

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2024**

Chair Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m. for open session via Hybrid participation. Participating members were Mr. Wallner, Mr. O'Leary, Town Administrator, Michael Gilleberto, Laurianne Galvin and members of the Finance Committee. Mrs. Manupelli & Mr. Stuto were absent.

Chair Gonzalez stated that this was a budget hearing, but there will not be public comment.

Mr. Gilleberto stated that what was to be reviewed was a budget request and does not reflect what will be recommended at Town Meeting due to the financial limitations. A recommendation for Town Meeting will come forth in late March or April.

Chief Zimmerman presented the Police Department's budget request.

There was discussion that while the budget went down the union contract was not settled and those costs were not reflected in the request.

There was also discussion of the expiring federal youth substance abuse grant, which will expire in FY 2026, and that it is a priority to continue this funding.

There was discussion of the mental health programming which is ongoing.

There was discussion of the hybrid vehicles.

There was discussion of the upcoming transition to the regional dispatch. It's not for cost savings but to free up personnel. Both police and fire unions have agreed to this.

Time was 8:42 a.m.

Members of the Finance Committee introduced themselves.

Chief Stats presented the Fire Department's budget request.

Acknowledgement of recent passing of two retired Fire Chiefs.

There was discussion about how the callback and station coverage systems work.

There was discussion of the decrease in firefighters responding to callbacks and station coverage. The Chief requested four new positions to compensate for that and reduce reliance on calling back firefighters. This is something that has been discussed and on which work has been done over the past few fiscal years.

There was discussion of the staffing levels of nearby communities.

A brief recessed was called at 9:43 AM.

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The meeting reconvened at 9:53 AM

DPW Director Parisi presented the DPW budget request including sanitation, fuel, and water enterprise

There was discussion of the expiring contract for trash collection and the need to plan for going to toters / automated collection.

There was discussion about the condition of the roads.

There was discussion of the need for tree staffing and contracted services.

There was discussion of potentially surveying and establishing a program for repairing old/historic headstones etc.

There was some discussion of improvements to Damon Tavern and the Town Hall.

There was discussion of the water enterprise indirect costs, staffing, purchase of water, and anticipated rate increases.

The Board acknowledges the work of the DPW day in and day out, sometimes unseen. The community is overall satisfied with their work.

Last order of business. **ADJOURN**

MADAM CHAIR, I MOVE TO ADJOURN.

MOTION BY:	MR. WALLNER
SECONDED BY:	MR. O'LEARY

VOTED BY:	MR. STUTO	ABSENT
	MRS. GONZALEZ	AYE
	MR. WALLNER	AYE
	MR. O'LEARY	AYE
	MRS. MANUPELLI	ABSENT

VOTE: 3-0 (2- ABSENT)

ADJOURN: 11:05 a.m.

DATE



RICHARD WALLNER, CLERK

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A full recording of this meeting can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheNorcam1>.