



## **Select Board**

Monday July 6, 2020 @ 5:30 P.M.

Remote Via Zoom Meetings

Public Hearing

Southwest Harbor

### MINUTES

I. Chairwoman Lydia Goetze called the Public Hearing on the School Budget & Public Works Garage to order at 5:31 pm. In attendance, Kristin Hutchins, Chad Terry, Ryan Donahue, Snap Willey, Manager Justin VanDongen, and Assistant Town Manager Marilyn Lowell, Nancy Thurlow from AOS 91, School Principal Rhonda Fortin, School Board Members Jim Sawyer and Ingrid Kachmar, Susan Allen, and John Bench.

#### II. School Budget –

Lydia Goetze asked for a summary on how the budget may have been altered after Covid-19.

Nancy Thurlow explained that the school board went back and reviewed the budget and paired down some items, they removed the additional expenses with exception of Special Ed that was required to remain. Increase overall of 3.8%, the amount for taxation increased 2.37% without debt services, 2.19% with debt services. Healthcare came in around a 6% increase as opposed to the original 10% estimate. Ingrid Kachmar added that the things that got pulled out of the budget will be requested again once on the other side of the pandemic.

Chad Terry asked a question regarding the decrease in the reserve for buses, Nancy Thurlow explained, they did not qualify for a bus this year, they extended it out to purchase the bus in the next fiscal year.

Dick Diamond asked if the percentage could be given as a monetary number of what was removed from the budget, that amount is around \$150K.

#### III. Public Works Garage –

Dick Diamond asked how much would property taxes increase in relation to the passage of the proposed town garage. Justin VanDongen answered that the bond would have a declining debt service, the first payment would be \$129,000, the net effect on taxes would be approximately \$46.00 per average tax bill, the assessed value of which would average \$200K.

Ryan Donahue clarified that it is a 30 year debt service. Dick Diamond asked a follow up question regarding the total increase to taxes with the new budget, Justin VanDongen clarified the debt service for this project would not be on this fiscal year's tax bill, it would be on the FY22 budget.

The estimated mil rate is \$14.40. Discussion was had on area mil rates in comparison to Southwest Harbor's.

Justin VanDongen discussed what would happen if we do not approve the Town Garage. It will cost money to get us through until it is approved by using a temporary space with this current building. Dick Diamond asked about the lost money of the engineering plans if it does not pass, Justin VanDongen stated he did not feel so if the same garage was put out to bid, however if the

plan was changed it could cost another \$40-50k in design fees. Discussion was had on the finish date for the project and if it could be finished before winter. Chad Terry expressed he felt we will need a rental no matter which way the vote goes, as delays happen in construction.

VIII. Next Meeting Date:

Monday July 13, 2020 Public Hearing Regular Select Board Meeting

IX Adjourn: Motion made by Ryan Donahue to adjourn the meeting at 6:34 pm, seconded by Snap Willey passed 5-0-0.