

BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES

December 10, 2020

Members Present: Carl Hagstrom, Ben Thomas, Andrew Wood, Kathy Stark, Virginia Doerpholz, Winston Wright, Martin Nolan, Debbie Favreau and Brian Doerpholz, Selectman's representative.

Members Absent:

Guests: Kate Thomas, Richard Goettle, Beth Lorenz, Brandy Handy and Bill Prigge.

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

Minutes: Ms. Doerpholz made a motion to accept the minutes with Mr. Thomas seconding. All voted in favor with Mr. Nolan abstaining.

Fire: Adam Dubriske presented. Mr. Dubriske stated there was a small increase in payroll due to a step increase for Brandy Handy. He stated nothing was requested in 2020 for Line 430 Repairs/Maintenance but in 2021 he will need to have 5 fire extinguishers recertified. Mr. Nolan inquired about Line 628 Office Equipment as nothing was requested but \$1641.23 was spent so far this year. Mr. Dubriske responded that he purchased 2 computers and one more will be purchased during 2021. Mr. Nolan asked about the plan for refurbished ones as was discussed at last year's budget meeting. Mr. Dubriske answered that they weren't compatible with their software. He explained that the \$2000 increase in Line 661 Tires is for one of the engines whose tires are 18 years old. Mr. Nolan didn't think new tires were needed. Mr. Wood disagreed but would like to see another quote. He also wanted further clarification on Line 630 Equipment repair. Mr. Dubriske answered that \$3775 was spent on the maintenance and repair of the air packs, which won't be needed next year.

Ambulance: Adam Dubriske presented. He stated Line 121 Special Detail is being increased due to the significant increase in time it takes during a call due to Covid. Decontamination must take place after every call. He also commented that Diluzio's contract was to end in March, but then Covid hit and all EMT classes stopped. He has young, less experienced personnel, so in addition to relying on Troy's assistance, Diluzio's contract was extended. Also affected by Covid was the Troy Fitzwilliam Richmond Team. Mr. Dubriske stated ideas were being worked on, but since March, meetings have not resumed, but hopefully they will this spring. Mr. Wood suggested outsourcing with Diluzio on a permanent basis. Mr. Dubriske said he would rather have too

many on site than not enough and he can turn some around if not needed. He would like to keep the Fitzwilliam ambulance going as that is revenue for the town. Ms. Favreau recommended all salaries be grouped together under Line 120 Part Time with Diluzio being moved to Line 318 Labor Contracts. Mr. Hagstrom would like an updated copy in time for the next meeting.

Emergency Management: Mr. Dubriske presented. No changes from 2020. The salary lines include stipends for Carol Ann Rocheleau and himself.

Library: As a Library Trustee, Brian Doerpholz recused himself. Robin Marra, Chair of the Library Trustees presented. He stated compensation is up because of the need for a Covid cleaner, some line items were moved into Line 190 Other Compensation, an increase in health insurance, 2 step increases and because of Covid, they increased the sick pay. Line 560 Dues/ Subscriptions saw an increase due to the purchase of America's News and because Overdrive Audiobooks went up almost 50%. Kate Thomas explained the need to adequately and securely display the Locke Collection. They need to seek advice on cost effective and appropriate ways to display, as they are required to do. Mr. Nolan commented that there seems to be increases every year as he has noticed in the past 5-6 years. Mr. Goettle responded that some costs are out of the library's control. Ms. Doerpholz thanked the Library staff for their services during Covid. It was noted that the Fitzwilliam Library was one of only two libraries in the state to provide continued service throughout Covid.

With no further questions and everything on the agenda being met, Mr. Hagstrom thanked the members and guests for attending and adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm.

Submitted by,

Marion Wheeler