

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, February 27, 2019
Swampscott, MA 01907**

ATTENDANCE: Selectmen Naomi Dreeben, Chair Peter Spellios, Vice Chair Pat Jones, Selectmen Spathanas, Selectmen Hause, Town Administrator, Sean Fitzgerald,

Pledge of Allegiance 7:09pm

No Resident Comment

Chair Report

Thank you to all dept. heads for attending tonight. We will not be talking about the 40R district tonight. Swampscott Idea Exchange for School Building - Sat. 3/9/19 – all were welcome, time for residents to voice what they envision for the new middle school. The event starts at 10:00 SHS, MSBA last week to enter feasibility stage.

Presentation of the FY 2020 Budget—Town Administrator, Cheryl Stella and Ron Mendes

Town Administrator Thanked all for their work on the budget.

Fiscally responsible and smart investments

Tax policy guideline of a 2.0% tax levy, plus new growth

Eliminate the use of free cash to support the operating budget

Overall town budget increased 1.9%

School budget increase 2.0% Far below 5 years historical averages of 3.0%-3.5%

Smart investments to build a brighter future

Chapter 70

Revenue

Property taxes- 73%

State aid 8%

Local Receipts- 9%

Inter-fund revenue- 1%

Enterprise fund revenue- 9%

Swampscott is working to control Taxes-

FY Subtotal (net tax levy) \$49,813,505

Average single-family tax bill has decreased in the last two years.

Local receipts- Motor Vehicle Excise, Meals Tax, Nahant School Tuition, Licenses and Permits

Other Non-real estate Revenue- Cherry Sheet offsets support to public libraries- 10.51%

Subtotal Local receipts- 3.64%

State Aid - \$5,716,285

Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Revenue- \$2,500,000

Licenses & Permit Fee Revenue- \$468,569

Meals Tax Revenue- \$275,000

Local Receipts- All- \$5,795,809

Summary of expenses and revenues- subtotal from one-time revenue – 5.61%

Tax Policy guideline set in Oct.

Budget Memo to Dept. heads sent in November
Town Accountant reviewed line items with dept. heads
Dept heads submitted budget to the TA and Accountant
On-gong review of request, further reductions, additions
Budget Expenditures- Total Public Schools \$29,964,608
HR- \$968,736
Public Safety- \$7,764,622
Public Services- \$3,301,178,227
Legislative/Town Meeting \$253,200
Community Economic & Development- \$640,276
Administration and Finance- \$3,494
Legislative/ Town Meeting- \$253,200
Peg Access Funds- \$ 190,444
Enterprise fund- \$6,335,212
General Fund- \$15,829,141
Total proposed budget- \$68,741,643
Town Moderator- \$200
Finance Committee- \$253,000
Selectmen- \$21,500
TA- \$275,969
Town Accountant- \$256,606
Assessor- \$190,739
Treasurer/ Collector- \$901,017
IT- \$515,116
HR- \$496,800
Town Clerk/ Elections- \$220,980
Community & Economic Dvlp- \$222,664
Building Dept.- \$232,364
Health Dpt.- \$109,048
Recreation- \$62,800
Facilities- \$532,000
Solid Waste/ Recycling- \$1,250,000
DPW General & Cemetery- \$1/327,715
DPW- \$191,463
Police and Harbormaster- \$4,098,076
Harbormaster- \$28,500
Fire Dpt.- \$3,606,221
Emergency Management- 9,000
Senior Center- \$139,665
Veterans Services- \$68,200
Library- \$760,871
Public Schools- \$29,964,608
Debt Service- \$3,375,510
Employee Benefits- \$11,472,241
Sewer Enterprise Fund- \$2,472,788
Water Enterprise Fund- \$3,862,424

CAPITAL

Beach Entrances, New Playground Equipment, Fleet Upgrades, Upgraded Public Works Equipment, Life Saving equipment, Electric Cars, Repair Sea Walls, New Street Lights, Road Re Surfaced, Traffic Safety Equipment, Tactical Gear

RESERVES SUMMARY

Stabilization Funds & Free Cash as a % of the Budget- 15.52%

*Next Steps- Detailed review of proposed budget with BOS/ Finance Committee through March and April
Dpt. heads present budget to BOS/Finance Committee upon request*

Review of FY2020 Capital plan with BOS/Finance Committee

Capital Plan Approved

Final Finance Committee recommendations presented at Annual Town Meeting on May 20th

Swampscott is working to control taxes

Opened up for questions:

Selectmen Spellios asked about solid waste and the change that will be happening. Right now, we are not paying tipping fees, but that may be changing. Will have meeting with company to discuss.

Discussion on Stabilization with free cash

Discussion on Forecasting and projecting and data analysis for building permits and new growth

1st year that we will have balanced the budget without using free cash

Selectman Spellios thanked the school dept. in coming in under 2% in their School Budget

Financial discipline will give us the financial freedom to do what we need to do for the town

Swampscott's current overlay balance is \$778,404

Public presentation is coming soon on the Idea Exchange

Swampscott Conservancy met with Sean and Gino to talk about initiatives that they can help with

Town will partner with a group to launch ideas and make them a reality

*Motion to open the 2019 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Selectmen Dreeben seconded by Selectmen Hause
all BOS members were unanimously in favor*

One citizen petition has been certified for TW

Discussion of Timetable to Approval of Financial Guidelines

Discussion of Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings

Discussion of Board of Assessors' Overlay

Discussion of Stabilization Accounts and Free Cash

*Discussion of Issuance of RFP for 26 New Ocean Street- C & L Liquors working on a new RFP and hope
as soon as next week will be ready for the board to look at- lease is up in February, but the lease will
continue on a month to month -*

TA will talk about the membership of the Traffic Advisory Committee

Town Administrator gave a week in review along with department head updates.

*Danielle Strauss spoke about the health and wellness fair to be held on Sunday, 10-2 p.m. at the High
school- over 35-40 vendors- free for the public- free raffles and free demo classes*

Thank you to Gino and Sean for the 22 historical lights going up- possibly more lights going up

*Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Selectmen Hause the motion was seconded by Selectmen
Spathanas all BOS members were in favor.*

