

TOWN OF TEMPLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

SELECT BOARD

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

Thursday, November 19, 2020

Via Zoom Call

6:30 PM

Select Board members on the call: George Willard, Bill Ezell, and Ken Caisse

Other Attendees: John Kieley, Gail Cromwell, Elizabeth Maxcy-Humphrey, Connie Kieley, Gary Scholl & Carole Singelais.

Meeting called to order by Caisse at 6:30 PM.

Chairman Ken Caisse Remarks:

- ***Caisse reminded participants that the meeting was being held electronically pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, Section 8, Emergency Order #12, Section 3.***
- Caisse stated this special meeting was called to review the preliminary DRA tax rate numbers. The BAC was invited to provide their thoughts and recommendations. Gary said they have identified a \$130,000-\$135,000 surplus on the revenue expenditure side which will be helpful as far as the fund balance is concerned. The target of the BAC & CIP is to provide a level playing field for the Temple taxpayers. The final proposal they are recommending to the select board is that \$147,000 be used from the surplus and existing fund balance. This will bring the tax rate down to 24.16 and flatten the town portion at 5.25. Gary also mentioned they recommended including a detailed letter to the tax payers.
- John Kieley provided more details saying the process starts with the State data which came in today. They then went through the detailed P&L statement line by line. The BAC members spent hours tracking down a number of different departments with questions. A boiled down 2 page report was provided to the SB. Bottom line on about 20 revenue items is some were short, some were up. A lot of items offset others with the net affect being \$11K. Kieley mentioned the town's history is to be conservative. The bottom line on expenses is that the projected surplus is 100K plus 30K excess revenue which totals \$130,000. Kieley mentioned that looking at the expense budget less the revenue budget, we would need to raise \$1,004,000 in taxes in 2020. In 2019, that number was \$849,000. John indicated that the increase on the tax rate for 2020 is significant and there are a couple of different scenarios to consider. If they do nothing, the tax rate will go from \$22.58 in 2019 to 25.06 which is an 11% increase. Another scenario that the BAC is recommending, is that due to this 11% impact, they feel they can allocate \$147,000, which will lower the rate increase from 11% to 7% and will result in a combined tax rate of 24.16.

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- Gary asked if the select board or anyone else had any questions with this recommendation. Gail said the actual change in the real fund balance is only a decrease of 17K which puts them in the 10% range which is good. Ezell agreed and said he is fine with the 10%. He mentioned that the increase in Conval School is what kills them each year. Caisse agreed noting we cannot do anything about that. He mentioned he is also ok with the 10%. Willard was also in agreement with keeping the fund balance at 10% and said that the BAC and CIP did an incredible job getting all the facts together in such a short period of time. Willard motioned to reduce the tax rate by using \$147,000 out of the fund balance. Caisse seconded the motion, roll call vote was unanimous in agreement. Caisse also thanked the committees and mentioned this needed to be done quickly in order to get the bills out with a due date in 2020. The select board assistant will be going in on Friday to finalize the process in the DRA portal and generate the tax warrant for approval. Gail also encouraged that a letter with all the data, be included with the bills. Caisse agreed. Kieley will work on the letter and get it to the Select board in the morning.
- **Meeting Adjourned:** 6:57 PM. Motioned by Ezell, second by Willard, roll call vote Ezell yes, Willard yes, Caisse yes.

Next Select Board Meeting: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 6:30 PM. Remote numbers will be provided in the event we are still handling meetings remotely. Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Carole Singelais