

Town of Greenville
2018 Budget Public Hearing – February 8, 2018

Chairperson Mary opened the Public Hearing on the 2018 proposed warrant and budget at 7:00 p.m. Present: Chairperson Carla Mary, Selectmen Douglas Reardon and Scott Tenney, Town Administrator Tara Sousa , and audience members.

The Selectmen reviewed the 2018 Budget section by section.

Executive: Dick Bickford asked about the reduction in the Executive budget. Chairperson Mary answered that the difference between the prior Town Administrator's salary and the current Town Administrator's salary is the major difference in the Executive budget.

Election & Registrations: No questions.

Financial – Town Office: Elisa Fitzgerald asked about the increase for the Town-wide revaluation under assessing. Chairperson Mary discussed that the \$37,000 increase for the revaluation was able to be absorbed with reductions in other line-items.

Treasurer, Legal, Personnel Administration, and Planning & Zoning: No questions.

General Government Buildings: Dick Bickford asked about the deeding expense line-item. The Town Administrator answered that this covers cost associated with taking a property by tax deed, including legal fees and the demolition of mobile homes when appropriate.

Cemetery, Insurance, Regional Association, and Timber Control: No questions.

Police: A resident asked if there were salary increases included in the Police Budget. Selectman Reardon answered that there were no increases for any town employees in the budgets presented, except the library, which is governed by the Library Trustees. The addition of a community relations line-item was also questioned. Chairperson Mary explained that she had asked the Police Department to plan for two outreach programs in each town, such as children's coloring books and educational supplies.

Fire, Building Inspection, Emergency Management, Forrest Fire, Other Public Safety, Highway Administration, and Highway & Streets: No questions.

Street Lighting: Charles Buttrick noted that the street light at the corner of Town Hall is out. The Town Administrator answered that the repair request has been submitted through Eversource's webpage.

Wilton Recycling: Elisa Fitzgerald asked what the status of the Greater Waste Solutions project was, and if the Town was going to leave Wilton Recycling. The Town Administrator answered that we are committed to Wilton Recycling through the end of 2018, and will need to give notice by the end of June 2018 in order to shift to an alternate provider for 2019. Ed White, as Chair of the Planning Board, commented that Greater Waste is still in process of obtaining their State permits.

Health Officer and Animal Control: No questions.

Health Agencies: Dick Bickford asked about the increase in the St. Joseph meals line-item. Chairperson Mary answered that the increase was based on the agency's request, which was supported by data about the number of meals provided to elderly and disabled residents.

Town Assistance, Parks and Recreation, Library, Patriotic Purposes, Conservation, and Economic Development: No questions.

Debt Service: There were questions about the addition of a line for "Interest LTNB (Long term notes/bonds)". The Town Administrator answered that she prefers to have the principle and interest separated, so that it is clear how much the outstanding debt balances are being reduced each year.

Wastewater: Marshall Buttrick asked about the effect of the rate increase on revenues in 2017, and if the rate would be sufficient to fund the requested budget in 2018. The Town Administrator answered that the Town was able to operate the sewer fund in the black in 2017, and that anticipated revenues, with a full year at the new rate, will be evaluated when considering whether or not a rate increase is recommended.

Chairperson Mary reviewed the proposed 2018 Warrant.

Article 1 – Election: Marshall Buttrick questioned why three Trustee of Trust Funds positions were listed, as he believed William Broughton was elected last year. The Town Administrator believed Mr. Broughton was appointed, but she will confirm with the Town Clerk and get back to Mr. Buttrick.

Article 2 – Reports of Auditors, Agents, and Committees: No questions.

Articles 3, 4, and 5 – Budgets for General Fund, Wastewater, and Water: No additional questions.

Article 6 – Capital Reserve Funds: Several residents commented on the limited amount being allocated for the green bridge annually, expressing that the Town should be putting more into that account.

Article 7 and 8 – Expendable Trust Funds: No questions.

Article 9 – Highway Block Grant: Marshall Buttrick asked which streets were scheduled for paving this year. The Town Administrator believed the Road Agent intended to pave the rest of Adams Hill Road, Nutting Hill, and Greenville Road. Mr. Buttrick questioned the streets, noting that those were the streets discussed at a public hearing regarding additional Highway Block Grant Funds received in 2017. The Town Administrator will check with the Road Agent and get back to Mr. Buttrick.

Article 10 – Police Cruiser: No questions.

Article 11 – Highway Department Loader Purchase: Charles Buttrick asked the reasoning behind seeking a bond or note for the purchase versus a capital lease. Chairperson Mary explained that due to the large down payment, including the trade-in and use of several funds (CRF and ETF), a lease with a non-appropriation clause would put that initial investment at risk in future years. Elisa Fitzgerald asked about the use of water and sewer funds. Chairperson Mary explained that the Highway Department uses the equipment to work on both water and sewer, so the Selectmen felt it appropriate to contribute a small portion of the purchase from those funds. The Town Administrator noted that the Town's Department of Revenue Auditor had questioned some of the funds proposed to be utilized, but was satisfied with the responses provided.

Article 12 – Fire Communications Equipment Purchase: No questions.

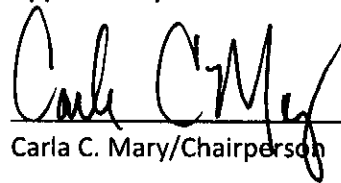
Article 13 – Temple-Greenville Police Department Contract: Chairperson Mary discussed the minor changes to the contract, which include a three year term rather than 2.

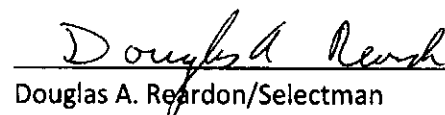
Several attendees expressed support for larger capital reserve and expendable trust allocations, in order to control spikes in the tax rate.

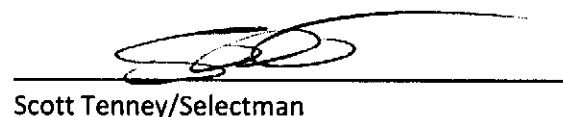
The hearing was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Submitted by: Tara Sousa/Town Administrator

Approved by:



Carla C. Mary/Chairperson

Douglas A. Reardon/Selectman

Scott Tenney/Selectman