

**Durham Budget Committee + Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
January 15, 2019**

**Call to Order:** Milton Simon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Board of Selectmen Members Present:** Chairman Kevin Nadeau; Vice Chairman Mark Blake; Selectman Todd Beaulieu; Selectmen Rob Pontau; Selectman Richard George (arrived late)

**Budget Committee Members Present:** Milton Simon; Jill Gastonguay (arrived late); Richard Emmons Jr.; Marc Farrin; Leigh Fisher; Michael Clark; Neil Berry; John Simoneau; Brian Pike

**Also Present:** TA/AA Ruth Glaeser; Road Commissioner Calvin Beaumier; Fire Chief Joseph Moore; Tammy Quimby; Kathy Dion

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Done

**Election of Officers:**

**Neil Berry Moves to nominate Milton Simon as Chairman. Leigh Fisher Seconds. Motion Carries 8-0.**

**Rich Eammons Moves to nominate Brian Pike as Vice Chairman. John Simoneau Seconds. Motion Carries 8-0.**

**Kevin Nadeau calls the Board of Selectmen meeting to order.**

Milton Simon asked who will be recording meeting minutes throughout the budget cycle. Ruth Glaeser told him that Kathy Dion would do it.

Kevin Nadeau explains that this meeting represents the first joint Board of Selectmen + Budget Committee meeting. The Town is trying this model in 2019 in an effort to streamline the process.

Ruth Glaeser presents an overview of what the 2019 Budget looks like for Durham. Kevin Nadeau explains that there will be one warrant article at Town Meeting for the entire Debt Service that the Town has already approved. Ruth presents the Estimate Tax Impact (assuming no change in town valuation or state reimbursement) will increase the Mil Rate 1.12 (5.7%) to 20.82, which means an increase of \$112.23 per \$1,000 valuation for taxpayers.

**Public Works Budget:**

Calvin Beaumier presents the Public Works budget for 2019. He begins by looking back at 2018, citing the Department completed 5.51 miles of road re-construction at a cost of \$336,347. The Department spent \$1,865,973.73 out of a \$2 million bond, leaving \$134,026.27 remaining project funds. Calvin suggests spending that money on Quaker Ridge Road.

Calvin explains the major challenges for the Public Works Department in 2018 included a tight labor market to fill the roster and mechanical issues with older trucks. While the Department underspent in labor, insurance and paving, the Town should expect increases in 2019 in health insurance, utility expenses and vehicle maintenance.

Calvin explains he is seeking a 15.37% increase in the Winter Roads budget for 2019, which includes an 80% increase in winter equipment maintenance. Jill Castonguay asks him for more detail on what went catastrophically wrong? Rob Pontau suggests that Calvin give her the itemized list he created with the Board of Selectmen of everything that needs to be done on each truck. Budget Committee member Richard Eammons says, “we kind of expected this because we didn’t approve the plow truck last year.”

The proposed Public Works Operating Budget for 2019 is \$1,279,889, which reflects an increase of 3.16% over 2018.

Kevin Nadeau challenges the Public Works Operating Budget to be flat this year because he feels there’s enough cushion/flexibility in there to move things around. He said Calvin did a really good job with that in 2018.

Kevin Nadeau says that tonight we’re hearing presentations and asking questions and not planning on making any recommendations. The plan moving forward is to get through the rest of the presentations over the next 3-4 meetings, then the Board of Selectmen will make their recommendations by the end of January. The Budget Committee takes it from there, and will make their own recommendations or agree with those made by the Board of Selectmen. All recommendations will go before the voters at Town Meeting in April to accept, reject, or do something different.

The board members take a brief break at approximately 7:30 p.m.

After the break, Calvin explains that there was a balance of \$460,299 in the Public Works Capital Fund as of 12/31/18. The 2019 Capital Request of \$939,995 includes \$236,500 for a new plow truck. Discussion follows about the process of purchasing a plow truck.

The Capital request also includes \$653,495 in outstanding debt, including Public Works Facility Bond, Equipment Bond, Road Bond 2016 and Road Bond 2018.

Kevin Nadeau says that ideally, we would purchase a new plow truck this year out of Capital Reserves and another next year. That would replace the two 20+ year-old trucks and update the fleet for now.

Discussion continues about Capital Reserves, then Kevin Nadeau explains that the Budget Committee will make two separate recommendations: one on the plow truck, one on the Capital Fund.

Calvin continues with the Proposed Road Bond 2019, which includes seven roads (5.78 miles) for a total 10-year Bond of \$2,056,440.94 (\$355,785.63 per mile). It is anticipated that we can use the unspent 2018 Road Bond to complete the Quaker Ridge Road project.

A discussion begins about the benefit of doing feasibility studies on spending in the Public Works and Fire/Rescue departments. These studies would be done before Town Meeting, but if the Budget Committee wants to do them, the Board of Selectmen is open to talking about it.

**Rob Pontau Motions to adjourn at approximately 9:00 p.m. Jill Gastonguay Seconds. Motion Carries 5-0 by the Board of Selectmen.**

**The next joint Budget Committee/Board of Selectmen meeting will be Thursday, January 17, at 6:00 p.m. at the Eureka Community Center.**

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Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy Dion  
Meetings Secretary