

The Board of Selectmen met in special session to review department budgets with department heads.

The Cemetery Director discussed how cuts to his budget result in the elimination of a permanent part-time employee and some temporary staffing.

The Town Administrator briefly discussed the Veterans Agent budget and stated that the Town may be required to make a change in how it provides these services in the near future to be in compliance with state regulations.

The Water Superintendent indicated the Town Administrator's budget recommendation results in the elimination of a meter reader position and an administrative assistant position. Mr. Schultz also mentioned that the Board of Water Commissioners had requested he prepare an article for the Town Meeting Warrant authorizing participation in MWRA Local Pipeline Assistance Program.

The Selectmen agreed to discuss with the Water Commissioners, their recommendation.

The Manager of Buildings and Facilities provided an overview of his budget. He highlighted a potential funding problem related to the scraping and repainting of the pool. He also mentioned a capital budget issue related to a new room off the rink to store the new, larger Zamboni.

Mr. Brownsberger stated his desire to examine more closely the labor staffing levels in the grounds function.

Mr. Looney highlighted a need for additional technical staff support for the Town's network and also for project management services to coordinate the many capital projects in the community.

The Director of Community Development provided an overview of his department's budget. He also reviewed a separate budget estimate for staff support related to development activities at McLean.

Mr. Brownsberger inquired of Mr. Gatzunis, which position in his office he felt to be the most dispensable.

Mr. Gatzunis replied that his department has already reduced its staffing by eliminating an inspector position that would not be restored until the McLean development began.

Mr. Brownsberger inquired of the staffing levels in the Planning function.

Mr. Higgins, Senior Planner, responded that the Planning Division would not be able to provide the support needed for the planning initiatives and committees that function out of this office, without the current staffing.

The Highway Superintendent reviewed his budget recommendations in relation to the Town Administrator's budget. He highlighted the reduction of staff seen within his department over time. He also advocated for the acquisition of street management software that he stated could be offset by the levying of street opening permit fees, which the Town doesn't currently assess. He noted the recommended budget reduces his FY03 budgeted positions by one HMEO in the street maintenance program budget, which impacts the level of service his department is able to provide.

Melvin A. Kleckner, Town Administrator
Clerk, Board of Selectmen