

BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 14, 2024

Members Present: Carl Hagstrom, Bill Davis, Barbara Brooks, Andrew Wood, Jennifer Cesaitis, Susan Silverman, Nancy Carney, Selectman's Representative & Debbie Favreau, Town Administrator

Members Absent: Ben Thomas

Guests: Suzanne Gray, Fallon Ball & Emily Jengo

Mr. Hagstrom opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Land Use: Suzanne Gray presented this budget and began by explaining the survey she did with other nearby towns to compare their wages and workloads to Fitzwilliam's Land Use Coordinator. She wants to make sure the town's LUC is in the right pay grade for her skills. Ms. Carney indicated that the budget committee does not have the authority to approve the salaries and this concern needs to be brought before the Board of Selectman. Increases are seen in the following line items: 315- Registry of deeds-\$50, 625- Postage- \$200 as postage has increased. It was noted that both these costs are passed onto the applicants as fees and when paid, go back into the General Fund. All other line items have remained the same as the previous year.

Recreation: Fallon Ball presented. She explained the increases as follows: 353- Advertising- \$50 newsletter and signs for recurring events, 560- Dues/Subscriptions- \$800 as there is an expected increase of volunteers and the need for background checks; also included in that line is the cleaning of the upstairs floor, which is used for yoga, 628- office equipment- \$200 for the purchase of a label machine to organize the sheds and pole barn. Discussion continued with line 440 Rentals/leases, which is for the two Port-a-Potties. Mr. Wood would like to see if they could get a better rate if they utilized the same vendor the Town uses. Ms. Favreau will check on pricing. Line 431- Extermination- \$3000; Mr. Wood asked if they got estimates for those charges with Ms. Fallon indicating that they are working on them. Line 840 Special Projects- \$10,000. No increase needed but Ms. Cesaitis explained it is for Beyond the Bell, and although they do receive grants at this time, those grants are depleting each year and some of this

money is used to support the Beyond the Bell program and the remainder is used for maintenance at the pole barn.

Conservation: Did not show up, will need to be rescheduled.

Ms. Carney shared that she would be unavailable to attend the public hearing as it falls on the same evening as the school board's public hearing. Ms. Cesaitis made a motion to move the town's public hearing to Wed, Feb 5, 2024. Mr. Wood seconded and **All voted in favor (7- yes; 0- no; 0- abstained).**

Mr. Hagstrom made a motion to accept Mr. Wood as CIP representative with a second by Ms. Cesaitis. **All voted in favor (7- yes; 0- no; 0- abstained).**

Mr. Wood nominated Mr. Hagstrom as Chairman with a second by Ms. Silverman. **All voted in favor (7- yes; 0- no; 0- abstained).**

Chairman Hagstrom made a motion to nominate Ms. Silverman as Vice-Chairman with a second by Mr. Davis. **All voted in favor (7- yes; 0- no; 0- abstained).**

Mr. Wood inquired if budgets for each department going back 5 years would be provided, as it had been discussed last year. Ms. Favreau stated she has already started working on that.

With nothing further to discuss, Mr. Wood made a motion to adjourn with a second by Chairman Hagstrom. All voted in favor (7- yes; 0- no; 0- abstained).

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Minutes submitted by Marion Wheeler