



Town of Thetford Vermont

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Selectboard Special Meeting Minutes Thetford Town Offices (w/Virtual Attendance Option)

Wednesday, December 13, 2023 7:00 PM

2024 Selectboard Budget Review Schedule

Selectboard members present: Chair Sharon Harkay, Vice-Chair David Goodrich, David Forbes, Li Shen, Steve Tofel (via Zoom)
Others present: Town Manager Brian Story

Sharon Harkay called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

- Appropriations

Brian said that all of the Social Service requests have remained level funding except for an increase in Tri-Valley Transit. A representative from Tri-Valley Transit was present, Mike Reiderer, and he explained the request for an increase.

Motion by Steve Tofel that we approve the appropriation of \$4800.00 for Tri-Valley Transit. **VOTE by roll call:** Steve Tofel – in favor, David Forbes – in favor, Li Shen – in favor, David Goodrich - in favor, Sharon Harkay – in favor. **Motion carried.**

- DPW
- Energy Commission
- Thetford Elder Network
- Public Safety

Brian said he made a few alterations to the budget. The amount to be raised by taxes for the general administration of government is going up 9.33%. When the highway fund is added in, the total percentage that taxes will increase is 6.3%.

There was discussion about several areas Brian thought worth noting: computer support and licensing, the patrol line item in the Police Department budget and radio and dispatch under Public Safety.

Sharon questioned the stipend for the Emergency Management Director, as this was increased because of COVID. Li remembered that a previous Selectboard already voted to decrease the amount. Brian will research previous minutes for the vote.

Brian mentioned the changes in the Transfer Station budget, with most of the increases being beyond the town's control.

Brian said the county tax is an estimate. If the cuts to the Orange County Sheriff's Office don't stick, we may see a dramatic increase in this tax.

The solid waste district has also not given a final budget amount.

Under Parks and Recreation, there is a modest decrease in salary. The new Recreation Director is getting an increase, but the amount is less than the previous Director due to less experience.

Sharon asked about the dues, meetings and travel increase. Brian said we are paying for professional development for the new Director.

Treasure Island will have some modest increases. Brian said he is budgeting to reflect more accurately what is happening at Treasure Island. A reserve fund will be used for some of the action plan items.

Brian said there will be some significant increases in the Department of Public Works.

Brian said there is an increase in the budget for guardrails and a significant increase in the line item for vehicles.

Brian will make a few corrections to be reviewed at the next regular Selectboard meeting.

- Adjourn

Motion by Steve Tofel to adjourn the special Selectboard budget meeting at 8:31 PM.

VOTE by roll call: Steve Tofel - in favor, David Forbes - in favor, Li Shen - in favor, David Goodrich - in favor, Sharon Harkay - in favor (5-0-0). **Motion carried.**