

# BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES

## November 17, 2022

**Members Present:** Carl Hagstrom, Andrew Wood, Ben Thomas, Virginia Doerpholz, Nancy Carney, Jeff Cesaitas, Bill Davis, Brian Doerpholz, Selectman's Representative & Debbie Favreau, Town Administrator

**Members Absent:**

**Guests:** John E. F. Craig, Martin Nolan, Jennifer Cesaitas

Mr. Hagstrom opened the meeting at 7 pm and stated the committee needed to appoint a chair, vice chair and a CIP representative. Ms. Doerpholz made a motion to nominate Carl Hagstrom as Chairman with a second by Mr. Thomas. All voted in favor (7-0-0). Mr. Hagstrom made a motion to nominate Virginia Doerpholz as Vice Chairman with a second by Mr. Wood. All voted in favor. (7-0-0). There were no motions on a CIP representative. Mr. Doerpholz explained the role of that position.

**Land Use:** Suzanne Gray presented this budget and began by noting the salary line was the biggest difference from last year, which includes the 6% COLA approved by the selectman and a scheduled step increase. Ms. Gray explained the job responsibilities of the Land Use Coordinator. Mr. Hagstrom questioned line 315 Consultants for \$2000. Ms. Gray indicated it is for third party opinion on some cases and it is paid for by the applicant. Ms. Favreau commented that there is no need to budget for consultants. If by chance the applicant does not pay, there are other line items the money could be taken from. Ms. Gray suggested reducing it to \$500 just in case the planning board needs a consultant. Mr. Hagstrom recommended \$1000 and Mr. Thomas, Mr. Wood and Ms. Doerpholz would like to see it remain at \$2000. Mr. Cesaitas asked what if it is not spent and Mr. Doerpholz explained that it would go into the general fund, which it could then be used to lower taxes or cover emergency expenses. Ms. Gray also mentioned training, which is done more by Zoom lately, but having in person training is most beneficial and she would like to keep the same amount in Line 830.

**Recreation:** Katelynn Jagodzinski presented. She stated the town has not operated a summer program in the last 3 years. Jennifer Cesaitas, member of the recreation committee, added that the program offered was through **Beyond the Bell**, through grants, with no charge to the town. Mr. Wood inquired about Line 318, Labor Contract Services, and why not put it in the operating

budget instead of the revolving account. Ms. Jagodzinski stated it is for the salaries of the Soccer, Basketball, and T ball stipend employees, and having it in the revolving account allows them to be paid sooner. Mr. Wood commented that a revolving fund has to be specific for its purpose. Mr. Nolan explained how the revolving funds work; that the money goes in and then the money comes out for the purpose it was requested for. Mr. Hagstrom questioned background checks and how the other departments pay them. Ms. Favreau stated that each department pays for their own and it is put under Line 560 Dues/Subscriptions. Ms. Carney noted background checks should go under Line 390 Other Services and they need to be done every year. Ms. Cesaitas offered to breakdown the costs for background checks. Mr. Wood asked about the \$1000 in Line 430 which seems to be a new expense. Ms. Jagodzinski answered the storage shed needs to be put on gravel. Mr. Wood questioned the \$40,000 in Line 840 Special projects. Ms. Jagodzinski stated that they are not sure if Beyond the Bell will be on board for 2023 and they will not know until April. Ms. Cesaitas added that Beyond the Bell will be applying for additional grants but it is unknown at this time if they will be awarded. Mr. Wood asked about a warrant article or a CIP one-time expense. Mr. Doerpholz agrees with this and Ms. Favreau suggested asking for the full amount to run the program.

**Conservation:** No representation from this department. Mr. Doerpholz stated there is currently \$114,000 in Land Line 710 with nothing projected to purchase. Mr. Wood recommended going with was approved last year, \$3000. Mr. Cesaitas suggested waiting until they could come in before the committee. Mr. Hagstrom scheduled Conservation to return December 22, 2022.

Mr. Nolan commented that there is a vacancy on the Monadnock School Board.

Mr. Hagstrom stated that they will appoint a CIP representative at the next meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Minutes submitted by Marion Wheeler