjournment

A motion was made by K. Zachem and seconded by K. Zachem to adjourn the meeting at 5:49 pm.

All in favor. Motion carries

Respectfully submitted,

RT Charge-fee

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2023 MAR -7 A 9:16

Joie Keith
PRESTON TOWN CLERK