

Town of Dudley

Board of Selectmen, Highway and Cemetery Commissioners
Finance, Appropriation and Advisory Committee

Monday, February 29, 2024

Dudley Municipal Complex

71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA 01571

Room 321A

Approved 3/11/2024

Some matters have been taken out of agenda order but were typed up in agenda order for ease of locating information when necessary.

1. Open Meeting, Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance:- This meeting is being recorded.

The Chair of the Board of Selectmen will facilitate Item 2 of the agenda, with the understanding that the FAA Chair will chair the FAA committee concurrently including any allowable discussion, questions, business, or motions requested or required under Item 2.

The Honorable John Marsi opened the meeting at 6:35pm. He disclosed that the meeting will be recorded. In attendance were the Honorable Mark Landry and the Honorable Steven Sullivan.

The Honorable Jason Johnson and Honorable Kerry Cyganiewicz were absent. Also present for the FAA were Michael Mayotte, Joan Gardecki, Jon Currey and Jana Deschenes. Ann Gaudreau was absent.

2. Acceptance of Minutes – **FAA minutes. Michael Mayotte motioned to approve the minutes of May 22, 2023, October 16, 2023 and February 8, 2024. Unanimous Vote.**

3. Appointment – Chief Karlowicz, Chair of the Highway Superintendent Screening Committee, stated at our previous meeting of 2/26/24 that MJ Gatske would be a great fit as Acting Highway Superintendent. **Steven Sullivan motioned that based on the Highway Superintendent Screening Committee the Board approve MJ Gatske as Acting Highway Superintendent. Mark Landry seconded. Unanimous Vote.**

4. Public Business:

FY25 Budget Review and Recommendations: Michael Mayotte opened by asking about revenue projection. Richard Carmignani stated that he was taken by surprise last year when the town received more than anticipated motor vehicle excise. Mr. Ruda stated that DOR suggests we level fund this year. Mr. Carmignani stated that the second excise commitment has not come out yet and that will give us increase revenues. Regarding the cannabis excise it has increased due to sales. The Host Community Agreements are not being used as of now. The cemetery account has increased as well since the town is now providing full burial services. In the past we had a third-party contractor do the job. Also, dog fines have increased due to the police helping with past collections. Regarding the non-local receipts, Mr. Ruda stated that they have been sent to DOR, and have not received an opinion at this time. The increase for revenue is 4.09%. Regarding DCRSD we have not received solid numbers yet. They usually send out their budget mid-March, but it seems the Governor provides the numbers later every year. The Treasurer's budget has several fixed line items (insurance, property/casualty, etc) that are actual costs that we do not have a lot of wiggle room, but we can take those untouchable line items and pull-out state assessments and the two school assessment number we will be looking at a 0.73% increase in the municipal budget. Mr. Ruda informed the boards that we are in the process of union negotiations with both

highway/water/sewer and fire. We have an excess and deficiency of approximately \$53,000 and that money is available if needed. Also the Water/Sewer commissioners are working with the Treasurer's office are using the Abrahams Group to review the indirects and to do a true up. One way or the other the Abrahams Group will settle the dispute. With the Water/Sewer budget there was an increase. They need a secondary operator who needs to be certified and that will cost money.

Draft of Town Meeting Warrant – Mr. Ruda reviewed a very rough draft of the warrant. Some of the articles have been inserted. Article 7 – OPEB (post-employment benefits) in the amount of \$10,000 for Fiscal Year 2025. This amount will be taken out of the budget. Article 8 are the 42 annual salary increases for the Town Clerk and Town Treasurer. Article 9 is to fund the employee merit pool in the amount of \$19,839, Article 10 is to appropriate \$25,000 for mandatory dam inspections. Article 12 is a placeholder for the Planning Board Short Term Rental Bylaw, Article 13-acceptance of Pierpont Estates will be removed, Article 14 – Acceptance of St. Anthony Rd is ready, Article 15 – Merino Pond Dam and Lower Merion Pond Dam under the high hazard dam program. The dams are very costly to inspect and maintain. If we can match these grants with CIP stabilization it would need to be approved by both FAA and BOS. Article 16 is Eisenhower Drive acceptance. There is an escrow money left for the metes and bounds and we might be able to accept it in May. Article 17 is a solar grant for Mason Road School. The Water/Sewer Commissioners will also be adding a few articles after we open the warrant next week. Mr. Ruda stated that the budget on the municipal side we are keeping tight. We are waiting for the final numbers from the school and we are working closely on the budgets of the highway department and town hall, which were not included in last year's override.

5. Adjournment:

Mark Landry motioned to adjourn at 8:00pm. Steven Sullivan seconded. Unanimous Vote.

Respectfully submitted.

Michelle Jervis, Assistant Town Administrator

Documents physically identified, discussed, or considered by the Board:

FY25 Draft of Budget

Draft of Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Town of Dudley

Board of Selectmen, Highway and Cemetery Commissioners
Finance, Appropriation and Advisory Committee

Monday, February 29, 2024

Dudley Municipal Complex

71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA 01571

Room 321A

Approved 3/11/2024

Some matters have been taken out of agenda order but were typed up in agenda order for ease of locating information when necessary.

1. Open Meeting, Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance:- This meeting is being recorded.

The Chair of the Board of Selectmen will facilitate Item 2 of the agenda, with the understanding that the FAA Chair will chair the FAA committee concurrently including any allowable discussion, questions, business, or motions requested or required under Item 2.

The Honorable John Marsi opened the meeting at 6:35pm. He disclosed that the meeting will be recorded. In attendance were the Honorable Mark Landry and the Honorable Steven Sullivan.

The Honorable Jason Johnson and Honorable Kerry Cyganiewicz were absent. Also present for the FAA were Michael Mayotte, Joan Gardecki, Jon Currey and Jana Deschenes. Ann Gaudreau was absent.

2. Acceptance of Minutes – **FAA minutes. Michael Mayotte motioned to approve the minutes of May 22, 2023, October 16, 2023 and February 8, 2024. Unanimous Vote.**

3. Appointment – Chief Karlowicz, Chair of the Highway Superintendent Screening Committee, stated at our previous meeting of 2/26/24 that MJ Gatske would be a great fit as Acting Highway Superintendent. **Steven Sullivan motioned that based on the Highway Superintendent Screening Committee the Board approve MJ Gatske as Acting Highway Superintendent. Mark Landry seconded. Unanimous Vote.**

4. Public Business:

FY25 Budget Review and Recommendations: Michael Mayotte opened by asking about revenue projection. Richard Carmignani stated that he was taken by surprise last year when the town received more than anticipated motor vehicle excise. Mr. Ruda stated that DOR suggests we level fund this year. Mr. Carmignani stated that the second excise commitment has not come out yet and that will give us increase revenues. Regarding the cannabis excise it has increased due to sales. The Host Community Agreements are not being used as of now. The cemetery account has increased as well since the town is now providing full burial services. In the past we had a third-party contractor do the job. Also, dog fines have increased due to the police helping with past collections. Regarding the non-local receipts, Mr. Ruda stated that they have been sent to DOR, and have not received an opinion at this time. The increase for revenue is 4.09%. Regarding DCRSD we have not received solid numbers yet. They usually send out their budget mid-March, but it seems the Governor provides the numbers later every year. The Treasurer's budget has several fixed line items (insurance, property/casualty, etc) that are actual costs that we do not have a lot of wiggle room, but we can take those untouchable line items and pull-out state assessments and the two school assessment number we will be looking at a 0.73% increase in the municipal budget. Mr. Ruda informed the boards that we are in the process of union negotiations with both

highway/water/sewer and fire. We have an excess and deficiency of approximately \$53,000 and that money is available if needed. Also the Water/Sewer commissioners are working with the Treasurer's office are using the Abrahams Group to review the indirects and to do a true up. One way or the other the Abrahams Group will settle the dispute. With the Water/Sewer budget there was an increase. They need a secondary operator who needs to be certified and that will cost money.

Draft of Town Meeting Warrant – Mr. Ruda reviewed a very rough draft of the warrant. Some of the articles have been inserted. Article 7 – OPEB (post-employment benefits) in the amount of \$10,000 for Fiscal Year 2025. This amount will be taken out of the budget. Article 8 are the 42 annual salary increases for the Town Clerk and Town Treasurer. Article 9 is to fund the employee merit pool in the amount of \$19,839, Article 10 is to appropriate \$25,000 for mandatory dam inspections. Article 12 is a placeholder for the Planning Board Short Term Rental Bylaw, Article 13-acceptance of Pierpont Estates will be removed, Article 14 – Acceptance of St. Anthony Rd is ready, Article 15 – Merino Pond Dam and Lower Merion Pond Dam under the high hazard dam program. The dams are very costly to inspect and maintain. If we can match these grants with CIP stabilization it would need to be approved by both FAA and BOS. Article 16 is Eisenhower Drive acceptance. There is an escrow money left for the metes and bounds and we might be able to accept it in May. Article 17 is a solar grant for Mason Road School. The Water/Sewer Commissioners will also be adding a few articles after we open the warrant next week. Mr. Ruda stated that the budget on the municipal side we are keeping tight. We are waiting for the final numbers from the school and we are working closely on the budgets of the highway department and town hall, which were not included in last year's override.

5. Adjournment:

Mark Landry motioned to adjourn at 8:00pm. Steven Sullivan seconded. Unanimous Vote.

Respectfully submitted.

Michelle Jervis, Assistant Town Administrator

Documents physically identified, discussed, or considered by the Board:

FY25 Draft of Budget

Draft of Annual Town Meeting Warrant