

Town of Randolph Budget Advisory Committee Meeting

01/19/2021

Zoom

Present: Jerry Ward, Rachel Putney, Michael Penrod, David Silloway, Cliff Rankin, Tamara Morgan.

Select board representative: Patrick French

Call to order: 1707.

Approve prior meeting minutes;

Selectboard update: Discussion regarding town meeting operations for March 2021. Town is required to 'vote to recess' town meeting, there is not an option to not hold a meeting for 2021.

\$250,000 for paving and not to include money for another tanker for East Randolph at this point. Trini Brassard is part of a committee to evaluate fire department needs, including vehicles. Currently, town has twice as many trucks as other towns that are our size. There is a mechanism in place to recoup cost of use of town fire trucks and other equipment (ie, uniforms), but there have been associated challenges.

Selectboard has not yet accepted the town budget for fiscal 2021-22. A doodle poll has been sent to participants. Two meetings to discuss must be made, still pending one town open meeting. Current bottom line on the increase is \$3.75. Change is due to how much is spent out of the reserve funds.

Improve Capital planning process:

Currently, stiff but effective communication process. Quick recommendations on paving to the town. Paving reserve, entering into fiscal 2020 with a deficit; this was remedied this year by funding from the reserve fund.

Questions from committee regarding budget:

PILOT others: Clara Martin, Gifford-Menig (tax stabilization agreement- 10 year, with gradual increase). Pilot number overstated by ~\$80,000. Clara Martin makes a payment in lieu of taxes. Based on appraisal of property value in town. Pat states that he is very happy with the way it is run. VTC is a PILOT member. Once per year. 0% until it is at 100%, but historically, 75%.

Primer on PILOT:

Common level of appraisal factor for state properties. Then add those amounts to grand list, to determine new grand list, if those land values were included. Then they pay us at an 81% rate (historically, 75%). Similar to Alternative Minimum Tax federally, but 'a little more fair'.

Any downside to charging the 1% meals room and meals tax, instead of the PILOT. Businesses would likely be unhappy.

Next meeting: 16 February 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 1808.