

MINUTES
BRISTOL SELECT BOARD
Tuesday, November 19, 2013

PRESENT: Select Board Members: Don Milbrand, Joe Denning, Shaun Lagueux, Betsy Schneider, Janet Cote, and Town Administrator Michael Capone

Mr. Milbrand opened the meeting of the Bristol Select Board at 5:35 PM.

New Business:

Work Session

Mr. Milbrand opened the work session with a discussion regarding the additional legal and assessing costs anticipated for 2014. The Town Administrator reviewed the information received from both Town Counsel and the Utility Assessor. Estimates for the additional assessing work that may be required based on the current number of abatements to be heard in 2014 was placed at \$45,000. Estimates for the additional legal work for the pending assessment challenges as well as the court case at Avery-Crouse was put at \$56,000 for 2014. An additional \$15,000 was estimated for regular legal work. This would put the legal budget for 2014 at \$116,000 for 2014. The Board discussed other possible options to consider and concluded that they would submit the number at \$116,000 at this time and amend it as additional information became available or matters were resolved.

The Board then discussed the matter of employee wage increases for the 2014 budget. There was review and discussion with regard to the amount of the increase and how to best categorize the increases. The Board discussed a merit based increase, but concluded this may be premature as there was not a consistent evaluation process in place to adequately support anything other than some type of "across the board" increase.

There was also discussion with regard to a "dollar or cents/per hour" increase as opposed to a percent increase. After some discussion with regard to the merits of either approach, the Board agreed that a 50 cent/hour increase for each employee would be their recommendation for the 2014 wage increase that would take effect on April 1.

The next topic discussed was the paving budget. The submission for this year is \$300,000, an increase of \$104,000 over the 2013 budget. The Board discussed the necessity of maintaining a consistent paving schedule and agreed to support the original submission.

They also discussed a review/update of the overall condition of the roads in order to determine what roads need to be rebuilt versus roads that just need paving. The Town Administrator was going to follow up on an initial contact he made with UNH earlier this year to get a price on an updated road study.

At this point in the meeting the Board agreed to schedule another work session for Monday, November 25 at 5:30 PM. The Town Administrator will have an updated budget worksheet that shows all of the adjustments made in previous work sessions in a new column "2014 Select Board". The Board will review this and consider any additional recommendations at that session.

With no further business to come before the Board, at 7:50 PM, Mr. Denning made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Mr. Lagueux. The Board voted 5-0 in favor of the motion.

Respectfully Submitted:

Michael Capone

Don Milbrand, Select Board

Joe Denning, Select Board

Betsy Schneider, Select Board

Janet Cote, Select Board

Shaun Lagueux, Select Board