

TOWN OF RYE – SELECT BOARD

Thursday, November 5, 2020

8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Via Zoom

Present: Chair Phil Winslow (joined at 8:20 a.m.), Selectman Bill Epperson and Selectwoman Mae Bradshaw

Others Present: Town Administrator Becky Bergeron

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Selectman Epperson called the 2021 Budget Work Session to order at 8:00 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Statement by Town Administrator Becky Bergeron:

As Town of Rye Administrator, I find that due the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are:

*Utilizing Zoom for this electronic meeting. All members of the Select Board have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this or by clicking on the following website address: www.zoom.com
Meeting ID: 879-3454-9128 Password: 321147*

We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using Zoom or telephonically. Instructions have also been provided on the website at www.town.rye.nh.us.

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled.

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.

Attendance by Roll Call:

- Bill Epperson
- Mae Bradshaw

Note: *Phil Winslow was not available for the roll call as he joined the meeting at 8:20 a.m.*

II. 2020 Budget Work Session

Sewer Department

**Fund 2
4326-90**

Accepted: \$341,210

Presented by Lee Arthur & David Kohlhasse

Lee Arthur noted that the proposed Sewer Budget for 2021 has increased by \$18,501. The implementation of a full-time position accounts for 94% of the budget increase. The bond schedule change for the 11.78-million-dollar bond, from 2018 for plant upgrades in Hampton, accounts for 68% of the decrease. Rye's share of the plant upgrade is \$471,200. In addition, 30% of the budget has been decreased because of the elimination of the part-time position. Other line items that have increased include; engineering services, telephone, computer, printing, office supplies and Hampton transport.

Ms. Arthur reviewed the bond schedule for the Select Board.

David Kohlhasse noted that Dave Adams is working on the job description and other details for the full-time position. They will be able to start searching for someone to fill that position once that information is completed.

Ms. Arthur spoke about the current and future sewer rates, as compared to the needs of an aging system. She noted that the operating budget has a balance of \$762,304., as of the end of September. The capital fund balance is \$582,163., which can be used towards capital related expenses. It was also noted that the capital funds come from connection fees. With the current moratorium, there will be no connection fees coming in for a while.

Motion by Bill Epperson to approve the request of \$341,210 for the 2021 Sewer Budget and the changes that are contained therein. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Emergency Management

4290-17

Accepted: \$12,000

Presented by Police Chief Kevin Walsh

Chief Walsh reviewed the Emergency Management Budget for the Select Board. He highlighted the personnel training required for 2021. He also reviewed the equipment maintenance program.

Motion by Mae Bradshaw to approve the Emergency Management Budget for 2021 in the amount of \$12,000. Seconded by Bill Epperson.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Police Department

4210-15

Accepted: \$1,650,478

Presented by Police Chief Walsh

Chief Walsh reviewed some of the projected events the Police Department will be working on for 2021, which includes; personnel training, working with the schools and community outreach. He also gave an explanation to the Select Board in regards to replacement wages versus overtime wages.

Town Administrator Becky Bergeron noted that the salary increase reflects a 2.75% COLA, longevity pay and step increases. N.H. Retirement for the Police Department went from 28.03% to 33.88%, which reflects the increase in the NHRS rates starting July 1st. There is also an increase of 5.33% in health insurance, which is also reflected for all departments. There is also a slight increase in short-term disability of 4%, which affects all town departments.

Motion by Mae Bradshaw to approve the 2021 Police Department Budget in the amount of \$1,650,478. Seconded by Bill Epperson.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Animal Control 4414-38
Presented by Police Chief Walsh

Accepted: \$37,622

Presented by Police Chief Walsh

Chief Walsh reviewed his written narrative regarding calls for service. It was noted that animal control calls are down for 2020, due to the Stay-at-Home Orders during the Covid-19 pandemic and the closure of the beaches. Chief Walsh noted that since the orders have been lifted, there have been eight dog bite complaints. There has also been an increase since July in regards to wildlife issues that the ACO has been dealing with.

Motion by Bill Epperson to approve \$37,622 for the 2021 Animal Control Budget.

Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Parking Enforcement Fund 8
Presented by Police Chief Walsh

Accepted: \$46,011

Presented by Police Chief Walsh

Chief Walsh reviewed the parking enforcement budget for the Select Board. He also spoke about the pandemic challenges and how it has affected the 2020 Parking Enforcement Budget. He noted that the intent is to replace one of the mopeds every two years, based on mileage and maintenance. There has been very little down time for the mopeds because of proper maintenance and keeping them up to date.

Motion by Phil Winslow to approve \$46,011 for the Parking Enforcement Budget.

Seconded by Bill Epperson.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Outside Details	Fund 7
	Police Dept: \$108,923
	Fire Dept: \$ 2,500
	Capital: \$ 51,787

Accepted: \$163,210

Police Dept: \$108,923

Fire Dept: \$ 2,500

Capital: \$ 51,787

Presented by Police Chief Walsh

Chief Walsh noted that there has been a decrease in the number of outside details for 2020 due to Covid-19. Many activities at the State parks and Seacoast Science Center, along with wedding receptions and events that require a detail officer were cancelled.

Motion by Phil Winslow to approve \$163,210 for the Outside Details Budget.

Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Public Safety Building 4194-08
Presented by Fire Chief Mark Coutrea

Accepted: \$70,418

Presented by Fire Chief Mark Coutreau & Police Chief Kevin Walsh

Fire Chief Coutreau noted that the exterior repairs have been completed. The building will need to be painted in the future and estimates for that work for the CIP are forthcoming. There is some work that needs to be done on the HVAC unit which is estimated to be approximately \$8,000. The intent is to cover the cost through the facilities repair fund. Chief Coutreau reviewed the increases to the 2021 Budget.

Motion by Phil Winslow to approve \$70,418 for the Public Safety Building Budget.

Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Ambulance 4215-19 Accepted: \$189,737

Presented by Chief Coutreau

Chief Coutreau noted that the Ambulance Budget has taken the biggest hit during the pandemic. The CARE and FEMA reimbursements are not reflected in the budget, as they are reflected in the general fund. He noted that they had to immediately ramp up the internal prevention Covid protocols and educate the fire and police staff. There were a lot of PPE costs, which increased exponentially. The inventory for sanitizing supplies has also increased. He spoke in regards to the increase in the overtime budget line item. The 2021 Ambulance Budget that is being presented is taking into account Covid expenses that will continue into next year. Chief Coutreau pointed out that the professional training line item has increased for 2021 to cover paramedic school for one of the new department hires.

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept the Ambulance Budget of \$189,737 as presented.

Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Fire Department 4220-16 Accepted: \$1,686,071

Presented by Fire Chief Coutreau

Chief Coutreau reviewed the proposed 2021 Fire Department Budget. He pointed out the new line item in the budget to cover per diem shift coverage for six months. The line item for professional training will remain the same for 2021 because the Ocean Rescue Certification Course was not done this year. Line items increasing in the budget, besides the wages and health care expenses, include; software, physicals, and protective gear. The increase to the Fire Department Budget is 7.5% overall.

Motion by Mae Bradshaw to approve the Fire Department Budget in the amount of \$1,686,071., with the understanding that Chief Coutreau will meet with the Select Board to go over the details of the per diem. Seconded by Bill Epperson.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Beach/Lifeguards 4520-52 Accepted: \$80,390

Presented by Chief Coutreau

Chief Coutreau noted that the equipment purchases increased dramatically for the 2021 Lifeguard Budget. The Select Board received a proposal on the Shark Receiver Program, which Chief Coutreau is recommending that Rye take part in.

Motion by Mae Bradshaw to accept the Lifeguard Budget in the amount of \$80,390.

Seconded by Bill Epperson.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Town Custodian 4194-02 Accepted: \$100,012

Presented by Public Works Director Dennis McCarthy

Director McCarthy pointed out that the increases are for the wages, health insurance and retirement, as this is the first full year with the full-time custodian.

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept the Town Custodian Budget for \$100,012 as presented.

Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Public Works Building 4194-06 Accepted: \$14,550

Presented by Director McCarthy

Director McCarthy briefly reviewed the 2021 proposed budget for the Public Works Building.

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept \$14,550 for the Public Works Building Budget.

Seconded by Bill Epperson.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Public Works Personnel 4312-23 Accepted: \$761,926

Presented by Director McCarthy

Director McCarthy noted that this budget is driven by the employee contracts. He noted an increase in the temporary help line item.

Motion by Mae Bradshaw to approve the Public Works Personnel Budget in the amount of \$761,926.

Seconded by Bill Epperson.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Public Works Operation 4312-24 Accepted: \$642,880

Presented by Director McCarthy

Director McCarthy noted that this budget is the operations budget for purchasing. The paving line item has been held at \$400,000 for 2021. The Town will begin to look to catch up on the paving in 2021 if the budget sustains that level. The results from the pavement analysis should be received within the next month. This will be used as a guide for the paving funding level. The hope is to hold the \$400,000 amount for the next couple of years and then fall back a bit as the Town catches up on the paving projects.

There was some discussion on the drainage line item and what it covers. There was also some discussion about the salt line item.

Motion by Bill Epperson to accept the Public Works Operation Budget in the amount of \$642,880.

Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Street Lighting 4316-27 Accepted: \$4,500

Presented by Director McCarthy

Director McCarthy noted that the Town is finally starting to see the results of the conversion project to the LED lighting. The budget for 2021 has decreased by \$1,000.

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept the Street Lighting Budget in the amount of \$4,500 as presented.

Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Solid Waste Collection 4323-33 Accepted: \$292,332

Presented by Director McCarthy

Director McCarthy spoke in regards to the wages and temporary help line item. The other increase is in replacement and improvements to cover the cost of replacing the pavement at the site. He noted that some time in the future the Town will need to look at replacing the whole facility with a more modern and efficient operation, as the buildings need work and the older areas need upgrading.

Motion by Mae Bradshaw to approve the Transfer Station Budget (Solid Waste Collection) in the amount of \$292,332. Seconded by Bill Epperson.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye
Vote: 3-0

Solid Waste Disposal 4324-34 Accepted: \$265,800
Presented by Director McCarthy

Director McCarthy explained that the cost of tipping fees is contractually set and the Town is going into the second year of a five-year contract. However, the prices are going up fairly dramatically for the next five years. Transportation costs increase by about 5% each year, with two years left on that contract. There was review and discussion regarding the Town's tipping fees.

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept the Solid Waste Disposal Budget in the amount of \$265,800.
Seconded by Bill Epperson.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye
Vote: 3-0

Land Management 4520-55 Accepted: \$54,900
Presented by Director McCarthy

Director McCarthy explained there are a couple of increases. One is due to landfill monitoring and analysis for the Grove Road and Breakfast Hill Landfills. The other increase is for care of trees. The Town has a backlog of trees that need to come down, especially in the Beach Precinct.

Motion by Phil Winslow to approve \$54,900 for the Land Management Budget.
Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye
Vote: 3-0

Beach Cleaning Fund Fund 12 Accepted: \$38,102
Presented by Director McCarthy

Director McCarthy noted that equipment maintenance has increased a bit because the new beach rake requires a little more maintenance. The equipment comes from the State. The new rake is an excellent piece of equipment and does a much better job.

Chair Winslow pointed out that \$2,400 is expensed out for restroom maintenance; however, there have been no expenses noted in this line item for the past two years.

Director McCarthy agreed to follow up on this and have the information before going to the Budget Committee.

Motion by Bill Epperson to approve the Beach Cleaning Budget for \$38,102 with the proviso that there is further conversation about the \$2,400 for the restrooms. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye
Vote: 3-0

At 10:15 a.m., Chair Winslow recessed the work session for a 15-minute break.
The work session reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

Board of Adjustment 4191-10 Accepted: \$13,983
Presented by Planning/Zoning Administrator Kim Reed

The proposed 2021 Board of Adjustment Budget will remain the same as 2020.

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept \$13,983 for the Board of Adjustment Budget.
Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye
Vote: 3-0

Planning Board 4191-11 Accepted: \$176,714

Presented by Planning/Zoning Administrator Kim Reed

Planning/Zoning Administrator Reed presented the proposed 2021 Planning Board Budget in the amount of \$176,714. In the past, the consulting fees covered the costs for only Attorney Donovan. However, the Planning Board has been reviewing some unique applications that have involved septic, soils and wetlands. The consulting line has been increased for 2021 for the Planning Board to hire consultants to look ahead at what the potential impacts could be for development in Rye. Consultants who are hired for specific applications are paid for by the applicant to escrow. There is also an increase in the printing line item in order to cover the cost of flyers and mailers to Rye residents about the visioning session planned for 2021, which has not been done with the Planning Board since 2002.

Chair Winslow suggested reducing the membership dues from \$8,000 to \$6,000., as it does not appear that more than that has been expended in 2020.

Planning Administrator Reed reviewed the membership expenses and suggested compromising at \$7,000. Selectman Epperson and Selectwoman Bradshaw agreed that they were comfortable leaving the line item at \$8,000.

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept the Planning Board Budget in the amount of \$176,714.

Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Building Inspector 4240-18 Accepted: \$234,665

Presented by Town Administrator Becky Bergeron

It was noted that the Building Department still has an open position for a part-time building inspector. The Building Department Assistant's position is still a part-time position at 30 hours per week.

Town Administrator Bergeron noted that the salaries line is reflective of the Building Inspector's full-time position. It also encompasses the open part-time position at 24 hours and the administrator's position at 30 hours. There has been an increase in the contractor services line, which covers the expenses for the Town's septic consultant. A lot of the septic consultant expenses come back as revenue into the general fund, as these expenses are paid for by the applicant or resident.

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept the \$234,665 for the Building Inspector Budget as presented.

Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Executive Office 4130-01 Accepted: \$303,888

Presented by Town Administrator Becky Bergeron

Town Administrator Bergeron highlighted the increases in the budget, which are seen in the wages and consulting fees for HR Management. The contracted services line covers transcription services for all select board meetings and any subcommittee; such as, Town Center Committee and/or Cell Tower Committee.

Motion by Bill Epperson to accept \$303,888 for the Executive Office Budget.

Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Assessing Office 4150-20

Accepted: \$183,683

Presented by Town Administrator Bergeron

The increase in the budget are due to increases in the health insurance and retirement. There is also a 5% increase in the BMSI licensing fee. Next year is also a revaluation year for Rye, which will be covered under the capital reserve fund set up for those expenses.

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept \$183,683 for the Assessing Office Budget.

Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Finance Office 4150-21

Accepted: \$186,254

Presented by Town Administrator Bergeron

Town Administrator Bergeron noted that the Town will be recruiting for the finance position. The budget reflects the wages and benefits associated with that position, along with a 2.75% COLA increase for the treasurer and trust fund bookkeeper. There is a 5% increase in the BMSI software licensing fee.

Motion by Mae Bradshaw to accept \$186,254 for the Finance Office Budget.

Seconded by Phil Winslow.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Legal 4153-04

Accepted: \$158,320

Presented by Town Administrator Bergeron

The Select Board reviewed the proposed expenses for the 2021 Legal Budget.

Motion by Bill Epperson to accept \$158,320 for Legal. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Conservation Commission 4611-53

TABLED

Presented by Suzanne McFarland, Sally King & Karen Oliver

The Select Board has read the narrative that was submitted by Suzanne McFarland.

Suzanne McFarland stated there are two major improvement items for the Goss Barn. There is also an unfunded mandate that the Town is not compliant with that will impact money moving forward.

Referring to the Goss Barn improvements, Chair Winslow asked if there is a fund in Conservation for these expenses.

Sally King explained the money has been raised for the Goss Barn, based on the agricultural component of Goss Farm because that is why it was purchased. The money that has been raised is to be used for specific projects; such as, the pollinator garden and trenching for new water resources. They would like to use the money that has been raised for those projects. It is not sustainable to use those funds to pay for improvements to the barn itself. It was noted that there is approximately \$40,000 in the account at this time. The Commission intends to have that money go towards on the ground improvements. There has been a large increase in activity at the farm and the gardens have expanded considerably over the years. The Goss Farm has been a real success story for the Town.

There was further discussion about the needed improvements to the Goss Farm Barn.

Selectwoman Bradshaw suggested that the Commission consider establishing a capital reserve fund for the maintenance of the Goss Barn, which would be set up as a building maintenance fund approved by the voters through a warrant article.

There was also discussion about establishing a warrant article to fund immediate repairs that are needed on the Goss Barn for water intrusion.

Suzanne McFarland also explained the purpose of the Natural Resource Inventory which is going to cost the Commission \$15,000 to complete.

Town Administrator Bergeron suggested handling the expense as a Capital Outlay item for 2021 with updates to the document being handled under the Commission's yearly operating budget starting in 2022. Karen Oliver spoke to the Select Board in regards to the Conservation Commission's need to have their own counsel for monitoring and enforcement of restrictions placed on developments and conservation land. The Select Board agreed that the Conservation Commission should have counsel working on their behalf. There was discussion about how the legal expenses could be funded other than directly through the Commission's operating budget.

After discussion, it was agreed to table the Conservation Commission Budget, in order for the Commission to confirm their numbers under the consulting and legal line items. The Commission will bring their budget back to the Select Board before it moves on to the Budget Committee.

Tabled for further information from the Conservation Commission.

Mosquito Control

4414-39

Accepted: \$87,495

Presented by Tim Sanborn

Tim Sanborn noted that 2020 was the driest summer on record for New Hampshire. The drought impacted the mosquitos, as they rely on water for survival. The saltmarshes and containers were still the main source for mosquitos. The program controls nuisance mosquitos, other disease vectors and ticks, while promoting environmental stewardship. The Commission continues to look for ways to add value without increasing costs, and without sacrificing safety or science. He noted that a list of the Commission's goals for 2021 has been sent to the Select Board.

Chair Winslow questioned the budget of \$5,600 for ULV street spraying. Mr. Sanborn noted that the Town does not do street spraying and they haven't in years. He is not sure why that is included in the budget.

Janice Ireland explained that this amount was put into the budget for any emergency street spraying that may have to be done. This is what has always been done in the past.

The Select Board agreed to remove the \$5,600 from the budget, as it has not been used over the past several years.

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept the amount of \$87,495 for the Mosquito Control Budget.

Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Library

4550-58

Accepted: \$747,875

Presented by the Library Trustees & Library Director Andrew Richmond

Michael Moody, Library Trustees Treasurer, presented the proposed 2021 Library Budget to the Select Board. The wages and salaries reflect the 2.75% COLA. The merit pool has been cut from 1% to .87% for the coming year. This is used for increases in salaries or one-time payments to employees for performance awards. The non-comp related expenses are at a 1% increase. This is largely driven by a \$1,500 increase in monitoring costs. The other increases to the budget include; internet, and copier/printer lease, which is offset by printer user fees.

There was review of the heating fuel and electric line items. It was agreed that the heating line item could be reduced from \$10,000 to \$8,000., based on recent fuel rates and the past year usage.

Jeff Ross explained the performance-based increases used by the Library to compensate library employees. Library Director Andrew Richmond spoke further in regards to the employee compensation program.

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept \$747,875 for the Library Budget. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

*At 12:00 p.m., Chair Winslow called a recess to break for lunch.
Chair Winslow reconvened the budget work session at 1:00 p.m.*

Recreation Department 4520-50 Accepted: \$344,279

Presented by Recreation Director Lee Arthur & Gregg Mikolaities

Lee Arthur gave an update to the Select Board regarding the challenges faced by the Recreation Department during 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. She then went on to present the Recreation Budget for 2021. She noted that the main expenses for recreation operates out of the general fund. The programming operates out of a revolving fund, which is not part of the taxation. The proposed combined recreation budgets for 2021 represent a \$35,000 decrease, which is 5.5% over the two budgets. She reviewed the details of the recreation operating budget. She talked about the new recreation space at the Congregational Church and reviewed the programming expenses/revenues for 2020.

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept the Recreation Budget in the amount of \$344,279.

Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Patriotic Purposes 4583-59 Accepted: \$20,700

Presented by Recreation Director Lee Arthur

Ms. Arthur spoke in regards to the increase in the fireworks display costs.

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept the Patriotic Purposes Budget in the amount of \$20,700., with the Recreation Director working to find a more cost-effective firework program. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Revolving Fund Fund 9 Accepted: \$249,832

Presented by Recreation Director Lee Arthur & Gregg Mikolaities

Ms. Arthur reviewed the Revolving Fund 9 Budget for 2021. She noted that she budgeted for a normal year; however, they may see something very different moving forward. This fund covers the cost of programming but is offset with revenue received for those programs. Money for this fund does not come out of the general fund.

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept the Recreation Revolving Fund 9 Budget in the amount of \$249,832 as presented. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Heritage Commission 4590-57 Accepted: \$4,850

Presented by Peter White

The proposed budget is remaining the same as 2020. There was discussion about the windows project for the Town Hall and the mailers used for fundraising for that project.

Motion by Bill Epperson to accept the Heritage Commission Budget in the amount of \$4,850.

Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Town Clerk 4140-13 Accepted: \$7,400

Presented by Town Clerk Donna DeCotis

The Select Board reviewed the proposed 2021 Town Clerk Budget and did not have any objections.

Motion by Bill Epperson to accept the Town Clerk Budget in the amount of \$7,400.

Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Tax Collector 4150-14 Accepted: \$283,837

Presented by Town Clerk Donna DeCotis & TA Becky Bergeron

Town Administrator Becky Bergeron noted that the salaries and wages includes the 2.75% COLA and a mid-step increase. The retirement is going from 11.17% to 14.06% for the employees. Health insurance has increased 5.33%. Ms. DeCotis noted that there will be one election in 2021. She reviewed the increase to the postage line item, as more residents are using the online services which has increased the postage expenses for the Town.

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept \$283,837 for the Tax Collector Budget, as presented.

Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Elections 4140-03 Accepted: \$19,420

Presented by Town Clerk Donna DeCotis & TA Becky Bergeron

Town Administrator Becky Bergeron noted that the wages line item has increased to cover an increase in the election workers wages, due to the anticipation that Covid will still be an issue at the time of the election. There has also been an increase in food services for the election workers, due to the needs presented by the pandemic. Also, the ballot printing has increased substantially. Ms. Bergeron suggested that a separate line item be included in this budget for postage to cover absentee ballots.

The Select Board agreed to add a postage line item in the amount of \$1,200 to the Election Budget.

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept the Election Budget in the amount of \$19,420.

Seconded by Bill Epperson.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Energy Committee 4620-46 Accepted: \$500

Presented by Town Administrator Becky Bergeron

The Select Board did not have any concerns.

Motion by Bill Epperson to accept the Energy Committee Budget in the amount of \$500.

Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Town Hall Building 4194-07 Accepted: \$38,465

Presented by Town Administrator Bergeron

There was discussion in regards to the building maintenance line item. Town Administrator Becky Bergeron reviewed the maintenance items anticipated for the building in 2021.

Selectwoman Bradshaw spoke about the need to replace the first-floor windows in the Town Hall.

Ms. Bergeron reviewed some of the maintenance items that have been completed over the past two years.

She reviewed the details of the proposed 2021 Town Hall Building Budget.

After discussion and review, it was agreed to raise the building maintenance line from \$11,200 to \$25,200.
Motion by Bill Epperson to approve the Town Hall Building Budget in the amount of \$38,465., as amended. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Insurance 4196-12 TABLED

Presented by Town Administrator Bergeron

Ms. Bergeron requested the Select Board table the Insurance Budget, as the actual insurance costs have not yet been received.

Motion by Phil Winslow to table the review of the 2021 Insurance Budget.

Seconded by Bill Epperson.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Regional Agencies 4197-22 Accepted: \$56,840

Presented by Town Administrator Bergeron

Ms. Bergeron noted there is a binder at the Town Hall showing each agency's request and financial statements that they have provided. Janice Ireland has also requested that each agency provide a statement regarding how the agency has served Rye residents. There has been no increase in requests from 2020.

Selectwoman Bradshaw disclosed that she is on the Board of Trustees of the Foundation for the NH SPCA. She asked that the agency request be increased from \$600 to \$1,000., since it was confirmed by Police Chief Walsh that they take animals to the SPCA at least ten times per year. She pointed out that when they take in an animal, they have to do a complete health evaluation and it can be expensive.

The Select Board agreed to honor the request.

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept the Regional Agencies Budget in the amount of \$56,840., as amended. Seconded by Bill Epperson.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

General Government 4199-26 Accepted: \$117,110

Presented by Janice Ireland

The Select Board reviewed the proposed General Government Budget for 2021.

Motion by Bill Epperson to accept the General Government Budget in the amount of \$117,110.

Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Health 4411-37 Accepted: \$13,018

Presented by Town Administrator Bergeron

Ms. Bergeron stated that the current health officer has been servicing Rye for a long time and she has seen nominal wage increases over the years. Covid has really impacted the amount of work and that was the genesis behind having two deputies to help the health officer. In addition, there is a lot of work that the Health Officer does on behalf of the Town; such as, inspections of daycare centers and residential facilities, agricultural analysis for the farms, and monitoring and advising the Mosquito Control Commission for tick and mosquito spraying. The Health Officer has also worked since the inception of Covid. She has worked closely with the Fire and Police Chiefs to make sure the Town is working on a united front. She is also on-call 24/7 and answers her phone at all hours. The Health Officer also receives many questions and

complaints from residents in regards to issues such as; mold, animal waste, rodent problems and hoarding issues. Ms. Bergeron noted that the duties of the Health Officer have gone unnoticed for a long time; however, she thinks the increase in the stipend is appropriate.

The Select Board agreed to the increase in the Health Officer's stipend.

Motion by Bill Epperson to approve the Health Budget at \$13,018. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Direct Assistance

4442-44

Accepted: \$36,800

Presented by Town Administrator Bergeron

The Select Board reviewed the proposed 2021 Direct Assistance Budget. They did not have any issues or concerns.

Motion by Bill Epperson to approve the Direct Assistance Budget in the amount of \$36,800.

Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Parsonage

Fund 5

Accepted: \$10,000

Presented by Town Administrator Bergeron

The Select Board agreed that something should be budgeted for the Parsonage for any unanticipated expenses that may occur if the swap does not move forward. Ms. Bergeron reviewed some of the expenses that could occur. After some discussion, the Select Board agreed to put in an amount of \$10,000.

Motion by Mae Bradshaw to accept the amendment Parsonage Budget of \$10,000.

Seconded by Bill Epperson.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Debt Service

4711-67

Principal: \$261,233

Presented by Town Administrator Bergeron & Janice Ireland

Motion by Bill Epperson to accept the Principal Debt Service in the amount of \$261,233., as presented. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Debt Service

4711-67

Interest: \$53,970

Presented by Town Administrator Bergeron & Janice Ireland

Motion by Bill Epperson to accept the Interest Debt Service in the amount of \$53,970.

Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

Debt Service

4723-67

Placeholder: \$1

Presented by Town Administrator Bergeron & Janice Ireland

Motion by Bill Epperson to approve \$1.00 for the TAN Debt Service. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw - Aye

Vote: 3-0

