

**TOWN OF
TEMPLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Hearing held on the 11th of February 2016

Board members present: G. Cromwell, G. Willard, K. Caisse-Board of Selectmen
Budget Advisory Committee – G. Scholl, K. Sullivan, J. Kieley, R. Geiger
Capital Improvements Program Committee – C. Kieley, T. Petro

Call to Order by Cromwell at 6:36 p.m.

4 Department Heads present: J. McTague, Police Chief; T. Fiske, Road Agent; J. Whitcomb, Tax Collector; S. Kelley, Treasurer
Members of the public present: 19 – Temple; 4 - Greenville

Budget Hearing

1. Subject: Cromwell welcomed the public and thanked the BAC for their work and requested that those present not vote for the petition warrant article to dissolve the BAC.

Cromwell reviewed the power-point presentation to explain the 2016 budget. The following explanations were offered:

2016 has 4 elections, which is why the election items have increased.

Legal has increased due to the addition of \$15,000.00 to fight the North East Direct pipeline.

Benefits are up due to health insurance, but Cromwell explained that this is the only benefit employees receive.

Building maintenance is up for the Municipal Building to do work at the town offices.

Insurance is down due to the fact that the town is changing to a different insurance carrier for property-liability. This line item designates a 6-month policy for property-liability, which will put all insurances on a calendar year basis. It is likely that insurance costs will increase next year.

The Police line item is down due to a surplus of the joint Police Department in 2016. The insurance is also for a 6 month period.

Fuel costs are lower at this time.

Recycling is up – the recycling center is having problems selling items.

Recreation is up to cover the costs of repairing the tennis courts and replacing some of the equipment on the toddler playground.

Cromwell also informed the public that the BOS has voted to approve an alternate use for one tennis court on a trial period of one year.

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J. Whitcomb asked why the Town Clerk salary wasn't increased to reflect the \$1.00 increase by the State of NH for Town Clerk motor vehicle fees. Cromwell stated that in 2011 the Town Clerk requested that she be paid a straight salary instead of a stipend plus fees and since that time has participated in the same increases as other employees. Cromwell also stated that she has spoken to the NH Municipal Association regarding this subject. *There was discussion about this subject with comments from C. Robidoux, T. Petro, J. Kieley, S. Kelley, and S. Cullinan.*

Cromwell reviewed the warrant articles:

#6 – RT 45 property: Cromwell explained that this property was taken by the town by tax deed. There are currently no plans for the building or the property, but the building is in disrepair and should be demolished. There is asbestos in the building that must be mitigated before demolition. The amount in the warrant may be amended at town meeting once the BOS has more information on the mitigation of the asbestos.

#7 – Hadley Highway Bridge: This article is to replace a large culvert with a concrete bottom being poured. T. Fiske, Road Agent, informed the public that this bridge is on the State of NH "Red List" for bridges and this work needs to be done or the State will close this bridge.

#8 – Cemetery headstones: This article is for repair of old headstones in East Cemetery and Mothers & Wives Cemetery. The costs of this will be covered by money from the Cemetery Lots Fund and a grant from the 250th Anniversary Fund.

#9 Asphalt/Paving Expendable Trust: This is to replenish this trust fund.

#10 – Culvert & Bridge Maintenance and Repair Expendable Trust: This is to replenish this trust fund.

#11 – Propane tank: This is to purchase a propane tank for the Library/Highway Garage. This would allow the town to get the best price for propane. Currently the propane tank is owned by Energy North and the town must purchase propane from them. Petro asked why this item isn't in the budget. Cromwell stated that it is a one-time item and the Board wanted the public to know what is being proposed.

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#15 – Pipeline Air Testing: This article would cover the cost of purchasing air testing equipment and the cost of the analysis to obtain a baseline of the air quality in the vicinity of the proposed compressor station for the NED pipeline.

#13 - Additional money for a stand-alone Police Department: This article is to add additional money to allow Temple to re-form a police department if the Town of Greenville does not approve a new contract. Cromwell also stated that if Temple re-forms its own police department a building would be needed in the near future. Cromwell spoke about the current status of the joint police department. The contract with Greenville expires March 30, 2016. Since last August the Joint Police Board has been discussing possible changes in the contract. The Greenville Selectmen wanted Temple to agree to have 3 Greenville Selectmen on the joint board with Temple retaining their 2 Selectmen; Temple to pay for the administration of the police department; Temple to pay 50% of the costs of the building that houses the police department; and they want to split cruiser fuel costs differently. In turn we asked them to change the allocation formula to a 50-50 blend of population and share of services. Based on the number of calls Temple has averaged 29% usage over the 11 years of the joint department, 31 % over the last 3 years. Greenville would not agree. To protect ourselves in case Greenville voted to not continue with the joint force, we began working to estimate the costs of a stand-alone department. Some Greenville residents were in attendance and stated that they are happy with the current arrangement. They do not know what their Selectmen are doing. *Chief McTague spoke about the reasons for the formation of the joint police department. Greenville did not have a police department, Temple needed to look at building a police station. Both towns were looking to cut expenses. McTague also stated that he, the administrators, and officers wished to remain neutral in the discussion of separation. McTague stated that the issues for creating the joint police department have not gone away, however, each town needs to decide what is best for itself. He noted that since the joint force was established we have enjoyed higher quality police officers and the crime rate has gone down. Each town has saved significant money.*

2. Dave Martz, School Board Representative explained the Conval school budget, the new contract for the teachers, and the health insurance savings. Martz then reviewed the petition warrant article to change the articles of agreement and particularly noted that he recommended a vote against it (Article 12 on the Conval ballot.)

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3. Hearing adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Submitted by Debra Harling, Administrative Assistant.