

**Hardwick Board of Selectmen
Myron E. Richardson Municipal Building
307 Main Street
Hardwick, MA 01031
Meeting Minutes August 16, 2022
6:00PM**

Location of Meeting: Myron E. Richardson Municipal Building, 307 Main St, Hardwick, MA 01031

In Attendance: Julie Quink, Chair, H. Robert Ruggles, Vice Chair, Kelly Kemp Clerk, Nicole Parker, Town Administrator

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Budget review for Special Town Meeting

- Dr. Sheila Muir, Superintendent, & Finance Director, Cheryl Duval were present.
- (NP) New update on budget to finance Quabbin Regional School District. school. N.Parker feels the 4% increase over last year equaling \$2,698,398.68 is sufficient as to be able to provide essential town services.

C.Duval states that they do not budget according to revenues and creates a budget based on needs for the year, and feels the counter percentage of \$2,774,2278.23 or 7.75% is a big adjustment from their original 11% increase. N. Parker stated that this budgeting is not sustainable and feels the schools and the Town should talk more throughout the year to be able to determine what the town can actually afford. C.Duval stated that QRSD answers to no one but the school committee and will not discuss the budget with town officials.

- (JQ) Finance committee in support to give full assessment of \$2,774,275.23 to the school.
The town approves the budget not the Selectman or Finance committee,
Cuts needed following is a list of what would need to be cut.

\$1500 Selectman Salary
\$1000 Selectman expense
\$1000 IT Service
\$1000 legal
\$500 Town building
\$1000 Election & registration
\$4000 Fuel expense for the municipal building
\$1000 Building expense
\$3500 out of police training expense
\$1000 Fire dept
\$25000 snow and ice

In total, \$41,000 in cuts to town departments.

- (JQ) Suggested collaborating more through the year for budget meetings

ARPA

(NP) Fire Hydrant Replacement

Quote from Ludlow Construction replacements of 4 new fire hydrants and removal of old ones. It is recommended to approve a budget of not to exceed \$49,000.

Motion (HR) seconded (KK) accepted the approval. All in favor

(NP) New website

Civic Plus had more advantageous quote. Also received a quote from Gov Office which was approximately \$10,000.00 more for the term of three years.

Not to exceed \$10,000 budget

Motion (HR) Second (KK). All in favor

Sewer Project

Conservation Commission member financial disclosure statement

Rebecca Bottomley presented a disclosure relative to participation in Hardwick conservation commission

R. Bottomley Initiated a call to ethics to discuss her position relative to new sewer pump project.

It is the Board's decision to decide participation in keeping in mind that without her their is no quorum. The Board of Selectmen signed disclosure with the ok from counsel and made motion to allow her to participate as Conservation Commission member for NOI submitted on behalf of the town.

(KK) -board of selectman to vote to acknowledge the conflict of interest disclosure filed by Rebecca Bottomley relative to her participation as a member of the conservation commission with respect t the Hardwick Road pump station project and that the board declare she may participate in the matter because of her interest is not so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of the service which the town my expect from her.

(HRR) seconded All in favor (3:0)

Water commission firm to do water meters updated quote and he said few months out Winter project

New Sewer project pump station location

Approved site owned land by Margarite Crevier. A title search found owned by Mr. Hanson. He had not willed to anyone. Due diligence to find any relative, identify and reach out to all of them. It is not feasible to complete due diligence and Town must have control. The Town can move station over ~1000 feet as we have control of that vicinity.

More discussion was had regarding location of pump station. It as been recommended by DPC to put it on town owned property. The Board inquired as to getting opinions on

alternate locations near library and to make sure there is no covenants on the town owned land.

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn at 7:58PM by K.Kemp. Seconded by H.Robert Ruggles. All in favor.