

Budget Committee
February 2nd, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Present:

Chair Charles Therriault, Walter Waring, Paul Regan, Sue Sodano, Select Board Representative Les Dion, Vice Chair Joe Caristi, and Janet Cavanagh (all members remote).

Others Present:

Nik Coates, Town Administrator, Bob Blanchette, Finance/Human Resources Director (remote), Raymah Simpson, Town Clerk/Town Tax Collector; Christina Goodwin, Health/Land Use Director (remote); Ingrid Heidenreich, Human Resources Director (remote); Chief Ben LaRoche, Fire Department (remote); Chief James McIntire, Police Department (remote); Jeff Chartier, Water/Sewer Superintendent (remote) and Lynda Notaro, Member of the Public (remote).

Call to Order:

Mr. Therriault called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

New Business:

Response to Inquiries and Discussion

Mr. Therriault discussed the document containing questions posed by the Budget Committee Members and the answers that followed. Mr. Therriault stated that one topic of discussion that was not listed was how many towns in NH that have a Charter Commission; the answer being eight towns and seven have a town counsel. Mr. Therriault asked Mr. Coates what the census population number was. Mr. Coates stated that it is a little over 3,000 people. Mr. Caristi inquired on the difference in percentages for the appropriation in 2020 versus the proposed appropriation for 2021. Mr. Coates stated that the MS737 document shows the total appropriation for 2020 which is higher than 2021, and if all Warrant Articles pass, the appropriations will still be lower than 2019.

Revenues Review

Mr. Coates discussed some of the mainstream revenues such as the Rooms & Meals Tax, Ambulance Fees, Tipping Fees from the Transfer Station, and Motor Vehicles. Mrs. Cavanagh stated that line #3290-400 Income From Metals brought in almost \$8,000 in 2019, double than some previous years. The Total Revenues from 2020 are 1.96 million, slightly higher than the projected 1.73 million for 2021. Mr. Caristi stated that even though it was a rough year due to the pandemic, revenues were higher than past years and economic growth continued. Mrs. Cavanagh and Mr. Regan inquired on any revenues or any savings when the offices were closed in March 2019 due to COVID. Mr. Coates stated that the office was closed to the public, but town employees were still working in the building.

Warrant Article Review

Article 1- Elections

Article 2 – SB2 Charter Commission

Article 3 – Zoning

100 – Power Point Agreement

Mr. Regan asked if no changes are made, does the Budget Committee still vote on the article. Mr.

Coates stated the appropriation is not finalized but \$14,000 is to enter the agreement but will still need to be voted on.

101- Ayers Island Road Lease (contingent on 100 passing)

- 102 – Budget
- 103 – Contingency Fund
- 104 – Bicentennial Capital Reserve Fund
- 105 – 1973 Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund
- 106 – Patriotic, Recreational, and Special Events Expendable Fund
- 107 – Recycling/Cardboard
- 109 – Fire Department Radio/Chargers/Programming Lease
- 110 – Additional/Replenish of Capital Reserve Funds
- Mrs. Goodwin stated the same amount is requested each year at \$35,000
- 111 – Police Vehicle Capital Reserve Funds
- 112 – 6 Public Roads to Make Private
- 113 – Fox Run Cul de Sac Documentation Adjustment
- 114 – Planning Board Member/Quorum Adjustment

Mr. Caristi asked if the Select Board had finalized the Warrants yet. Mr. Coates stated finalization will be on Thursday during the Board's meeting.

Old Business

Revisit Any Operating Budget Sections

Motion to move bottom line of #4312 Highway Projects in the amount of \$606,001 by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Mr. Caristi. Mr. Waring stated that he attended the school deliberation where the budget is increased, therefore town taxes will increase. Mr. Waring stated many older town residents are feeling the burdens of already increased taxes and feels that the salt and sand shed should be put off. Motion to amend #4312-394 Salt and Sand Shed to \$0 by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Mr. Waring. Ms. Dion stated that Mr. Bucklin is concerned that the current shed will fail, and this has been a concern for many years. Mr. Caristi inquired on why the shed was in the Warrant Articles versus the Budget. Mr. Coates stated that it was originally in the Warrant Articles. The Select Board recommended the resurfacing roads line be reduced for future work and added the shed into the Budget and off from the Warrant Articles. Motion passed by roll call vote 4-0-1. Motion to move amended bottom line of #4312 in the amount of \$456,001. Motion passed by roll call vote 4-0-1. Motion to move bottom line of the 2021 Budget in the amount of \$6,993,714. Motion passed by roll call vote 7-0-0.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

Motion by approve January 26th, 2021 minutes by Mr. Therriault, seconded by. Motion passed by roll call vote 7-0-0.

Correspondence:

None

Member Comments:

None

Select Board/Staff Comments:

Mr. Coates discussed the procedures for the Public Hearing next Tuesday.

Adjournment:

Motion by roll call vote to adjourn meeting at 7:18pm by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Mr. Caristi. Motion passed by roll call vote 6-0-0.

Next Meeting:

February 9, 6:00pm, Bristol Town Office: Meeting Room A -- Budget Public Hearing Followed by Warrant Voting // Second Public Hearing If Necessary, February 10, 6:00pm, Bristol Town Office: Meeting Room A
Respectfully Submitted,

Shannon Wharton