

BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 9, 2025

Members Present: Carl Hagstrom, Andrew Wood, Jennifer Cesaitis, Barbara Brooks, Susan Silverman, Tom Rothermel, Selectman’s Representative & Debbie Favreau, Town Administrator

Members Absent: Nancy Carney & Ben Thomas

Guests:

Chairman Hagstrom opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Water District: Ben Thomas was here just to present this budget; not as a voting member of the committee. The proposed operating budget is \$80,100 and the expected revenue is \$62,050 leaving a shortfall of \$18,050. There is a current bank balance of \$20,000 which should cover this deficit. The major expense item is the Potential Wittenborg fee. The district can use this well for 3 more years, but will need to pay usage fees. The flat rate of \$600 of up 2000 cu ft. used will now be increasing to \$650. Currently they have 54 users. Mr. Thomas stated that the approved grant money cannot be used for land purchase. He is looking for more volunteers to serve on the water district.

Mr. Wood made a motion to accept the Water District budget. Ms. Cesaitis seconded and **all voted in favor with Ms. Silverman abstaining (5- yes; 0- no; 1- abstained).**

Minutes: Ms. Cesaitis made a motion to accept the minutes of January 2, 2025. Mr. Wood seconded and **all voted in favor. (6-0-0)**

Chairman Hagstrom instructed all members to work from the list of budgets beginning at the top. Members made motions and seconds to accept the budgeted amounts with all members voting on the following:

	Motioned/seconded	Yes-No-Abstained
Town Clerk: \$73,339	Cesaitis/Brooks	(5-0-1) Mr. Wood Abstained
Supervisors: \$ 4141	Wood/ Cesaitis	(6-0-0)

Financial Admin: \$83759 Brooks/ Wood (6-0-0)

This line item includes Tax Collector, and the following which are fixed charges:
Trust Funds, Audit, Treasury & Budget Committee

Reval of Property: \$ 30,000 Davis/ Brooks (6-0-0)

Legal- \$20,000 Silverman/Wood (6-0-0)

In 2023 an expendable trust for this was created. The CIP & Selectman increased this to \$70,000
It is still a budgeted line item in the hopes the trust won't need to be spent

Planning/Zoning: \$ 82,060 Wood/Cesaitis (6-0-0)

Econ/Farmer: \$7182

Discussion centered on how these finds are handled, specifically for the Farmer's Market. Currently, they accept donations and those donations are used to offset the expenses. Being a town department, all funds will need to go through the town first and then be disbursed for expenses. Mr. Wood suggested putting extra monies into the Economic Committee and have the Farmer's Market request funds from there. Mr. Rothermel recommended talking with both groups before deciding.

Gen Gov't Bldgs.: \$57,426 Wood/Cesaitis (6-0-0)

Cemetery: \$26,805 Rothermel/Silverman (6-0-0)

Insurance: \$75,127 Rothermel/Davis (6-0-0)

This is a fixed charge and includes Worker's Comp, Disability and Property Liability

Street Lighting: \$18,000 Cesaitis/Davis (6-0-0)

Ms. Favreau stated the bulbs will be changing to LED and ARPA funds were used. Mr. Wood would like to see a study done to determine if lighting is needed at all the locations. A lot has changed since they were installed and maybe some costs can be reduced. The Selectman will visit this.

With nothing further to discuss, Mr. Hagstrom made a motion to adjourn with a second by Ms. Silverman. All voted in favor (6- yes; 0- no; 0- abstained).

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Minutes submitted by Marion Wheeler