



**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES
Wednesday March 4, 2020
Town Hall Meeting Room – 6:30 PM**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Budget Workshop was held at the Town Hall Meeting Room on Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 6:30 pm. First Selectman Hayden called the meeting to order at 6:33pm. Selectman Doering and Selectman Ziobro were present. Fire Chief Kerry Flaherty and Assistant Fire Chief Troy Wolf were present as guests.
2. **BUDGET 2020/2021** – At the request of the BOS, Chief Flaherty gave his viewpoint regarding the future operational budget needs for the Volunteer Fire Department (VFD). Chief Flaherty spoke to the increased number of calls, increased number of volunteers and subsequent training needed along with the more complex nature of calls in the past several years including house fires, PFAS and hazardous materials. He also stated that the Town’s current model of a strictly volunteer force needed to evolve to a more modern model which would eventually include a combination of paid staff and volunteers.

Additional conversation with the VFD included potential shared service opportunities with surrounding towns and physical needs such as office space for the officers. He also spoke to a dispatching change which could realize cost savings on that line. First Selectman Hayden suggested that the BOS consider commissioning a study during the current fiscal year which would assess current and future fire department needs and lay out a path, including public feedback, to what a future department should look like for maximum efficiency and public safety.

The First Selectman also provided a detailed review of the overall draft budget and changes made since the last meeting of the BOS. Feedback from the BOS will continue to be incorporated in the Budget to be presented to the BOS on March 11th. The March 4th iteration provided additional department detail and was at a 1.88% increase over the current year.

3. **ADJOURN** – Selectman Ziobro made a motion to adjourn the workshop at 8:28 pm. Seconded by Selectman Doering. **Motion Approved Unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,
James M. Hayden – First Selectman