

Greensboro Selectboard

November 13, 2024 Budget Meeting – Minutes

[This was a hybrid meeting held at the Town Offices]

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: MacNeil, David Kelley, Eric Hanson, Bobbie Nisbet

SELECTBOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Ellen Celnik

OTHERS PRESENT in person: Kim Greaves, Jennifer Lucas, Josh Karp, Peter Romans

OTHERS PRESENT remote: Christine Armstrong

CALLED TO ORDER: 1:00 PM

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Treasurer Brett Stanciu is out on medical leave and Jennifer Lucas has been helping with the budget process.

FY 2026 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

The board discussed the draft FY26 budget. Items discussed included:

- **Employee compensation.** The federal COLA is 2.5%, discussion of employee wage increases at 3.5% (COLA +1%) and 4.5% (COLA + 2%).
- **Remaining ARPA funds.** Josh asked how much is left of the \$77k in ARPA funds earmarked to offset employee compensation. Should any remaining funds be used in FY25 or FY26 to offset wages?
- **Road Crew Union Contract.** Bobbie said that due to receiving the draft union contract late in the year, it's possible there's not enough time to reach an agreement before the FY26 budget is completed. This would mean that the first year the town budget is impacted by the union contract would be FY27.
- **Employee health care plans.** Even though health insurance costs are expected to increase by about 20%, Kim asked the Board to leave employee health care benefits and contributions unchanged, given Brett's current health condition.

Board members agreed, and will vote on this at the 11/13 regular selectboard meeting.

- **Unexpected gains from FEMA.** Josh said considerable funds, up to \$500k, are expected to be received from FEMA to offset town gravel use, employee flood-repair labor and equipment flood-repair use. He asked, how should the town plan to use these funds? Should they be used to offset some road budget increases in FY26? Should all these funds be earmarked for specific uses? Should a portion of these funds be used to increase the balance of the general fund? Do the voters need to have a say about the use of these funds?
- Eric said at next week's budget meeting on 11/20, the board should expect to begin the cutting process for the draft FY26 budget.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 2:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Josh Karp – Selectboard Clerk