

**BUDGET WORK SESSION  
DRAFT**

**PRESENT:** E. B. Beattie, Chairman; L. Gargiulo, Vice Chairman; M. R. Lane, Selectman;  
L. A. Ruest, Town Administrator; L. Jordan, Town Secretary

**HIGHWAY**

Road Agent R. Hilliard is present. He reported that it is possible to get some paving work done before the winter, but must be two inches thick jobs, or will need to wait. Surrey Lane would have to wait until spring if the Board decided to go with the 1-inch thick option. The Board acknowledged that Surrey is in disrepair and needs to be paved. The Town Administrator directed the attention of the Board to a spreadsheet on approved and other highway projects. Capital Reserve Fund is a separate account and the money is already designated to fund certain work.

The Road Agent mentioned that if projects are bundled, some expense will be saved. In light of that, the Chair would like to prioritize Surrey Lane, even at the cost for 2 inches (which will last longer). He would like the Road Agent to get one quote from one vendor for multiple roads all at once. Several contractors were discussed. The Town Administrator mentioned said that Bell & Flynt has measuring equipment and is able to charge for the exact amount of asphalt used. Vice Chair L. Gargiulo asked the Road Agent to have pricing available by the next Board meeting of October 21.

The Board directed the Road Agent to move forward on Surrey Lane, Towle Farm Road and Drinkwater Road pricing and to avoid scheduling work on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> due to the state general election.

**GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS**

The Town Administrator mentioned furnace replacements, cleaning service and water pump replacement. A second opinion on the furnaces, which have been shut down due to a safety concern, may be available at the next meeting.

**INSURANCE**

The Board reviewed the worksheet.

**EXECUTIVE**

Selectmen's budget was reviewed. The Board suggested not to change anything for this year.

**HEALTH AGENCIES**

The requests are mostly same as previous year.

**WELFARE**

Welfare has been level funded and is a statutory obligation. Generally, this is used towards paying heating costs, burials and a minimal salary for the welfare agent.

**PARKS AND RECREATION**

L. Stan and Karen Sabatini were present. The Governor Weare Park sign is rotted through and needs replacement. For \$6,000 a composite can be purchased that will last longer. It was

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suggested that Parks and Recreation update signs and utilize budget funds as the signs are illegible. The Board will review the matter and address at a future meeting. Funds for photography and seniors were requested through “professional services”. Churchill’s gave a quote for \$1,500 for self-watering and irrigation, which is budgeted in groundskeeping. M. Lane suggested raising Groundskeeping from \$1,000 to \$1,500.

Primex insurance will investigate if overuse, camping, etc. at “The Depot” creates a liability to the Town. There is a continued desire to limit access to this location to residents only. The Board discussed if by controlling the site, liability would be increased to the Town, rather than doing nothing at all.

**LIBRARY**

Library Treasurer Beth Forgione was present. The Library oversees this budget aside from salary and benefits. The detailed information about their budget is printed in the annual Town report.

**HERITAGE COMMISSION**

Beverly Mutrie is present. The Board reviewed the budget worksheet, and asked about historic home photography.

**SOLID WASTE COLLECTION**

**Brush Dump/Fall White Goods Day**

B. Forgione asked about opening the garage if it would rain on White Goods day Saturday, as she is the attendant collecting \$10 fees and it is supposed to be an inclement weather day. The Board reviewed the Solid Waste Collection budget worksheet. The Chair noted that the Road Agent is doing a good job. Costs of collection are up in 2020 due to COVID-19. The Board discussed ways the Town is getting discounts and better rates on electronics, tire, etc. disposal.

**CEMETERY**

Jonathan Bohm is present. The Board discussed the budget worksheet. The Chair asked if the mowing contractor could be changed, as performance issues are a concern. J. Bohm feels that if the Town is satisfied with their landscaper, Cemetery Trustees would be interested in utilizing that contractor. The Town works with one-year contracts and Cemetery Trustees work with three-year contracts currently. L. Gargiulo asked about “other professional salaries” being zero, and asked if that would change, to which J. Bohm replied it would be increased with work in the future to clean up a site. The budget is relatively level.

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Mary Ann Hill is present. The Board reviewed the Conservation Commission Budget Worksheet.

**MOTION:** To adjourn the meeting at 10:16 a.m.

**MOTION: L. Gargiulo**

**SECOND: M. Lane**

**UNANIMOUS**