

**Select Board  
Minutes  
February 9, 2016**

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Leverett Town Hall, 7 m

Present: Peter D., Julie S, Tom H, Margie M., Lisa S.

**Police Budget Hearing**

Gary Billings presented a budget with a 2% reduction but said he was uncomfortable with it. He stated that between last year's and this year's cuts he has had to reduce the part-time officer hours by 51 eight hour shifts per year. He made cuts the following line items as well: gas, training, radio maintenance, professional dues, and supplies and equipment. The department has been trained on Narcan and will start to carry it in the vehicles, they also carry epi pens, and both medications have expiration dates and need to be refilled.

The board had questions about unfunded mandates and asked Gary for more information.

**Transfer Station Budget Hearing**

After a somewhat round-about discussion about the nature of the Transfer Station budget it was decided not to cut 2% and to increase the permit fee by \$5/year to \$30 to offset the cost of operation of the station. The justification for this was that the Transfer Station is a quasi "revolving fund" taking in what it uses to operate. The tipping fees and inspection fees have gone up along with a reduction in recycling reimbursement (metal is down) seemed to justify the increase. There are also many ways in which users benefit like electronics recycling, book shed, take it or leave it, etc.

The board asked Ananda to make a flyer to promote use of the station and highlight the above benefits. Additionally if Ananda wants to meet again she is welcome since there are many factors in play that may affect the TS budget.

**Business:**

The Personnel Board recommended a 2% COLA for town employees. To do this the total budget would go up less than \$10,000. **Motion: To give all town employees a 2% COLA increase. Vote: 3-0 in favor.**

The Select Board and Finance Committee discussed the necessity of having a separate budget hearing with the Regional School in lieu of the four-town meeting on Feb. 27. Steve Nagy had some questions he wanted answered. Peter suggested he email them to Margie could forward them ahead of the meeting to the proper person to address them at the four-town meeting.

The board decided to hold the budget hearing on March 29.

The MOA with FRTA concerning van service is not feasible according to John Ingram. He will contact them to let them know Leverett is not interested.

Margie informed the board that an easement from the town will be required for the repair/replacement of a septic system on which the house is on the opposite side of the road from where the new septic needs to be

Margie had a question about small department budget cuts. One department with a budget under \$500 put a note on it stating that they would not cut 2%. The board agreed that budgets under \$500 would not be cut.

Margie will send out a CTY message about the Food Drive. People will be asked to bring food to the Town Hall by March 1 (and could bring a donation when they come to vote).

Margie received a proposal from the Town of Amherst for a water line from Amherst to the Teawaddle Hill Rd. area. The design was estimated at \$56,000 and construction cost at \$1.8 million. Peter urged her to contact USDA in Hadley. Tom will assist.

The mail was read.

**Motion: To go into executive session with regard to legal matters and not to return to regular session (8:50 pm). d'Errico, aye, Shively, aye; Hankinson, aye.**