

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
BUDGET MEETING
February 21, 2015
Meeting Room A**

Present: Norman Needleman
Stacia Libby
Bruce Glowac
Kelly Sterner

Audience Members
James Francis
Maria Lucarelli

Norman Needleman called the meeting to order at 10:07 am

Public Comment: None

BUDGET REVIEWS:

Essex Library – Tab 50, Page B55

Richard Conroy presented. The library relies on the resources from the Town in order to be a functional library. They recently installed new front doors and a new garden was installed that were paid for with donations. The library is always looking for support to pay for the concrete items or the one-time things that have a positive impact directly to the library. There was discussion on a USDA loan that could help reduce the term of the loan. The plan is to still continue to build the endowment fund in order to pay off the debt. The original library budget request was \$300,000. The amount placed in the budget is \$283,559 which is a 3% increase from last year.

Central Services – Electricity Tab 4, Page B3

Kelly Sterner, the Finance Director reported that \$14,600 needed to be added to electricity line due to an approved rate increase for Eversource from 9.9 to 12 cents per kilowatt hour. Mr. Glowac suggested looking into a competitive pricing in the future.

Technology – Tab 15, Page B15

The GIS budget line under Technology was increased to \$15,000. There was discussion on the Veoci presentation held at Town Hall on Friday the 20th. The price for the system is based on users.

Police Services – Tab 36, Page B38

The current staffing levels are being reviewed and the current budget request includes an additional full time hire. There was discussion that funding for the Resident Trooper may increase due to State of Connecticut budget cuts. If that is the case, the additional funding may need to be used for increasing Resident Trooper costs.

Fringe Benefits - Retirement – Tab 11, B11

Ms. Sterner reported there was an additional \$12,000 added to retirement budget line as recommended by the actuary. This increase in the contribution is intended to help improve the Police retirement plan funding level.

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to recommend to the Board of Finance a Board of Selectmen's Budget for Fiscal Year 2015 – 2016 in the amount of \$7,450,549 at an increase of 3.45%. This recommendation is contingent on obtaining the final insurance numbers. Stacia Libby seconded the motion. All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT at 11:03 am

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Lucarelli