

**Board of Selectmen
Special Meeting
Zoom
January 20, 2022 — 4:00 PM
MINUTES**

Members Present: First Selectman Kevin Cwikla, Selectmen Kathleen Smith, Robin Chesmer, Betsy Petrie-McComber, and Mark DeCaprio

Others Present: Hayley Wagner (Finance Director); Dean Hunniford (Public Works/Facilities Director); Bernard Dennler (Office Manager to the First Selectman)

1.0 Call to Order

K. Cwikla called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

2.0 Discuss and act upon FY22-23 budget

The Selectmen reviewed the budget documents prepared and distributed by H. Wagner.

Legal: K. Cwikla recommended that the legal budget be set at \$75,000. They discussed anticipated legal expenses for the Charter revision, Town Hall union contract negotiations, FOIA expenses, and boards and commissions. H. Wagner will follow up with the Town Planner about boards he works with and potential legal expenses. Based on this, the Selectmen will set the individual legal lines for their request to Board of Finance.

Selectmen: H. Wagner said this budget could be affected by a change in the non-union wage matrix if the part-time administrative clerk receives a wage increase. M. DeCaprio noted the budget request is less than the previous year. This is due to the adoption of Charter eliminating the stipend pay for Selectmen.

Computer Services: B. Dennler said the budget will be affected by the move to fiber and possible VOIP system, but there is no update so far on when the fiber install will be completed. VOIP quotes are not ready yet either but the pricing for fiber plus VOIP may be comparable to the current phone/internet package. Vendor prices for the various contracts covered by the budget are also still unknown.

Town Hall: Discussed postage costs, RICOH and copier vendor contracts. K. Cwikla said the publisher of Lebanon Life is unable to continue publishing the print edition of the paper and had requested \$700 per month from both Franklin and Lebanon to support an online publication. The Board tabled the request. The Selectmen discussed maintenance costs at Town Hall and minor repairs with D. Hunniford such as the stairs in front of Town Hall.

Fire Safety Complex: Discussed cost of utilities including propane.

The Selectmen agreed to meet again Thursday, January 27 4:00 pm to continue reviewing these and other budgets.

NO ACTION TAKEN

3.0 Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernard W. Dennler III

Office Manager to the First Selectman