



## OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Chaz Sexton-Diranian, *Chairman*

Veronica Kell, *Vice Chairman*

Theresa A. Morse, *Clerk*

R. Eric Slagle, Town Administrator

RECEIVED  
APR 06 2023

TOWN OF TOWNSEND  
TOWN CLERK

Topic: Board of Selectmen

Time: March 11, 2023 08:30 A.M. Eastern Time (US and Canada)

### I. Preliminaries:

1.1 Call the meeting to order and roll call.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

1.3 Announce the meeting is being tape recorded.

1.4 Chairman's Additions or Deletions.

Board of Selectmen meeting called to order at 8:31 a.m. with Chaz Sexton-Diranian, Theresa Morse, and Veronica Kell present.

The Finance Committee also called their meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance recited. Chaz Sexton-Diranian thanked all those who have served.

It was announced that the meeting is being recorded and will be posted.

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

### II. Work Session:

2.1 Review Town Budgets - Each budget group review will be 50 minutes

2.1.1 8:30 AM - 9:20AM General Government (not including Treasurer)

2.1.2 9:30 AM - 10:20 AM Public Safety

It was noted that the budget draft being reviewed is dated 3-9-2023. Salaries have 2% COLA with 2% step if eligible. Budget allows for 2.6% increase for school budgets which is more than net school spending. School is requesting SOOK+/- more than what we have budgeted. An override will be required.

General Government budgets reviewed in available time:

1. Assessor - only increases in salary/wages lines and for Patriot eval. Training increased for succession plan.
2. Town Clerk - discussion of reallocation/allocation of ARPA funds for poll pad maintenance vs. clickers. One fewer election expected in FY24.
3. Facilities - Increase for admin asst; Questions on specific use of funds requested. Questions were asked; no votes were taken.

The remainder of General Government will be reviewed later in the meeting. [break - 5 mins]

Public Safety budgets reviewed in available time: (ARPA being used as revenue source)

1. Police - Chief Sartell provided an additional handout; request for revolving fund (Fingerprinting; firearms licensing) to be used for public records; use of some ARPA funds.
2. Fire - ARPA funds will be used in FY24 Questions were asked; no votes were taken. [break - 5 mins]

Department budgets were reviewed in the following order:

1. Board of Health and Landfill - noted that the override for trash pickup many years ago was for \$600,000 but \$755,389 is being

2.1.3 10:30 AM -  
11:20 AM Highway and  
Streets, Human Services  
(plus Landfill)

2.1.4 11:30AM -  
12:20 PM Culture and  
Recreation, Treasurer

1:00 - remaining  
General Gov't

### III.ADJOURNMENT:

budgeted (contractual so honored this year). Question on why there is a line for Prof SVS - North Central Reg Solid Waste at \$0. Added line for disposing of illegally dumped items.

2. Council on Aging - opening of 2000 sq ft addition; participation at Sr Ctr has increased by 30% for an average of 85-90 people/day.
3. Highway Dept- requesting an increase in staffing; note that \$223,588 is in the budget for pavement management.
4. Cemetery and Parks - Stipend must be bargained.

General question re: Salaries - Cemetery & Park Superintendent, Facilities Superintendent, COA Director should all be the same since same Class and Grade and full-time exempt.

Questions were asked; no votes were taken.

Department budgets were reviewed in the following order:

Treasurer - additional handout. Health Ins Tm-vn Share - MIIA or other?

General Insurance - Possibly 3 bids; Waiting on estimates.

Library- 4 hrs added to Young Adult librarian (tech director) and 1 hr to staff. The library will stay open one hr longer on Tues./Wed/Thurs.

Recreation - Question on salaries and hours for Dept Head and Assistant Director.

Discussion of IOK added to Fin Com Reserve Fund.

Discussion of Housing Authority and Housing Trust budgets. The Housing Trust budget is ARPA funded.

Town Counsel - No rate for FY24 has been received as of yet.

Motion was made by Veronica Kell and seconded by Chaz Sexton-Diranian to adjourn at 2:10 p.m. Motion passed with all in favor.

Recording of meeting found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VOmV32tPdBO&list=PLQpCwUSpXecA-inxdzK0jQMgEx3wCFBbE&index=2&t=25s>