

TOWN OF TUFTONBORO
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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Selectmen's Work Session
9:30 am – Town Office

Friday, November 2, 2020

The official video of this meeting can be found on the Town of Tuftonboro's YouTube channel at:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCUmJqZvFTS23RMEFSDQzmw>.

Present: Chairman Lloyd Wood, Selectman Bill Marcussen, Selectman Chip Albee and Administrative Secretary Cathy Pounder.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Wood called the Selectmen's meeting to order at 9:30 am to set the 2020 tax rate.

The Selectmen discussed how the values in Tuftonboro increased and the tax rate decreased. Lower Beech Pond will not have a tax rate this year because they are using \$3,700 of their undesignated fund balance. The tax rate came in at \$9.56. Selectman Albee discussed using \$275,000 against the municipal tax rate which would drop the tax rate to \$9.33 leaving \$855,229 which is 6.7%. Selectman Marcussen stated tax rate was \$10.11 it will be down \$.55 if the Board sets the rate at \$9.56; he reminded the group that DRA likes a fund balance of between 17 and 5 percent of the Town's budget and \$9.56 is 8.87 percent of the Town's budget. Chairman Wood stated he would like the funds available for the Police Station building so the station may be paid in one year as the Library was to save interest. Selectman Albee stated that does not just save interest but eliminates debit. Selectman Albee made a motion to set the tax rate at \$9.56 per thousand for the year 2020. Chairman Wood seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Selectman Albee reminded the public that the Selectmen did what they said they would do. Taxes went up to pay for the Library for one year and the rate came back down the next year.

The Selectmen reviewed the Executive 4130 budget. Selectman Albee made a motion to table 4130 Executive to review back up paperwork not supplied to them today. Selectman Marcussen seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Chairman Wood brought up the locations of the cell towers. The Selectmen will ask the Fire Chief and the Road Agent to review the cell tower locations as they are on their department's properties.

The Selectmen received the Road Agreement for Sandy Knoll Road repairs being performed by Aiden Stacy from the Town's lawyer Rick Sager with suggestions. Chairman Wood made a motion to sign the Sandy Knoll Road agreement. Selectman Marcussen seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

The Selectmen discussed Willand Road and Farm Pond Road, Chairman Wood stated he spoke with the responsible parties on Farm Pond Road and they are waiting to build a couple houses before they put the final coat on. Selectman Marcussen reminded the Board that they voted to accept Willand Road subject to improvements.

The Selectmen reviewed the lowest 3 quotes from the Landfill Monitoring bids; they ranged from \$23,748 to \$87,500. The lowest bids were Hydro Geochemical Solutions at \$23,748, Stonehill at \$28,435 and Stantec at

\$28,500. There was a concern because Hydro Geochemical was a single man firm. He submitted the signed agreement he has with another Environmental company to cover him in emergencies also his references were verified with 5 other NH towns (all positive).

Selectman Marcussen made a motion to hire Hydro Geochemical to complete the Landfill monitoring for 2021-2023 for \$23,748.00. Chairman Wood seconded the motion for purpose of discussion. Selectman Albee spoke to his concern of signing a 3 year contract with a single man firm. Selectman Albee chose to vote no due to his concerns and Chairman Wood voted no because he was interested in voting for Stantec. Chairman Wood had issue with a 3 year contract and his contacts states that Stantec speaks DES. Motion failed 1-2. Selectman Marcussen yes, Selectman Albee and Chairman Wood no. Selectman Albee made a motion to hire Stantec at \$28,500 for 3 years. Chairman Wood seconded the motion for discussion purposes. Motion carried 2-1. Selectman Albee and Chairman Wood yes, Selectman Marcussen no.

The Selectmen discussed the Fire Department's budget with Chief Thompson.

The Chief mentioned the increase was for steps for the FD Chief and Lt. They did not take steps in the past two years but put them in for this year. The Chief added 3 hours a week to the current 7 hours per for a total of 10 hours per week to the Office Assistant position.

The Selectmen spoke with the Chief on the Apparatus Expense increasing from \$2,977 to \$7,054. Chief informed the Selectmen that changes in protocol will allow the department to administer nitrous for pain control. He spoke with other towns and they stated it was a good tool, not additive. Unit is \$3,750 and cylinders are \$217 each. They slated for 3 cylinders and the refills are \$14.00 each and he slated for 3 of them as well. Chief stated there were 254 medical calls. The nitrous pain control could save a patient from getting addicted to other prescription drugs.

The Board spoke with Chief about boat expenses at \$150 per hour. The Fire Department is doing the spring cleaning and wax by themselves to save money. The Selectmen discussed the vehicle maintenance line. The Selectmen discussed cutting SCBA repair and flow test of packs with the hope the new SCBA are voted at Town Meeting. The Selectmen decided to cut the budget on the SCBA to \$2500 under vehicle maintenance. The Selectmen reviewed training, dry hydrants, and medical rescue billing. Selectman Albee made a motion to approve the Fire Department for a total of \$486,159 which is a 3.24% increase over last year. Selectman Marcussen seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

The Selectmen discussed furnace repairs, and maintenance needs with the Chief.

The Selectmen met with Dennis Guilmette to discuss the Library's budget. The reduction in the Library salaries was from employees retiring and promoted employees not making the same salary as the retirees'. They spoke of the decrease in the technology. Selectman Marcussen made a motion to approve the Library budget for \$216,747. Selectman Albee seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

The Selectmen discussed construction interviews, the cell tower leases, and the Public Right of Way.

Joe asked if the Public Right of Way was going to be on the website. The Selectmen will have Cathy post it. Joe commented on the boat repaired hourly shop rate being \$150.00 an hour. Joe questioned how the Selectmen checked the qualification of the Landfill Monitoring companies. Chairman Wood mentioned that they were all recognized by DES.

At 11:15 am Selectman Marcussen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Selectman Albee. Motion carried 3-0.

Respectively submitted,
Cathy Pounder
Administrative Secretary