

BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 11, 2024

Members Present: Carl Hagstrom, Bill Davis, Barbara Brooks, Andrew Wood, Virginia Doerpholz, Ben Thomas, Jeff Cesaitis, Brian Doerpholz, Selectman's Representative & Debbie Favreau, Town Administrator

Members Absent:

Guests: Robyn Bates, Jason Drew, Josh Joslyn, & Martin Nolan

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

Minutes: Ms. Doerpholz made a motion to accept the minutes of January 4, 2024 as written with a second by Mr. Wood. **All voted in favor with Mr. Cesaitis abstaining (6-0-1).**

CIP: Robyn Bates presented and explained each request line by line. The following items have both CIP approval and BOS approval of the requested amounts and the source of those funds:

Revaluation: \$20,000-CIP

Legal: \$40,000-CIP

Highway: equipment purchase- \$147,000 CIP
equipment repair exp. trust-\$ \$30,000 CIP

Transfer Station: equipment exp. trust- \$20,000= \$5020 fund balance, \$2480 grant, \$12,500 CIP

Police: cruiser replacement- \$15,000 CIP
equipment- \$5000 CIP

Fire: equipment replenishment-\$10,000 CIP
radios- \$23,000 ARPA

Ambulance: ambulance replacement-\$25,000 CIP

Economic: Sign- \$6000 CIP

These line items show a difference in CIP and BOS approval:

Highway: repair roads \$329,000 requested. **BOS:** \$50,000 fund balance, \$251,000 CIP and \$28,000 state aid = **\$329,000**. **CIP:** \$50,000 fund balance, \$239,000 CIP and \$28,000 state aid= **\$317,000; \$12,000 reduction**. Cold Storage: \$20,000 requested. **BOS:** \$20,000 ARPA. **CIP:** \$5,500- ARPA, only purchase one for now instead of two; **\$15,500 reduction**.

Library: Bldg exp. Trust \$20,000 requested. **BOS:** \$10,000 ARPA and \$5,000 CIP. **\$5000 reduction**
CIP: \$10,000 ARPA; **\$10,000 reduction.**

Recreation: \$20,000 requested. **BOS:** \$10,000 fund balance and \$10,000 CIP.
CIP: \$10,000 fund balance and \$5,000 CIP. **\$5,000 reduction**

Chairman Hagstrom asked members to go over the following budgets for approval:

Library: As discussed at last week's meeting, clarification on Line 120 Part time salaries was to be provided but there was none sent.

Police: Mr. Wood questioned the \$31,395 increase in FT salaries. Ms. Favreau replied that it is the 3.5% Cola and step increases. Mr. Wood would like information on the step increases to justify the increase with Mr. Doerpholz stating that he cannot provide that information as it is non-public, per NH RSA 91-A:3-IIa. Salary information is public, however, and that information can be obtained in the Town Report. Ms. Favreau provided the wage scale to all members. Brian emphasized the fact that the Budget Committee has nothing to do with employee salaries. **Ms. Doerpholz made a motion to accept the Police Budget of \$560,280 with a second by Ms. Brooks. All voted in favor (7-0-0).**

Animal Control: Mr. Cesaitis remarked that what was expended during 2023 is half of what they are requesting for 2024. Ms. Favreau stated that the budgets have been reduced over the years, as Animal Control Officer Adam Dubriske does not always put in his time. Based upon previous expenditures, Mr. Wood and Mr. Cesaitis would like to see the amount be \$2000 instead of the \$4556.00 requested. Chairman Hagstrom opted for \$2500 and Mr. Thomas suggested \$3000, to revisit again in 2025. **Mr. Hagstrom made a motion to approve \$2500.00 with a second by Mr. Wood. All voted in favor (7-0-0).**

Fire: Line 635 Gasoline and Line 636 Diesel have been combined. Mr. Wood questioned line 840 Training and asked what the \$4000 request was for, as there was only \$947 spent in 2023. Mr. Nolan commented that training time is not compensated. **Mr. Cesaitis made a motion to accept the \$71,404 with a second by Ms. Doerpholz. All voted in favor (7-0-0).**

Ambulance: Mr. Wood inquired if the ambulance is still on the original plan of rotating the Fitzwilliam ambulance with Troy ambulance on a weekly schedule, as he hasn't seen the Troy ambulance in town except for the Sunday morning drills. Mr. Nolan answered that Troy has had some issues the last few months, but that is still the plan. Mr. Doerpholz shared that the BOS recommended a reduction in line 120 Part Time Salaries and Line 121 Per Diem Salaries in the amount of \$11,735. These figures are based on computations of the highest salaries and there should still be extra in the budget. Mr. Cesaitis has concerns with approving the budget with those salary line changes based upon the previous remarks of Mr. Doerpholz stating that the budget committee has no say in salaries. **Mr. Thomas made a motion to accept the BOS recommended budget of \$230,771.00 with a second by Mr. Davis. All voted in favor with Mr. Wood opposing. (6-1-0).**

Cemetery: Mr. Cesaitis made a motion to accept the Cemetery budget of \$27,043 with a second by Mr. Thomas. All voted in favor (7-0-0).

Highway: Mr. Thomas inquired where the \$6500 BOS reductions were with Mr. Doerpholz responding that it was Line 685 Materials (\$1500) and Line 691 Sand/Salt (\$5,000). These materials were pre-bought in 2023. **Mr. Cesaitis made a motion to accept the budget of \$644,239 with a second by Mr. Thomas. All voted in favor.**

Transfer Station: Since Line 318 Contract Services was overspent, Mr. Thomas questioned if an increase to the budget is necessary. Mr. Wood commented that more education to the patrons is needed and **made a motion to accept the original request of \$ 167,549 with a second by Mr. Cesaitis. All voted in favor (7-0-0).**

With nothing further to discuss, Mr. Wood made a motion to adjourn with a second by Mr. Cesaitis. All voted in favor (7-0-0).

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Minutes submitted by Marion Wheeler