

FREEMAN'S REPORT ON THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING OF APRIL 20, 2014

Note: (1). These are not official minutes -- -- just notes taken by me. Official minutes will be available from the Town Office and will be posted on the Town web site and at the Town Office and other places following Board approval at the next meeting.

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(3). Reports of earlier meetings and some supplementary materials are available at my Town Meeting website: www.singingbridge.net.

THE MEETING: The only item on the agenda was to the discussion of the draft Town Budget prepared by the Financial Advisory Committee (FAC). There was one member of the public present plus four members of the FAC

The draft budget did not include final figures from the School Committee. They will be available at the School Budget Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 19 at 7 PM

. Mary McDonald guided the group through the draft budget noting the major increases and decreases. The projected mil rate, based on the draft, was 7.527, compared with the actual mil rate for fiscal year 2024-15 of 7.280.

After this review, the Selectmen considered possible changes in individual line items, as follows:

- cutting the appropriation to the Property Reassessment Reserve Fund from \$5,000 to \$2,500. This passed on a 3-0 vote.
- cutting the appropriation to the Todd's Landing Reserve Fund from \$5,000 to \$2,500. This passed on a 2-1 vote with Birdsall opposed.
- cutting the appropriation for Capital Improvements in the Solid Waste Management budget from \$3,500 to \$1,500. This passed on a 2-1 vote with Birdsall opposed.
- cutting the appropriation for Capital Expenses – Paving from \$381,900 to \$190,000 by deleting appropriations for paving the Town Office Parking Lot (\$16,400), Knubble Rd. (\$48,000), and Ledgemere Rd (\$51,000). This passed on a 2-1 vote with Birdsall opposed.
- cutting the appropriations for the Patten Free Library and 12 area charities such as Bath Area Food Bank. This motion failed to receive a second.

With these changes, the projected mil rate was reduced to 7.27.

The draft budget with the above changes will be presented at a public hearing on Wednesday, May 20 at 7 PM The next meeting of the Selectmen will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, April 28 at the Town Office.

Prepared and distributed by Rick Freeman