

SPECIAL MEETING NORTH SMITHFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

JUNE 8, 2015

KENDALL-DEAN SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

7:00 P.M.

The meeting began at 7:00 P.M. with the prayer and the pledge to the flag. Council members present were Mrs. Nadeau, Mr. Zwolenski and Mr. Boucher. (Ms. Alves arrived at 7:06 P.M. during executive session)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mrs. Nadeau, and voted 3 to 0 on a roll call vote to enter into executive session at 7:03 P.M. pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(A)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation to discuss the Interjurisdictional Water and Wastewater Agreements with the City of Woonsocket.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote to come out of executive session at 8:05 P.M. and to seal the minutes. No motions were made and no votes were taken.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote to enter into executive session at 8:06 P.M. pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(A)(4) Any investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct, either civil or criminal.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mrs. Nadeau, and voted 4 to

0 on a roll call vote to come out of executive session at 9:29 P.M. and to seal the minutes. No motions were made and no votes were taken.

REPORT REGARDING TAX ASSESSOR'S OFFICE AND ABATEMENT MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mrs. Nadeau, Ms. Alves and Mr. Boucher to release the report created by James Lombardi and to have it posted on the town's website for public access.

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2016 BUDGET

The Budget Committee is recommending an FY 2016 budget of \$40,336,082. This represents an overall increase in spending of \$988,422 over the FY 2015 budget. The FY 2016 current year tax revenue of \$30,885,844 will be needed to support this spending plan. This represents an increase in tax revenue of \$708,497. Under state law, \$32,128,905 is the maximum amount of current year taxes which can be raised to support the budget prior to an adjustment for uncollectible and an allowance for abatements. Therefore, the proposed budget will be within the tax levy CAP prescribed by law.

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Components of this budget include:

- No increase in the local appropriation for the School Department budget**
- \$524,920 increase in municipal department budgets excluding adjustments for capital**
- \$599,597 in funding for capital purchases/projects**

It is a guesstimate that in this budget, an average house assessed at \$250,000 would see an increase in the tax bill of \$170.00.

The Budget Committee has identified approximately \$1,000,000 in line items by which the School Committee can reduce estimated expenditures and still have enough in their budget that they could add back some items from their supplemental budget as well. The net increase in state aid is projected to be \$189,987.

In fiscal year 2013 the school department ended the year with a surplus of \$312,584 on a budgetary basis; in fiscal year 2014 their surplus was \$319,324 and it was recently announced by the School Department Business Manager that a surplus of roughly \$490,000 is expected this year.

The following budgets were increased significantly:

- N.S. Fire Department \$174,312**
- Employee Benefits \$154,612**
- Highway Department \$102,305**

The contract for services with the NS Fire Department has been in place since 2012. The Budget Committee has recommended appropriating \$2,519,080. This allows the department to add one full-time member in 2016. The department requested enough funding to add two additional members; however, the Budget Committee

proposes that the new contract provides for one member this year and then an additional one in the FY2017 budget.

Increased costs in “Employee Benefits” are primarily due to increases in police and municipal pension costs along with a significant increase in the amount budgeted for OPEB.

The Highway Department budget increase allows for one additional driver to be added back to the staff. The overtime and ice control accounts have been seriously underbudgeted for the last several years. The Budget Committee also supported the DPW Director’s request to include funds for truck rental for catch basin work to be done and road repairs.

The capital budget has increased by 83% (\$273,515) over last year’s budget:

- DPW \$375,000**
- School Department \$ 99,731**
- Parks and Recreation \$ 85,000**
- Finance \$ 26,000**
- Police \$ 12,670**
- Conservation Commission \$ 1,196**

In addition the Police Department should be authorized to purchase one cruiser in the amount of \$33,400 funded by the Police Detail Fund and EMA should be authorized to purchase a used SUV and 13

communication radios at a cost of \$14,200 funded through grants.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Boucher, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote at 10:00 P.M. to extend the meeting to 10:15 P.M.

There was discussion about how pay raises should be determined for employees with less than one year of employment with the town.

MOTION by Ms. Alves, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote at 10:15 P.M. to extend the meeting to 10:30 P.M.

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The amount for Extraordinary Litigation is less for the next fiscal year because, as Mr. Parmelee stated, the trend is decreasing and this Town Solicitor takes on a lot more work without charging the town.

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT FUND BALANCES AND SURPLUS

Based upon a recommendation from the Budget Committee, MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Boucher, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote to send a letter to the School Committee from the Town Council President suggesting that the School Committee not use the fund balance or surplus monies until the bond issues for the schools are resolved.

**USE OF KENDALL-DEAN BUILDING FOR SCHOOL AND TOWN
ADMINISTRATION**

There was no report from the School Committee as of yet.

**ANNUAL SUPPORT AGREEMENT FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT
DIGITAL RECORDER**

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mrs. Nadeau, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote to approve the digital recorder support agreement from Dictronics Inc. in the amount of \$1,296.00 and to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the agreement.

MOTION by Mrs. Nadeau and seconded by Mr. Zwolenski at 10:30 P.M. to extend the meeting to 10:45 P.M.

Roll call: Ms. Alves - no; Mrs. Nadeau - yes; Mr. Zwolenski - yes; and Mr. Boucher - yes. Since the vote was not unanimous, the meeting was not extended.

MOTION by Mr. Boucher, seconded by Mrs. Nadeau, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to adjourn at 10:33 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Todd, Town Clerk