



BUDGET COMMITTEE
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MINUTES OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE HEARING

Monday, November 29, 2021 – 6:30 p.m. – Town Hall Conference Room

Members Present: Mike Bilodeau, Todd Cadle, Mark Connelly, Frank Hansler, Bob Krasko, Sharon Hussey-McLaughlin, Don Miller, Paul Sanderson, Jamie Connelly – Selectmen's Rep

Members Absent: Zack Pike, Pat Walsh – School Board Rep

Present: Department Heads; Matt Scruton – Town Administrator; Steve Smith – Chairman, Board of Selectmen; Jack Shephard – Building Inspector; Marge Morgan – Town Clerk/Tax Collector; Gus Gouzoules – Supervisors of the Checklist; Ralph Cresta – Fire Chief; Tara Laurent – Police Chief; Marcia McLaughlin – Library Trustees Chairperson; Library Trustees; Laura Byergo – Conservation Commission Chairperson

B. Krasko opened the Budget Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m. A roll call was taken; B. Krasko announced a quorum was present and the meeting was being recorded. The purpose of this meeting was to review the Town budget.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: M. Bilodeau moved to approve the minutes of Monday, November 15, 2021. Second – D. Miller; seven in favor, one abstained (M. Connelly). MOTION CARRIED

Town Budget Review

Building Department: J. Shephard informed the Budget Committee that he supported the recommendations of the Board of Selectmen. J. Shephard had requested additional funding for part-time support staff; it was not included in the Selectmen's budget. J. Shephard noted the permit fees have been increased and he opted to wait another year to see the full impact of that increase.

S. Hussey-McLaughlin arrived at 6:35 p.m.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: M. Morgan reviewed her budget, stating she has requested a 5% wage increase rather than the Selectmen's recommended 3%.

TA Scruton noted that the Budget Committee had requested the original requests from department heads. The revised budget spreadsheets indicated the department head requests and the Board of Selectmen's recommended budget.

Supervisors of the Checklist: G. Gouzoules reviewed his budget. Only one election was included in the Selectmen's recommended budget. There will be three elections in 2022. G. Gouzoules also requested

DRAFT: SUBJECT TO CHANGE

an increase in the stipend for the Supervisors of the Checklist. G. Gouzoules will have an updated budget for the next meeting.

Police Department: Chief Laurent discussed her budget request. She announced that Wayne Young is no longer in Greenland and is the Police Chief in Newfields. Chief Laurent submitted a 5% wage increase rather than the Selectmen's recommended 3%. \$5,000 was added to the Police Department budget for a social media specialist. Discussed at length was the additional \$6,000 stipend for the K-9 officer. Detail vehicles and how the funds in that account could be used were discussed.

Fire Department: Chief Cresta submitted wages increases at 5%. Increases were mainly due to payroll. There are currently four full-time personnel in addition to part-time personnel. A warrant article will be submitted for a new ambulance. There are funds in the Fire and Ambulance Special Revenue Account will that cover most, if not all, of the cost of a new ambulance. Ambulance calls have increased. The purpose of the Fire and Ambulance Special Revenue Account and how those funds could be used was discussed.

The Budget Committee requested the list of Capital Reserve Funds and balances as well as any revolving accounts. P. Sanderson explained that the default budget does not default line by line; it defaults to the bottom-line number. The Selectmen can transfer between accounts.

B. Krasko thanked the department heads for attending the meeting and discussing their budgets. P. Sanderson suggested the Budget Committee set aside some time to discuss the various financial tools available to the Town, their differences and to help members understand how they could be used.

D. Miller asked if the Budget Committee recommended increasing the budget by a specific amount and the budget was approved by the Town if those increases could be decided by the Selectmen. P. Sanderson responded "yes". The Selectmen have the power to transfer within their bottom line. In addition, the Budget Committee could recommend the budget and the Selectmen not recommend the budget.

Adjournment

MOTION: D. Miller moved to adjourn at 8:06 p.m. Second – F. Hansler; all in favor. MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

TENTATIVE: Wednesday, December 01, 2021 - 6:30 p.m., Town Hall Conference Room

Submitted By: Charlotte Hussey, Administrative Assistant