

TOWN OF TEMPLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
SELECT BOARD  
MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

Thursday, February 6, 2020  
Town Hall  
7:00 PM

**Select Board members present: George Willard, Bill Ezell, and Ken Caisse**

Meeting called to order by Ezell at 7:03 PM

Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance

Ezell went through significant changes to the **2020 Budget** line items.

- Select Board expenses down 21.5%
- Town Clerk up slightly
- Voter Registration up due to additional elections this year
- Vital Statistics up \$40
- Financial Administration up due to office items needed
- Data Processing down due to new systems installed last year that offered significant cost savings
- BAC budget is down
- Tax Collector up 13% due to anticipated abatements and salary increase for Tax Collector and Deputy Tax Collector due to additional hours needed.
- Assessing and Auditing down
- Legal up due to pending legal cases
- Government Building up due to necessary maintenance and repairs

### **Ambulance**

A new contract was negotiated last year when Greenfield joined the Wilton-Lyndeborough-Temple Ambulance Co-Op last year. Based on the contract, Temple's budget allocation for 2020 should be based on Call Volume, or \$40,200 (between 11-12%). Wilton is requesting that Temple pay at the 2019 allocation, or approximately \$57,000 (16.33%). Wilton did not notify the Temple Select Board regarding the change of contract. The budget as presented includes the contract amount of \$40,200. The town of Temple residents will vote at town meeting on whether to keep the budget at the amount, or increase the budget by amending it. If the town votes to keep the budget at \$40,200, we *may* lose the contract with Wilton.

Wilton is interpreting a clause in the contract that states (*contract attached*):

*"Each of the community members may call a meeting outlined in Section 4 of the Agreement in order to address increases in call volume, regardless of the cause of the increase, and the Department shall have the right to reconfigure the Cost of Service Computation's Proportionate Share. Such right shall be limited to once per year and require two complete quarters of service call volume data prior to such change."*

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Ezell reports that the Temple Select Board will attempt to negotiate with the Wilton Select Board and other Ambulance Co-Op towns' representatives to come up with a solution.

If a deal is not struck, per the contract, Temple will pay for service received through town meeting plus 2 months of service. During that time they will look at Peterborough or Souhegan.

Caisse noted that Souhegan does not have a paramedic on staff at Souhegan, so Temple would not receive the same level of service.

Ezell continued review of the other **2020 Budget** line items:

The Fire Department is presenting a warrant article, see below.

J. Kieley, Temple's Emergency Manager noted that there is a Federal Grant available to the Fire Department. He shared the contact information with Chief Clark to research and follow-up.

- Building Inspections is showing a slight increase due to several solar installations and new builds in town.
- Highway department is down, however that is mainly due to Asphalt and Paving being moved to a Warrant Article as recommended by the CIP and Highway Road Agent. There are several major road paving projects coming up over the next several years. Putting money into a Highway Capital reserve fund now will help reduce the tax impact in the coming years.
- Conservation Commission is up due to a newsletter.
- Debt Service is at \$0.

While it appears that the Operating Budget is down by 12.2%, once the Warrant articles are factored in it shows a 1.1% increase.

Highway Warrant Article is \$140,000 to allow for smoothing of costs for paving. Cromwell shared that the Highway Department and CIP committee worked with guidance from SWRPC to come up with a 7 year paving plan. Projected amounts (subject to change as needed):

2020	\$45,000
2021	\$248,000
2022	\$188,000
2023	\$150,000
2024	\$182,000
2025	\$240,000
2026	\$286,000

Other Warrant Articles include

- Highway Department Mower (\$32,000)
- Fire Department Thermal Imager (\$6,880)

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- The second year payment on the Backhoe lease (\$38,385), one more year after this before the town can purchase the backhoe for \$1.

Ezell thanked the BAC for their work on the budget, in particular limiting expenditures to hold the budget as close as possible to last year.

### **Police**

Chief McTague described the tremendous difficulty with hiring police officers in the state. The police academy enrollment is full, three sessions are offered per year. Salary is an issue, although McTague noted that Temple-Greenville's Police Board did vote to increase the salaries for officers. McTague noted that in October an officer left for another department where he received a \$4/hour raise plus a \$10,000 signing bonus. Many officers are leaving for surrounding towns like Peterborough, Wilton, and New Ipswich.

Another issue is the that they can no longer find retired officers to hire due to a change in the law regarding how many hours per week a retired officer can work (26 hour/week).

C. Kieley asked about coverage in Temple. McTague noted that State Police are also understaffed, so it takes longer for State Troopers to arrive in Temple when needed if they are driving a far distance.

In addition, while they may get candidates who apply, most are not qualified for the job. McTague loos for quality candidates who he hopes will stay on for a long period of time.

C. Kieley asked for Chief McTague's thoughts on the petition warrant article to purchase speed/radar signs for West Rd. McTague feels that "every little bit helps" and does support it.

M. Scholl asked how officers are recruited. McTague responded that they he does not advertise on job sites, but rather reaches out to the military, colleges with Criminal Justice programs, and through word of mouth. He cited a lack of young people in our area interested in going into this profession and remaining in the area.

Cromwell asked if the Police Chief Association was working with state legislatures to the get law changed in favor or hiring retirees for more hours. McTague responded "Yes". Many NH retirees are going to MA and finding work, where they can work more hours.

Appreciation expressed for McTague and his officers. Ezell is the Police Board rep for Temple and noted that the police are very busy handling some really tough calls.

Ezell noted that the Highway department is also having difficulty hiring, in part due to a new state law requiring CDL licenses, which are costly for young potential applicants. The Select Board increased salaries for the highway department this year.

Petition Warrant Articles include:

- Speed/Radar signs for West Rd (\$6900)
- Two charitable requests: End 68 Hours of Hunger (\$75) and Cornucopia Project (\$500)

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- An appropriation to survey and soil test town properties to see what/if anything can be done with them in the future \$3000.

R. Poulis expressed support for speed signs on West Rd.

Cromwell asked McTague for numbers on speeding tickets in Temple. McTague did not have them on hand.

Caisse asked Ezell and Willard about amending the ambulance up or down at town meeting. Ezell stated preference to amended up if necessary, in hopes of negotiating an agreement with the other Ambulance Co-Op towns. Willard agreed.

Motion by Ezell to present the budget to the town at town meeting with the Ambulance Budget set at \$40,200, Second by Willard, All in favor.

Note of Wilton Select Board meeting Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Ezell will contact Wilton Select Board to get on their agenda.

Motion to adjourn at 7:52 PM. All in favor.