

TOWN OF BOZRAH
PUBLIC HEARING
BOZRAH MOOSE LODGE
July 24, 2018

Chairman of the Board of Finance Mike O'Connor called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Michael O'Connor, Michel Leask, Raymond Barber, Evan Gilman, Ann Chambers, Phil Lavallee

Others Present: 43 townspeople in the audience

1. Chairman Mike O'Connor asked for a response on the Board of Selectman and Board of Education budgets to be presented during the Public Hearing. The boards met and discussed their budgets considering the feedback from the voting on the last budgets.
2. First Selectman, Glenn Pianka, presented the Town's Budget to the audience by highlighting the specific changes from the last budget presented. The items he noted are below:
 - a. Page 1, line item 100, Board of Selectmen – 3% raise to the First Selectman and the other two selectmen
 - b. Page 2, line item 104, Town Clerk – decrease in salary for the Town Clerk Assistant
 - c. Page 3, line item 106, Assessor's Office – increase for mileage
 - d. Page 5, line item 115, Building Official – increase due to supplies
 - e. Page 6, line item 116, Planning and Zoning - increase for Zoning Enforcement Officer
 - f. Page 6, line item 120, Fire Department – Fire Fighter/ EMT was removed
 - g. Page 12, line item 190, Gen Gov Capital Projects – increase to Fire Department Capital Equipment, DPW Equipment, and Diesel Emission Grant was added to the budget
3. Board of Education chair, Jeanne Caplet, presented the Board of Education budget. She noted no changes had been made. All items in budget are necessary.
4. Comments/ Feedback on the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education budgets:
 - a. Jack Santos, South Road, commented that some items in the Board of Education budget could be cut such as art and music. He noted the students can be sent to other schools to save the town money. He also commented his support for the per-diem Fire Fighter / EMT to be put back in the budget.

- b. Lynne Skinner, Town Clerk, Fitchville Road, commented she opposes the cut of salary and hours of the Town Clerk Assistant. She presented the Board of Finance with letters from Town Clerks from other towns. Lynne Skinner noted that she relies on her assistant to help keep up with the duties of Town Clerk.
- c. Maureen Clifford, Bozrah Street, commented she opposes the cut of hours to the Town Clerk Assistant.
- d. Bill Ballinger, Lake Road, commented he opposes the cut of the per-diem Fire Fighter/ EMT and would like it out back in the budget. He noted the only way to guarantee coverage during the day is to have paid fire fighter. He noted 20% of calls are fire calls and it is not just an EMS issue.
- e. Jake Carson, Caroline Road, commented he opposes the cut of the per-diem Fire Fighter / EMT. He noted the department should not rely exclusively on mutual aid.
- f. Jeremy Tarasevich, Fitchville Road, commented he opposes the cut of the per-diem Fire Figher / EMT.
- g. Herb Zickwolf, Lake Road, commented that mutual aid is called often due to the lack of volunteers. He noted with the senior living facility being built they will need paid per-diem Fire Fighters / EMTs. He noted that they could write out the contract for the per-diem Fire Fighter / EMT could be written differently so that members of the department could be paid during the day and then volunteer at night.
- h. Glenn Pianka, Fitchville Road, commented on the decrease of hours for the Town Clerk Assistant. The Town Clerk Assistant for the 14/15 budget had \$1,200, 15/16 \$1,700 with an added \$2,500 to cover a 6 week absence for surgery, 16/17 \$5,800, 17/18 \$5,225 for 1 day a week and 2 weeks vacation and this years budget 18/19 \$2,900 for two days a month and 2 weeks vacation.
- i. Bruce Neil, Gifford Lane, noted he supports putting the per-diem Fire Fighter / EMT back in the budget.
- j. Shirley Moth, Assistant to the Town Clerk, commented on the work in the Town Clerk's office. She noted two days a month was not enough.
- k. Andy Skinner, Fitchville Road, commented that two days a week for the Town Clerk Assistant was not enough.
- l. Fred Potter, Gager Road, commented that the fire department should look at other options for daytime coverage. He noted it is mostly an EMS issue and can be temporarily fixed tomorrow with hiring American Ambulance.
- m. Linda Adelman, Bozrah Street, commented that the safety committee that is being put together should see data of ambulance calls, fire calls and number of responses.
- n. John Wade, Browning Road, commented that he supports the paid per-diem Fire Fighter / EMT. He noted the many buildings in

Bozrah including the chicken coops and the assisted living facility being built.

- o. Collin Laffey, Fitchville Road, commented that he supports the paid per-diem Fire Fighter / EMT.
 - p. Herb Nordgren, Rosemary Lane, commented that with staffed per-diem fire fighters / EMTs there will be quick responses to calls in Bozrah.
 - q. Ev Brown, Fitchville Road, commented that she supports the budgets and she supported the budget when the per-diem Fire Fighter / EMT was included. She also noted she is in favor of keeping a small school in town.
 - r. Mary Elizabeth Lang, Gifford Lane, commented that they should not take art and music out of the Board of Education budget. She noted she wants the kids to have a good experience.
 - s. Carl Zorn questioned if after this budget was passed that they could add in the paid per-diem Fire Fighter / EMT. M. O'Connor noted that it can be added after brought to a town meeting.
 - t. John Lewitz, Bozrah Street, commented his support of the fire department. He noted the flyer sent out regarding the per-diem Fire Fighter / EMT may have caused the budget to be voted down.
 - u. Andrew LaFLash, Fitchville Road, commented that American Ambulance was not a guaranteed option and he supports the per-diem Fire Fighter / EMT.
5. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted for the board,

Heather Barber
Recording Secretary