

Town of Fairfield

Special Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Wednesday December 29, 2021, 10:00 AM

In Attendance:

Selectboard: Gavin Ryan, Vice Chair; Ronald Bocash, Brian Dubie, and David Persons (Tom Howrigan absent)

Town Administrator: Cathy Ainsworth Recording Secretary: Cathy Ainsworth

Former Town Administrator: Jonathan DeLaBruere

1. The Selectboard members discussed the draft 2022 budget percent increase from the year before, and reviewed the changes made from the previous meeting.
2. The Selectboard members discussed 2022 building weatherization needs and renovation work. They decided to increase the Common School's Repairs/Maintenance line to \$8000 for 2022. They also zeroed out the Equipment's Debt Retirement-Interest line because interest is calculated in Equipment's Debt Retirement line. They discussed road repair needs and the high cost of gravel, then increased the Construction Roads' Gravel line to \$30,000.
3. The Selectboard talked about the unspent balance of the 2021 budget and best use of these funds. They discussed municipal truck purchasing needs and the strategy in past years to transfer the 2021 balance to an Equipment Reserve fund.

Brian Dubie made a motion, seconded by Gavin Ryan, to move any 2021 unspent funds to the Equipment Reserve Fund. The motion passed 4-0.

4. Cathy presented a document of employee salary budgets and actuals over the past three years and her observations.

David Persons made a motion, seconded by Gavin Ryan, to enter into executive session to discuss personnel, with the Town Administrators as needed. The motion passed 4-0.

David Persons made a motion, seconded by Ronald Bocash, to exit executive session. The motion passed 4-0.

David Persons made a motion, seconded by Ronald Bocash, to increase municipal employee salaries at a Cost of Living Adjustment rate of 5.9%, with the exception of the new Town Administrator, and a salary increase, for merit, to James Monette at an additional 5.9%. The motion passed 4-0.

5. The Selectboard members requested that Cathy to update the 2022 budget, with changes made in the meeting, and calculate it against the Town Grand List to determine total % increases in preparation for approval at the next Selectboard meeting.
6. The Selectboard requested that Cathy continue to request estimates from alternate insurance companies for municipal assets; and to provide a document that outlines Fairfield's full-time employee benefits package as compared to other area municipalities, for continued discussion of employee compensation.

Brian Dubie made a motion, seconded by Gavin Ryan, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 4-0.

These minutes exist in draft form until approved by the Select Board.