Preston Board of Selectmen
Special Meeting
Budget Workshop
Thursday, March 7, 2019
Preston Town Hall
5:30 pm

BOS Present: Robert Congdon, Michael Sinko, Lynwood Crary
BOS Excused: None

Call to Order
1st Selectman Congdon called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm

Budget Workshop
• Public Works
  Suggestion to combine Public Works Director's salary with one of the CDL driver's positions to have a Public Works Director.
  $10,000 added for tree removal
  $282,700.00, $199,539.00 is Town Aid for Roads (TAR) money. Net amount taxpayers pay is $83,161.00.
• Town Garage
  Fuel tanks will be replaced using LOCIP
• Fire Department
  Paid staff budget is going from $269,000 to $533,000. Before 19:40
  Will discuss with Ledyard at the March 12th meeting.
• State Police
  State Police can assign 2 “top step” officers, which would cause the Town to go over budget.
  1st Selectman Congdon suggested submitting the current budget and try to convince the Lieutenant not to send 2 “top step” officers.
  L. Crary stated he would still like to put some “seed money” in the budget for Norwich or Ledyard.
• Animal Control
  2% wage increase.
  No other changes
• Public Safety Advisory Committee
  No change
• United Community Services
  $27,021.00
• Health Director
  No budget necessary because of UNCAS Health District.
• Transfer Station
  $12,000.00 increase, due to bulky waste charges.
  L. Crary suggested increasing the line item for maintenance, because the transfer station needs to be cleaned up.
  1st Selectman Congdon stated that if $4,000 was added to the budget it would fund 2 employees
working 1 Thursday a month to clean up and maintain the transfer station.

- **Food Inspection**
  No budget necessary because of UNCAS Health District.

- **Parks & Recreation**
  Budget already approved

- **Youth Services**
  $14,000.00 grant that the Town matches.

- **Senior Affairs**
  Wages have been adjusted to a 2% increase.

- **Library**
  Budget needs to be reduced.

- **TVCCA**
  No change from last year

1st Selectman Congdon stated that the auditors have indicated Town Hall needs additional employees to acquire segregation of duties. Cross checking and segregation of the Treasurer and Parks & Recreation is needed. Also, assistance with overseeing the flow of grant money.

1st Selectman Congdon noted that he will have everything in the budget with totals, for next Thursday’s meeting.

**Public Comment**
Andy Bilodeau, Preston resident stated that the BoS indicated the library was over budget because salary was increased more than 2%. If the BoS does not hold them to the 2% salary increase, what keeps other departments from creating a need for greater than 2%?

1st Selectman Congdon stated that was why it was brought up tonight, so the BoS can look at it.
A. Bilodeau asked if it was going to be reduced to 2%.
1st Selectman Congdon answered that is a 3 person decision.
A. Bilodeau asked why can’t the Director of Finance perform the segregation of duties needed.
1st Selectman Congdon answered that is an option.

**Adjournment**
A motion was made by M. Sinko and seconded by L. Crary to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 pm. All in favor, Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Charpentier
recorder