

Select Board Minutes
Tuesday, June 9, 2020
2:00pm

The Select Board Regular Meeting was held virtually in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L.c.30A. S.20.

Select Board participants:

Chair Alice von Loesecke, Rich Maiore, Kara Minar, Stu Sklar, Lucy Wallace

Town Staff participants:

Town Administrator Tim Bragan, Assistant Town Administrator Marie Sobalvarro, Executive Assistant Julie Doucet

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

By a roll call vote, Wallace – aye, Maiore – aye, von Loesecke – aye, Sklar – aye, Minar – aye, the board voted unanimously to endorse changes of the meeting time to 10:00am and location to the field hockey field in front of the library and Bromfield School. The Lions Club has offered to donate seven smaller tents for use and the moderator will organize volunteers to help set them up.

Discussion and vote regarding changes to health insurance for retirees and active employees

Von Loesecke expressed the subcommittee's desire for all town employees and retirees to pay an increased amount of 30% of their health insurance premium. This is an increase from 20% or 25%. By a roll call vote, Wallace – aye, Sklar – aye, Minar – aye, Maiore – aye, von Loesecke, the board voted unanimously to increase health insurance contributions for all employees and retirees to 30% or 35% if necessary leaving retirees at 30% effective July 1, 2020. They are asking all union contracts to be opened to accomplish the savings necessary. The sentiment is to have all employees paying the same percentage to be fair and equitable. The school department will be expected to absorb the dollar amount necessary if the teachers' contract is not amended to reflect this change.

Von Loesecke outlined where funds will come from if the \$320,000 override does not pass.

Town \$96,000: 60,000 police Dept, 26,000 merit pay increase for employees,
10,000 from the Tree Warden.

School \$224,000: 3 positions will be eliminated (drama and two other teacher positions)

The health insurance premium increase for FY21 should provide \$283,000 in savings. The subcommittee is discussing other areas within the budget that can help cover reductions in state aid. The Select Board will need to vote on recommendations from the subcommittee.

Unemployment cost are sustainable for this fiscal year however next fiscal year will be an issue.

The board members agreed a handout must be provided to clearly and simply explain the budget scenario to voters. Von Loesecke will work on a Consider this piece for the Harvard Press.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm.