



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF NEW MARLBOROUGH
OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD
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Tara B. White, Chair
Bill West
Beth Dean
Select Board

**Meeting Minutes
Joint Meeting of the Select Board and Finance Committee
Hybrid Meeting
In Person and Via Zoom
Thursday, February 22, 2024
7:00 p.m.**

Select Board Members Present: Tara B. White, Chair
Bill West
Select Board Member Absent: Beth Dean

Finance Committee Members Present: Beth Reynolds, Chair
Doug Newman
Barbara Marchione
Dawn Trachtenberg
John Pshenishny, Zoom
Jane Fuccillo, Zoom

Others Present: Mari Enoch, Town Administrator
Chuck Loring, Highway Superintendent/Fire Chief
Rob Scott, Fire Department
Graham Frank, Chief of Police
Lee Rafkin
Marc Trachtenberg
Marsha Pshenishny, Zoom
Jennifer Greenberg, Administrative Secretary, Zoom

Tara B. White called the meeting to order for the Select Board at 7p.m.
Beth Reynolds called the meeting to order for the Finance Committee at 7p.m.

Finance Committee Recommendation to fill Vacancy

Prospective Finance Committee member Lee Rafkin attended and introduced himself. The Finance Committee agreed to recommend that the Select Board appoint him to fill the vacancy resulting from the January 29 resignation of Rita Schumacher.

Select Board Appointment to Vacancy on the Finance Committee

The Select Board agreed to appoint Lee Rafkin to the vacant seat on the Finance Committee until the next town election. He can decide to run and be added to the election ballot to fulfill Rita Schumacher's full three year term.

A motion was made by Doug, seconded, and so voted unanimously by roll call vote to appoint Lee Rafkin to the Finance Committee until the next Town Election.

FY 25 Budget Discussion

Fire Chief Chuck Loring reviewed the FY24 budget requests for Fire & Rescue:

- **Fire Protection**

The budget request is \$86,400; an increase of \$6,900. Chuck advised the additional expenditures are for maintenance on the trucks. Some of the trucks are aging and cost more for repairs.

- **Firefighters Stipends**

Total stipends requested are \$57,000, up from \$36,500 this year. The department wants to move to an hourly pay schedule to compensate the members for each call. They estimated the number of calls, multiplied that by 6 fire fighters with an average of two hours per call. Chuck said a number of the calls they receive are alarm activations and non-emergencies.

- **Fire Fighter EMT Paid Shifts**

The current budget for paid shifts is for seven days a week coverage by part time non benefitted employees. Chuck said that's not working out as we cannot find enough qualified EMT's to cover seven days a week. He is proposing one full time 40 hour position to cover the day shift Monday to Friday. Weekends will be covered by non-shift personnel as they are now anyway. The budget amount for salary will go down but the benefit cost (Medical Insurance/Retirement, etc.) will result in an overall increased cost to the Town. There will be no budget to backfill vacation, holidays, sick time etc.—those calls will be covered by non-shift personnel.

- **NM Rescue Expenses**

Expenses are level funded at \$27,950. Chief Medical Officer Maureen will provide more information when she's available.

Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring reviewed the FY24 budget requests for Highway:

- **Roads and Bridges**

Expenses are level funded at \$219,850.00.

- **Highway Expenses**

Expenses are level funded. These funds are used to operate the highway garage, pay for licenses and physicals for the crew, and provide uniforms/gear. John Pshenishny inquired about the cost to maintain the septic tank and floor drains. Tara and Chuck explained that the trap filters water from washing the trucks, which contain oil and contaminants.

- **Highway Machinery Expenses**

Expenses are level funded, covering labor, inspections, vehicle and equipment upkeep, as well as unexpected expenses that often come up.

- Fuel & Propane

Expenses are level funded at \$88,500.00 for diesel, propane and fuel-at-the-pump.

- Winter Roads

Expenses are level funded at \$266,334.00, covering the costs of overtime wages, repairs, DTN app, salt, sand, deicer and snow plow contractors.

Chief of Police Graham Frank reviewed the FY24 budget requests for the Police Dept.:

- Police Dept. Expenses

Costs have increased by \$6,482.81 for the new Megafi devices, cell phones for fulltime officers, SIM cards and unexpected cruiser maintenance.

- Police Reform Bridge Academy

All officers have completed training, no expenses requested.

Discuss FY25 Budget

There were no additional budget requests discussed.

Review and approve Finance Committee Budget requests

To be discussed at a future meeting.

Review and Approve joint minutes for Select Board and Finance Committee

No minutes were reviewed at this time.

A motion was made by, seconded and so voted unanimously by roll call vote to adjourn the Select Board meeting at 8:57p.m.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted unanimously by roll call vote to adjourn the Finance Committee meeting at 8:57p.m.

Submitted by: Jennifer Greenberg, Administrative Secretary

Date approved by the Select Board: 4/4/24

Date approved by the Finance Committee: 4/4/24