

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD
SELECTBOARD HALL – 96 MAIN STREET – THIRD FLOOR
PUBLIC HEARING
July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024, Springfield Town Budget
MONDAY, 1/23/2023

APPROVED MINUTES

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Kristi Morris called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

Selectboard Members: Chair, Kristi Morris, Vice Chair Michael Martin, Walter Martone, and Crissy Webster were present in-person. Everett Hammond arrived late.

Administration: Town Manager Jeff Mobus and Town Clerk Barbara Courchesne were present in-person. Fire Chief Paul Stagner, Parks and Rec Director Chris Merrill, and Library Director Sue Dowdell was present via Zoom.

School Board Liaison: Steve Karaffa was not in attendance.

Budget Advisory Committee: Chair Jim Fog, Doug Johnston, and Scott Richardson were present in-person. Tre Ayer, Tara Chase, and Corky Bond joined via Zoom.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus presented the Public Hearing on the Town Budget FY2023-2024 included in the meeting packet, noting there was a correction to line item 10-55-4-643 should be 10-55-5-643.

Everett Hammond inquired on the last paragraph in the last sentence how big a risk the \$160,000 reduction would be. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded it would not be a very big risk to the operation of the Town because we always have the option with most positions to simply not fill the position until the budget equals out and that's what we have done for many years, noting that's very hard to do with some positions particularly department head positions as you can't run for months without department heads in many positions.

Walter Martone commented that the two-page summary was the best summary he has seen in many years and it was exactly the information that he wanted, adding it was presented so clearly and so succinctly. Town Manager Jeff Mobus responded the people that did all the hard work were the Budget Advisory Committee and the Department Heads. Everett Hammond agreed the summary was a good, clear, and concise two-pager.

BAC Chair Jim Fog reiterated their thanks to Town Manager Jeff Mobus and all the Department Heads for their openness and willingness to come down on their estimates and make their (BAC) job easier, adding their transparency as far as site visits and explaining how things got to be a certain way helped make the whole process go pretty smoothly.

Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed we are planning to repair the flat portion of the library roof on the back, and we have \$100,000 allocated, noting it looks like we will be able to do that, and Mr. Radel gave us a very nice evaluation and it appears with all the pieces we will be able to come in under the \$100,000. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that he (Mr. Radel) did say that there are very few people that doing this kind of work which always makes it kind of risky to estimate because you don't have the same quantity for competition. Town Manager Jeff Mobus noted that he will make sure that gets put on the website so the public can review it. Chair Kristi Morris inquired that this was included in this budget. Town Manager Jeff Mobus confirmed it was in this budget.

The Public Hearing experienced technical difficulties with audio via Zoom at 6:15 pm, the meeting was paused while the issue was addressed. The meeting resumed at 6:29 pm.

Chair Kristi Morris recapped that Town Manager Jeff Mobus was discussing the library roof repair, noting that we do have \$100,000 in our capital budget for the library in our current budget. Town Manager Jeff Mobus discussed that the board allowed us to hire a roof expert Jeff Radel to evaluate the roof and to tell us what needed to be done with the roof, which was great, noting it cost \$4,000 for the evaluation. Town Manager Jeff Mobus added that he (Mr. Radel) came back with a very detailed evaluation of the roof and with estimates towards the end of the report that indicated that the \$100,000 will cover what needs to be done with the caution that he's concerned there are not a lot of people that do the work so we could be at the mercy of a small number of bidders. Walter Martone commented that it wasn't really clear whether he (Mr. Radel) was assuming within the \$100,000 that the repairs that needed to be done by the prior contractor would be done for free. Library Director Sue Dowdell responded she believes we need to look at what the prior contractor did and evaluate exactly what our recourse is with them, noting she believes that is a work in process with the gully area. Walter Martone commented he (Mr. Radel) talked about the guarantees on the work and things like that in the report. Library Director Sue Dowdell confirmed.

No further discussion. The Public Hearing was closed at 6:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie M. Kellow, Recording Secretary