

# BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES

## January 9, 2020

**Members Present:** Win Wright, Ben Thomas, Kathy Stark, Andrew Wood, Virginia Doerpholz, Martin Nolan, Debbie Favreau and Selectman's representative Robyn Bates, in for Dan Baker.

**Members Absent:** Carl Hagstrom

Mr. Wright facilitated for Mr. Hagstrom and opened the meeting at 7:00 pm

**Minutes:** Ms. Doerpholz made a motion to accept the minutes of Jan 2, 2020 with a second by Mr. Thomas. All voted in favor.

**CIP:** Barbara Young was present.

**Steeple:** Ms. Bates updated the group on the steeple project stating \$165,000 more is needed to complete, with \$65,000 being raised by taxes and \$100,000 taken from surplus.

**Library:** The library has many projects planned, with Ms. Young indicating the work needed on the front porch.

**Conservation:** This was reduced by \$5,000.

Ms. Bates summarized by saying the CIP spending is down by \$80,000 but the overall budget has increased. She pointed out the 5 year worksheet comparison, which was a recommendation by Mr. Wood.

Mr. Wright then called on Adam Dubriske and Brandylyn Handy to explain the salary increases in the Fire Department budget. Mr. Dubriske began by declaring that the 2019 call volume was lower due to Fitzwilliam not participating in mutual aid to other towns and now that we are able, we must start fulfilling our obligation to assist Troy and Richmond. Mr. Nolan commented that he has trouble justifying the increase. With a lengthy discussion where the duties of the officers were scrutinized, the number responding to calls and what happens when too many respond, the training needed, the lack of extra gear, and the hourly pay, Ms. Bates asked Mr. Dubriske what can be put off until next year, helping us get to a monetary number the committee can be comfortable with. He mentioned a donated computer, reducing Office Equipment (628) by \$1800. Also, he will check to see if the soon to be expired air packs require testing this year. He may be able to delete Other Services (390) by \$5500.

With no further questions and everything on the agenda being met, Mr. Wright thanked the members for attending and adjourned the meeting at 8:34 pm.

Submitted by,

Marion Wheeler