

There was some continued discussion on why some other municipalities have lower road department budgets. Some towns have Park Commissions and that may fall under a different department and line item in their budget. They also may utilize more volunteers and part time help.

Mr. Burke explained that he wanted to understand where the town was spending a large portion of its budget and the proposed increase in the budget on the road maintenance plan. Mr. Dickinson explained that in the past the ball has been pushed down the road to keep taxes flat and because of that the roads have been neglected.

Mr. Walsh and Mr. Dickinson added that there may be some roads that they could put off and they would reevaluate them.

Mr. Bensley talked about some issues he noticed with Stickles Pond Road since the resurfacing and wanted to know if certain things were done correctly and who would be responsible for correcting them.

The resurfacing of the municipal parking lot was discussed. Ms. Blackburn commented that the lower parking lot is seeing much more use since the beginning of the Joint Municipal Court and the upper lot is being used more by the employees because of it. The upper lot also has the handicap accessible ramp.

The condition of certain roads were discussed and could possibly be put off to a later date such as Sussex Mills, and Ottawa Lane. Although the price of asphalt has dropped in recent years, the cost of labor has not. A Spending Ordinance can be adopted and titled, " Various Roads", which then permits the town to choose which roads they want to fix and when.

Ms. McGovern questioned the equipment purchases like the road sweeper and brine truck. Can the brine truck be used for something else? She also added that she is not opposed to the use of brine if it makes the roads safer. Mr. Dickinson explained that you can buy one truck this year and then get other apparatus for it in the future, such as a flat bed, dumper, an aerial component for trees and/or containers for recycling. He welcomed the committee to come up to the shop to look at the current condition of the equipment. He added further added that the current brine truck is 22 years old.

Mr. Bensley expressed that he doesn't know where there is savings using brine and does not like it.

Me. Stoner added that if the town no longer uses the brine process and returns to salt it has to store the salt somewhere.

Mr. Grenewicz commented on the use of brining and that he has to power wash the substance off his vehicle to avoid damage because his wife drives around in it all day long.

Mr. Walsh questioned why the budget they are working with today is \$82,000 more that the budget they had at the last meeting.

Ms. Magura, CFO explained that she had to adjust the budget to accommodate for group health insurance for the active employees and retirees. After a thorough review and discussion, it was determined that \$7500 was allocated for Andover Township Day, not \$10,000,

\$2500 was not to be allocated for workman's compensation for the Rescue Squad, and the committee could confidently cut \$68,000 from the budget for roads. The decrease of \$68,000 for roads, the \$2,500 cut from Andover Day, the \$2500 not allocated for workman's compensation brings the number back down.

The average home last year was \$244,000 this year is \$250,000 but it is a skewed number because of the revaluation. The reserve for uncollected taxes is not known yet, however (\$30,000) would get them close to 1.5 points. With those adjustments the committee was satisfied with the current budget.

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Mayor Blackburn opened the public session.

Seeing no hands, Mayor Blackburn closed the public session.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

**MARCH 14, 2016
6:30PM Executive Session
7:30PM Regular Meeting**

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Walsh moved to adjourn meeting. Mr. Burke seconded, the motion was carried with all in favor.

Submitted by,

**Diana Francisco, RMC/CMR
Clerk/Administrator**

Dolores Blackburn, Mayor