

**MARION BOARD OF SELECTMEN
WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
January 9, 2014**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jonathan Dickerson, Chairman
Stephen Cushing
Jonathan Henry

ALSO PRESENT: Paul Dawson, Town Administrator
Judith Mooney, Finance Director
CIPC members
Finance Committee members
Department heads

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Music Hall.

Mr. Dickerson explained that the meeting was held to allow the Finance Committee, CIPC, and department heads the opportunity to discuss the FY15 budget process and work toward a common goal.

Mr. Dawson said no formal budget presentation was planned and the discussion would be focused on procedure and each department's impact on the budget (department budgets are due January 17.) He warned that FY15 was going to be an extremely difficult year, with the following issues:

- All contracts will be up for negotiation
- Health insurance premiums will be increasing by 8%
- Plymouth county retirement assessment increasing
- Large increases to the school budget
- Revenues are expected to be flat

Mrs. Mooney explained that Proposition 2.5 would result in \$385,000; last year's growth from the Assessors was \$100,000.

Mr. Minard said the two or three budgets that were submitted have already resulted in a deficit of \$65,000 and a 4% decrease across the board will be required to balance the budget. He reminded the department heads to meet the deadlines to allow the Finance Committee to make business decisions.

Mr. Hills provided updated Capital Project request forms and said the CIPC will be scheduling meetings every Thursday night throughout the budget process.

During the meeting information was provided from the following departments:

- Schools –
- Significant increases in Special Ed and School Choice costs
- Transportation (bus routes, transportation contract)

Board of Health/Regional Board of Health –

Ms. Walega said the Board of Health and the Regional Board are submitting “bare bones” budgets, with a possible expansion of the Marion Public Health Nurse position.

Council on Aging –

Mrs. Schwager explained that the COA is the social service agency for the Town and there has been an increase in transportation needs and also increased needs for families and younger people.

Recreation Department –

Mrs. Hemphill said there are no capital projects on the horizon; the programs are offset by fees.

Facilities Department –

Mr. Cormier said the budget is just enough to do the basic work and a lot of the work is being done in house to achieve further savings. He said a larger capital project will be repairs to the Music Hall (basement remediation, exterior repairs).

Inspectional services –

Mr. Shippey said that his budget is offset by permit fees and his main concern is the educational portion of the budget as his continued education is required to keep the Town’s ISO down. The Town of Marion had five new dwellings constructed this year and 36 new dwellings, six at a time, are anticipated next year.

Harbormaster –

Mr. Cormier said revenue and collections have been good and the budget will stay the same with the exception of a \$400 longevity payment to the Shellfish Officer. The capital projects will be the replacement of two boat motors at a net cost of \$17,000.

Mr. Henry recommended an increase in mooring fees, which have not been raised in nine years; Mrs. Mooney and Mr. Cormier explained the requirements of M.G.L.

Police –

Chief Miller said the budget costs related to salaries and wages, including step increases and longevity payments, increased by .7%, or (410,500). There are no increases on the expense side of the budget, which has increased by only \$588 over the past ten years (this does not include the cost of the new police station). Chief Miller said there is no room in the police expense budget for reductions and two new cruisers are needed to replace two cruisers with mileage in excess of 100,000 miles. One capital project is planned, the upgrade of the radio system, with an anticipated cost of less than \$40,000.

Fire/EMS –

Chief Joyce said that ambulance staffing is the only anticipated budget increase. He noted that the department has seen a 25% increase in calls, mostly EMS, with the potential to generate income. The majority of the calls are ALS, generating higher return than BLS.

Department of Public Works –

Mr. Zora said he will be submitting a "bare bone budget" and any cuts would be related to highway personnel/services/rubbish service as the water and sewer enterprise funds are supported by rates. An article will be submitted at Town Meeting for funds to replace the water tower at Great Hill.

The following issues were discussed:

Regionalization of services

Public transportation

Creation of revenue sources

Formation of a small economic task force to search out other revenue sources

Free cash from last year (\$1.7 million) free cash from last year, (\$400,000 turned back from the school budget)

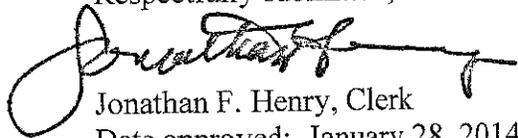
Out of district placement at the regional level

Mr. Cushing thanked everyone for attending

Mr. Dickerson reminded department heads that the budgets are due January 17 and said there might be another meeting after the finance committee reviews the budgets.

Moved by Mr. Cushing and seconded by Mr. Dickerson at 8:20 p.m. to adjourn. VOTE: 3-0-0

Respectfully submitted,



Jonathan F. Henry, Clerk

Date approved: January 28, 2014

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