

**Minutes  
Board Of Selectman Special Meeting  
Wednesday, February 28, 2024  
6:00 PM**

Present: First Selectman Julia Pemberton, Selectman Margaret O'Donnell, Selectman Michael Thompson, Finance Director Jim Sanders.

Call to order: First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Public Comment: None present.

Discussion and possible action on the FY25 Town budget:

Jim Sanders, Finance Director for the Town, presented a series of revisions to the Board of Selectmen's Town budget for FY25 and the Selectmen discussed the revisions.

The budget proposal developed from the January Board of Selectmen workshop totaled \$17,065,030, an increase of 4.59 percent. Jim Sanders and First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton had discussed the need to make reductions to the budget prior to the February 28 meeting. Cuts of \$328,900 reduce the budget to \$16,736,130, which would be an increase of 2.57 percent from FY 24. The cuts, however, are offset by an increase to the employee benefits line of \$225,000. This brings the FY 25 Town budget to a proposed \$16,961,130, or an increase of 3.95 percent.

The Selectmen discussed the tradeoffs and expressed that the cuts were not a reflection of the merits of each item that was reduced, but that reducing the cost to the taxpayers in this year required difficult choices.

The Board of Selectmen will present the Town's budget proposal at the Board of Finance public hearing in March.

The First Selectwoman noted a deadline of March 4, 2024 for the Board of Selectmen to adopt a FY 25 budget proposal for the Board of Finance public hearing on March 20, 2024.

Selectman Michael Thompson made a motion to adopt the proposed budget seconded by Selectman Margaret O'Donnell.

**Motion: Move that the Board of Selectmen adopt a proposed budget of \$16,961,130 for the Fiscal Year 2025 an increase of \$644,576 from the prior fiscal year and percentage increase of 3.95 percent. Thompson, O'Donnell. Approved. Unanimous.**

The First Selectwoman adjourned the meeting at 6:12 pm.