

BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES

December 22, 2022

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

Members Absent: Carl Hagstrom

Guests: John E. F. Craig & Martin Nolan

Ms. Doerpholz facilitated the meeting in the absence of Carl Hagstrom and opened the meeting at 7 pm.

Minutes: Mr. Wood made a motion to accept the minutes of Dec 15, 2022 as written with a second by Mr. Thomas. All voted in favor (6-0-0).

Mr. Thomas informed the committee that the water district will not be ready for their budget presentation on January 5, 2022 and will need to reschedule.

Conservation: Paul Kotila presented. He stated Line 120 Salaries reflects the 2.5 hours/week for the Land Use Coordinator. Line 315 Consultant Services, increasing by \$50, is for assistance with the trails in the Katie Metzger Forest. Line 550 printing is up by \$500. Mr. Kotila explained that it will be for printing of new trail maps. Mr. Kotila stated the kiosk is located approximately 50-100 feet from the road area when asked by Mr. Doerpholz. Mr. Cesaitis noticed the majority of 2022 monies have not been expended and wondered if they are normally spent in the Nov-Dec timeframe. Mr. Kotila answered that some are, such as Line 560 Dues/Subscriptions, but not as a general rule.

Highway: DPW Director Glenn Smith presented. Line 110 Full Time Salaries is down by \$12,046 with the retirements of 2 people and replacing them at a lower pay scale. Line 120 Part Time Salaries shows an increase of \$5572 due to the hiring of a part time Cemetery/DPW worker, the hiring of a 12 hour/week administrative assistant, and a seasonal snow plow operator. Mr. Wood asked if the department was cutting back on the part time help with Director Smith replying that he does not use hired contractors, instead he has a seasonal person at a lower rate. Mr. Doerpholz explained the difference between seasonal and part time. The department now only has 1 seasonal, strictly for the Cemetery. The part time employee is trained and works year round, where-as the seasonal worker works until fall and then needs to be rehired the next year. With the impending storm approaching, Director Smith was anxious to get out on the

road. Mr. Wood helped him stay focused on each line item. Line 380 Hired Equipment, staying the same. Used for street sweeping, sucking catch basins, and tree work. Mr. Doerpholz explained they can work on the smaller roads themselves using the small one ton roller instead of hiring out. Mr. Wood suggested looking for a grant to purchase a larger, used one. Line 628 Office Equipment, is a new line item, for a color printer when asked by Mr. Wood. Line 661 Tires is showing a \$14,000 increase. Director Smith stated tires are needed on the grader, which they knew when it was purchased, that it would be an expense in the near future. They are going for smaller less expensive tires that are currently on the grader. These smaller tires will actually perform better. The 350 truck will also need 4 tires. Line 683 Medical Supplies has nothing requested. Director Smith stated he has outfitted all the first aid kits and he won't need anything. Mr. Wood suggested putting some amount in with Mr. Thomas recommending \$200 and Mr. Wood recommending \$100. Line 689 Signs increasing by \$1500. The street sign prices have gone up. The missing or faded signs will be replaced when work is being done on that particular road. Director Smith shared that he is seeing some signs being stolen. Line 691 Ice Control/Sand/Salt; Mr. Thomas mentioned the increase of \$20,000 and asked if the supplies are available. Director Smith shared that the supplies are available and the price of salt is up to \$96.50/ton, up 23% from the \$74/ton last year. It is a better quality salt and he will spend less time salting and sanding, which will amount to lower costs in salaries and fuel.

Transfer Station: DPW Director Glenn Smith presented stating very little changes, although the recycling cost are up by \$4000, as shown on Line 315 Consultant services. Telephone Line 341 and Electricity Line 410 have increased due to rising costs. Line 413 Sewer is increased by \$412. Mr. Doerpholz explained the town changed out the contract for the Port-a-Potties. Line 430 Repairs/Maintenance is down by \$258. Mr. Doerpholz stated not all was expended but there are some electrical issues that need to be addressed and will be taken care of this year. Director Smith also mentioned the need to move the electrical button that operates the compactor from the shed to the inside of the sorting room. Mr. Wood was concerned that it could be a safety issue with Director Smith indicating that the compactor is close enough and in view of those in the sorting room. A bigger safety issue is navigating one's way between the cars to access the shed where the current button is located. Ms. Doerpholz wondered how the mandatory transfer station stickers were working out. Director Smith admitted that he is not sure how often they are being checked but some residents have been irate over them. He would like to see a minimal cost for the sticker be implemented to help offset some of the expenses. With no further questions, Ms. Doerpholz thanked Director Glenn Smith for attending.

Mr. Doerpholz provided some updates: **Cemetery-** the Selectman have agreed to hiring a seasonal worker 25 hours/wk grade 3 step 2 at \$16.61/hr. **Supervisors of the Checklist-** since

there have been no changes to the wage scale for the election officials in at least 10 years, the Selectman agreed to increase the salaries as previously presented in the Supervisor budget.

Recreation- the Summer Rec program was not part of the operating budget as previously presented by the Recreation Director. This change will put it back into the operating budget and will be discussed further at the next meeting.

With nothing further to discuss, Mr. Wood made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second by Mr. Doerpholz. All voted in favor (6-0-0).

Meeting adjourned at 8:17pm.

Minutes submitted by Marion Wheeler