



Town of Harvard
Finance Committee
Minutes for February 12, 2020

Location: Upper Town Hall Meeting Room - 13 Ayer Rd

Present: John Seeley, Mark Buell, Jennifer Finch, Ray Marchica, Siko Sikochi

Absent: Don Ludwig, Richard Fellows

Others: Town Administrator Tim Bragan, Assistant Town Administrator/HR Director Marie Sobalvarro

John Seeley (vice-chair) called the meeting to order at 7:04pm

Minutes for approval:

Minutes of Jan 29, 2020 Tabled to next meeting.

Minutes of Feb 5, 2020 not presented.

Public Commentary: None

Business:

Document 1: Over level service budget requests list.

- Not all members have finished the rating sheet yet for Small Warrant Articles (SWAs) or Over level service budget requests.
- Some items should be pulled out into SWAs: Voting booth, Fire EMT, etc.
- If we are facing an override situation, we may not want to hire any new employees, this does not include the Facilities Manager position that is already approved and funded.
- The Board of Health (BoH) trash coordinator is a 2 year contract if approved.
- If zero of the listed requests were approved, we would still need roughly \$480k.

Tim reports that the price for paper recycling went up again. It was always free tipping before November 2019 when it went up to \$65/ton. In Jan it went up again to \$95/ton, which is now more than we pay for solid waste.

John would like to know our contractual salary increases annually. A higher number would mean delaying inevitable. A lower number could allow cuts to avoid an override.

Discussion on how to apply cuts between the departments, 2.7% blanket cuts between all, equitable, or asking departments that asked for more, to give up more.

Ray would like to know what the odds of needing another override after this year.

Tim says that many towns have overrides every year or every other year. We have gone 12 years without one. Since we don't know years 2 or 3 of the teacher contract, we can't predict if we'll need one in the near future.

Dick points out that the school budget has increased 20% in the last 4 years.

Liaison Reports: Jennifer reports that the teacher contract is not done, maybe the end of Feb.

Other business: None

Future agenda items: None

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 8:01pm

Supporting documents (1 Total):

1. Over level service budget requests list.

Upcoming meetings:

Feb 15, 2020 - 8:30am Upper Town Hall Meeting Room

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Finch