

BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES

December 3, 2020

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

Members Absent: Martin Nolan

Guests: Dana Pinney & Suzanne Gray

Mr. Hagstrom opened the meeting at 7:00 pm and called upon the Town Clerk.

Town Clerk: Heidi Wood presented. She said her budget is basically what it was last year except that there is an increase of \$86 in ClerkWorks, which is motor vehicle part of the software. Down from last year is printing because of fewer elections.

Land Use: Suzanne Gray presented. Ms. Gray stated the largest increase is in the salary line. Lori Nolan is the Land Use coordinator and she has seen an increase in both the Planning Board and the Zoning Board cases. This increase, she believes, is due to adding and/or modifying second homes because of Covid. Ms. Nolan goes on all the site walks for ZBA and prepares the minutes and meeting notices. Mr. Wood asked about the laptop purchase in Line 562, which states that it will be needed for the video conferencing. Ms. Favreau responded that the costs will be coming through the Cares Act. Mr. Wood also inquired about Line 315 Consulting. Ms. Gray answered that they may need expert advice when revising the ordinances. No money was needed during 2020.

Cemetery: Mike Grab presented. Mr. Grab provided budget comparisons going back to 2002. He stated this year's budget is the same as last year. This was tough year for hiring. Because Land Use is Lori Nolan's main job responsibility, she did not spend as many hours at the cemetery as she has done in the past. The Fitzwilliam Department of Public Works, under the direction of Glen Smith, will now be working with the cemetery and providing assistance.

Broadband: Dana Pinney was here to present. Mr. Pinney explained the process the town is going through with Consolidated Communications in regards to SB 170. There will be a \$1,839,500 bond paid for by the subscribers. There is no tax impact for Fitzwilliam residents, only to those subscribing, which has a cap of \$10.50/month. If one is happy with their current service, there is no mandatory requirement to participate. Mr. Hagstrom questioned the fees,

if any, for the town and Mr. Pinney responded that there are no fees to the town. Mr. Pinney shared the upcoming informational meetings on Dec 9, 2020, Jan 9, 2021, and Feb 6, 2021.

Minutes: There were two spelling errors to be corrected. Mr. Wright made a motion to accept the minutes with Ms. Doerpholz seconding. All voted in in favor.

Prior to adjourning, Mr. Wright talked about his concern with a proposed House Bill (1129) which was about ways to change the way we vote. He could not provide more information because he has just learned of this bill and didn't have all the details yet, but wanted the committee to be aware that there may be a need to additionally fund the elections budget.

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 7:50 pm.

Submitted by,

Marion Wheeler