

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING  
FEBRUARY 2, 2022  
DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present: Thomas Terry, Chair, Richard Constant, Rich Germain, Kevin McAllister, Steve Hamelin, James Everett, Leonard Finkowski

Member Absent: Joel Prough

Also Attending: Town Administrator Lisa Wong

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM. The members of the committee introduced themselves to TA Wong

TA Wong presented an over view of the fiscal year 2023 budget. A schedule for the budget preparation was reviewed with the Committee.

Exerts from the Town financial policies concerning the budget purpose, budget forecasting and the budget document were discussed. TA Wong will be implementing a new budget format which not only provides budget numbers, but also provides a description of the department, current fiscal year goals and accomplishments and the upcoming fiscal year's strategic goals. Mr. Everett asked if an explanation of changes in the proposed budget from the current year would be provided. TA Wong responded that they would.

Projected revenues were presented. The governor's budget proposes a net increase in Chapter 90 aid of \$1,090,917 and a net increase in unrestricted aid of \$66,774. In response to a question from Mr. Terry, TA Wong indicated these numbers would be used in the preparation of the 2023 budget.

Projected expenses were discussed and anticipated increases were detailed, including facility costs up 6%, higher election costs, increase in general insurance costs due to a large claim, 8% increase in IT costs, 2 new positions in Public Works and potential personnel cost increases due to the new police and Public Works contracts.

Capital planning was discussed. TA Wong stated that the Capital Planning Committee has been reorganized and will play a large role, including development of current needs, a 5-year plan and a long-term capital needs assessment.

TA Wong presented an over view of ARPA funding. South Hadley will receive a total of \$5,268,233. \$842,074 has been allocated to pay for school testing and mold remediation. Eligible expenses were explained as well as the process for approving additional expenditures. Under the Final Rule effective April 1, 2022, South Hadley's funding allocation qualifies under the standard revenue loss allowance, which will provide the Town with more discretion as to how funds are spent.

Committee members thanked TA Wong for her presentation.

Appointments to the Capital Planning Committee were voted as follows: Dan Luis and Kevin McAllister to terms ending in 2023 and Ted Boulais to a term ending in 2024. The votes were unanimous. Kevin McAllister abstained on the vote of hie appointment.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.