

SELECTBOARD MEETING
January 7, 2015

Present: Bob Bancroft
Alex Weinhagen
Dave Adams

Nanette Rogers
Diane Forsey

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

FY'16 DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSAL

There were approximately 20 voters present. Bob Bancroft presented the draft FY'16 budget. The Town is about half way through the implementation process for new financial controls and procedures. The hope is to have it complete by the end of FY'16. There are three major projects to be done: replacement of Seymour Road Bridge, repave Westford Milton Road and demolish the house on the Spiller lot.

The proposed budget is \$2,550,167 which is 11% higher than last year. However due to an estimated increase in revenue, approximately 34%, the amount to be raised by taxes is only increasing 2%. This will result in a half percent increase in the tax rate.

Several residents questioned the increase in trash and recycling. The Board advised that the increase is due to unknowns as a result of the law that goes into effect July 1st. The law requires for people to pay according to how much trash they generate. It is still unclear how this will affect Westford due to our town wide pick up through contracted services therefore it was difficult to budget for the change.

Repaving of the Westford Milton Road was discussed. Mark Drapa stated that the road has deteriorated quickly and asked if the project is a resurface project or will it get to the heart of the problem. The Board advised that it is primarily a resurface project with some ditching, culverts and crowning. It will not be the same type of project that was done on Route 128.

Martha Heath stated that at the time the purchase of the Spiller property was being presented to the voters, it was said that the purchase would be offset by the sale of town owned land. She asked what is being done to accomplish this. The Board advised that the Town sold a landlocked parcel to an abutter and used that money for a down payment. The Town has tried to sell a 14.9 acre lot that looked promising until it was determined that it is not suitable for a septic system. The School was approached by the Town to do a land swap for the Town land that abuts the school property for the school's half interest in a parcel on the corner of the Westford Milton Road and Old Stage Road. The school was not interested at the time it was asked. Mark Drapa added that the Kings Hill Homeowner's Associate has a right of first refusal, which would complicate that transaction if it were to occur.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert L. Bancroft, Chair
Selectboard

Nanette Rogers
Town Administrator