

Board of Selectmen

Hopedale Town Hall-Draper Room

December 23, 2019 3 PM, Regular Minutes

In attendance: Chair Brian Keyes, members Louis Arcudi and Tom Wesley. Interim Town Administrator Robert Reed. Also, in attendance were Assessors Lisa Alberto, Edward A. Holland Jr., and Donald Howes. Finance Committee members: Chair Samuel Hockenbury, Elizabeth Callahan, Derek Platt.

Mr. Keyes called the joint meeting to order at 3:04 PM. The purpose of the meeting was to consider the approval of a reserve fund request from the Board of Selectmen to the Finance Committee and also possible action by the Finance Committee on the request at the joint meeting. The reason for the request was to supplement the salary of Ms. Teri Gonsalves, Principal Assessor, who has notified the Assessors and Board of Selectmen of her intent to resign from her position with the Town of Hopedale and take a similar position with the Town of Millis at a substantial increase in salary.

Ms. Alberto and Mr. Howes explained to the Selectmen the excellent job that Ms. Gonsalves has done over the years and the reserve fund request was to try to keep her in Hopedale. The amount of the request is \$6,268.00 to match the Millis salary amount until the end of the year at which point the entire difference would be added to the Assessors' FY 21 budget. Ms. Gonsalves gave two weeks' notice and if the Town voted to increase her salary through the reserve fund she needed to know before the end of the week. This timeframe made this special meeting necessary.

Mr. Hockenbury explained that the budget projections for the next fiscal year were very tight and a one percent increase was being requested from Town departments for the upcoming budget discussions. He also explained that there was not a quorum of the Finance Committee at the meeting so no action could be taken on the request.

Mr. Keyes asked if Mr. Hockenbury thought that another Finance Committee, with a quorum, might be held before the end of the week. Mr. Hockenbury said that he did not think so. Mr. Arcudi asked what Mr. Hockenbury whether the Finance Committee would support the request if it was able to have a meeting. Mr. Hockenbury said that he doubted that there would be enough votes to approve the request. Mr. Arcudi stated that under the circumstances there was little reason for the Selectmen to take any action on the reserve fund request as no action by the Finance Committee was possible within the required timeframe.

Mr. Keyes agreed and said that he would accept a motion to adjourn. Mr. Wesley moved that the meeting be adjourned; Mr. Arcudi seconded, the vote was unanimous. The time was 3:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted;

Robert T. Reed

Interim Town Administrator