



APPROVED  
12/04/2019

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 20, 2019  
6:00 PM**

Attendance: Vice Chairman James Lyman, Selectmen Matthew Everett, Sallie Wilder and Joshua Chartrand, Town Manager Richard LaBelle, and Bookkeeper Peter Lyman. Also present for all or parts of the meeting were Aaron Bolster, Firefighter Aaron Gordon, and Fire Chief David Jones.

Absent: Chairman Frederick

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM by Vice Chairman Lyman.

**2. Pledge to the Flag**

**3. Review/Approve Minutes of November 6, 2019**

Selectman Wilder made a MOTION to approve the minutes of November 6, 2019. Seconded by Selectman Chartrand. MOTION PASSED.

**4. Selectmen's Reports**

None.

**5. Town Manager's Report**

See Attached.

**6. Discussion/Action on November 20, 2019 General Warrant #22**

Selectman Everett made a MOTION to approve and sign General Warrant #22 in the amount of \$206,415.44. Seconded by Selectman Chartrand. MOTION PASSED, 3-1 (Chartrand, Everett, Wilder in favor; Lyman opposed).

**7. Discussion/Action on November 20, 2019 Airport Warrant #11**

Selectman Chartrand made a MOTION to approve and sign Airport Warrant #11 in the amount of \$7,187.71. Seconded by Selectman Everett. MOTION PASSED.

**8. Discussion/Action on November 20, 2019 Sewer Commitment**

Selectman Chartrand made a MOTION to commit November 20, 2019 sewer use charges in the amount of \$14,296.47. Seconded by Selectman Everett. MOTION PASSED.

**9. Public Comment (Limited to 2 minutes)**

None.

**10. Discussion/Action on 2020 Budget**

Fire Chief David Jones discussed the 2020 Fire Department budget with the Board. There are three significant increases in the proposed operating budget: a wage increase from \$13 to \$15 per hour, the addition of approximately \$2,000 for a basic medical license and associated up-start costs (two firefighters are currently certified), and an increase in the repeater agreement fee, as Smithfield has abandoned the site.

Firefighter Aaron Gordon provided an overview of the proposed increase in the medical licensing, noting that emergency medical service providers are stretched for resources and tend to be overloaded. This would ultimately lead to Norridgewock offering a first-responder service; this will allow the two existing personnel to offer services up to their licensed levels. Chief Jones notes that a large number of calls are a result of overdoses. The Town Manager inquires about the costs shouldered by the Town associated with medications; Firefighter Gordon states that there is an initial cost for pharmaceuticals; however, we are able to be replenished at no cost through RFGH for used or expired drugs.

The capital account requests remain unchanged at \$50,000 for the equipment reserve and \$5,000 for the building reserve. Additionally, the Department is requesting an article to be considered at Town Meeting for \$50,000 to begin two full-time firefighters beginning July 1, 2020 (one officer, possibly).

The Department also would like to draw \$40,000 from the equipment reserve account to purchase two sets of turnout gear, rescue struts and airbags, replacement of U24 body with new aluminum body, and a slide-in forestry pump system.

Vice Chairman Lyman inquired about the Fire Department's sustainability plan. There are significant assets that need to be maintained and staffing concerns that exist. Where does the department stand in one year, five years, or ten years? Vice Chairman Lyman states that the financial implications are of great concern and should be considered with each budget request submission.

**11. Other Business**

The Town Manager stated that Mercer went through a transition with snow contractors. Norridgewock Public Works was put on call, in the event a medical emergency took place. This was intended to protect our fire equipment/apparatuses, as well as ambulance service. While the arrangement was in place, Norridgewock was not called out. Mercer Selectman Gary Mosher contacted us and wished to express his thanks for the coverage.

**12. Adjournment**

Selectman Chartrand made a motion to adjourn at 7:08 PM. Seconded by Selectman Wilder.  
MOTION PASSED.