

TOWN OF EAST KINGSTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Subject: Public Budget Hearing

January 18, 2022

Attendance: Select Board Members; Bob Nigrello, Chair; Joe Cacciatore; Rob Caron; Town Administrator, Grace Ruelle; Police Chief, Mike LePage; Fire Chief, Ed Warren; Town Treasurer, Barbara Smith

Public: Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd

Mr. Nigrello called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Mr. Nigrello shared the meeting goals.

Mr. Nigrello explained that he would share Warrant Articles as well.

Mr. Nigrello shared the Town operating budget. \$3,362,268.50 . the board has recommended the budget. It is an increase of approximately 3% over last year's budget. Mr. Nigrello shared the pluses and minuses. Mr. Nigrello shared that there was new software that helped organize the budget this year.

Mr. Nigrello shared the explanation of the increase of the cemetery budget. Mr. Nigrello said that last year's budget was very difficult to understand as numbers were not in the correct places.

Mr. Nigrello shared there is a \$20,000 increase to the Highway Department. He explained that there is a road with a collapsed culvert that needs to be repaired. There are also 3 or 4 other culverts on the same road.

Primex has also increased by \$12,000. Mr. Nigrello explained that health insurance is similar to last year, so it offsets the increase a little.

Mr. Nigrello explained that there is a new administrative aid for the planning board. Hiring a person with the expertise of digitizing documents is important for this position and that calls for higher pay.

Town Clerk pay is also increasing.

Town Building costs have increased dramatically. Utilities. Heat, electricity etc.

Mr. Nigrello shared the decreases in the budget.

Mr. Lloyd asked a question about accounting software. He asked who makes the software? Mr. Nigrello answered AccuFund provides the service that services municipalities.

Mr. Lloyd asked if the website is under contract. Mr. Nigrello shared that the website has been put on hold. Mr. Nigrello shared that for 2022 he would put the website on his list of things to do. Mr. Nigrello said another project he would like to do is to digitize the town records. Our plan is to reach out to other municipalities to see who has done this. Mr. Nigrello said we also need to put some thought into our town buildings.

Mr. Nigrello and Mr. Cacciatore summarized the Warrant Articles and shared slides with detailed explanation. Detailed explanation of the Ambulance fund and how the Town would like to use it in the future. Mr. Lloyd asked if we are keeping the fund, just changing the rules? Mr. Caron said yes. Mr.

Lloyd asked if this is a capital reserve. No, it is a revolving fund. Mr. Nigrello said no dollars going in, it is just a change of use.

Mr. Nigrello shared that a separate Warrant Article is asking for \$50,000 for the fire department vehicle fund. This is separate from the ambulance fund.

Cistern Warrant Article was discussed.

Town Office repair and maintenance discussed.

There was not any further discussion and no further questions.

Mr. Nigrello made a motion to adjourn at 6:57 pm. Mr. Cacciatore seconded. All board members were in favor.

Meeting minutes prepared by LeeAnne Miller

Approved 3/7/2022

Robert L. Nigrello

Joseph Cacciatore

Robert Caron