Select Board Minutes
Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 7:00pm
Town Hall Meeting Room, Harvard, MA

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chair Lucy Wallace in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

Select Board members present: Lucy Wallace, Alice von Loesecke, Rich Maiore, Kara Minar, Stu Sklar
Town Administrator Tim Bragan
Assistant Town Administrator Marie Sobalvarro

Finance Committee members present: Mark Buell, Siko Sikochi, Don Ludwig, Bruce Nickerson,
Richard Fellows, Raymond Marchica, John Seeley

Budget reviews with the Finance Committee

Council on Aging Department budget review
CoA Director Debbie Thompson presented her budget. CoA board members Beth Williams, Connie Larrabee, Deb Thomson, Cathy Walker and Frances Maiore were also in attendance. Everyone received copies of the budget submission along with questions and answers. The CoA is requesting funds for operation of a second more reliable van to accommodate an increase in transportation needs. Private funds with be utilized for purchase of the van. There were no additional significant questions or comments.

Town Clerk
Marlene Kenney presented her department budget. Everyone received copies of the budget submission along with questions and answers. There were no significant questions or additional comments.

Police Department
Police Chief Ed Denmark presented his department budget. Everyone received copies of the budget submission along with questions and answers. Chief Denmark explained how he handled personnel costs with his upcoming contract expiration. He will fill the open Sargent position this year. Denmark clarified his overtime figures and gave a brief overview of the Taser program.

Fire Department
Fire Chief Rick Sicard presented his department budget. Everyone received copies of the budget submission along with questions and answers. Chief Sicard offered more explanation on his future request for another full time firefighter/EMT. When asked the need for the second position, he responded that he envisions one positon to be focused on fire prevention with the other on the Ambulance side.

Ambulance Service
Co-Director Jason Cotting and member Will Stevenson were present. Everyone received copies of the budget submission along with questions and answers. Cotting and Stevenson explained their billing procedures in further detail. The town's current policy does not allow direct billing of residents. Town Administrator Tim Bragan noted the policy has been in place for ten years therefore it may be time to revisit it. They discussed controlling stipend costs and the reality that the service will not be able to fund the purchase of an ambulance in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.

Documents referenced:
FY20 budget submissions from: Council on Aging, Town Clerk, Fire Dept., Police Dept. & Ambulance Service.