

Budget Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
January 23, 2017

**Present:**

Chair- William Cote, JP Morrison, Don Milbrand, John Sellers, Kevin MacCaffrie, Betsy Schneider, Ashley Dolloff, Scott Sanschagrin, Dave Carr, Tom Keegan, Wayne Anderson, Bob Emerson, and Rob Glassett.

**Absent:**

**Others Present:** Mark Bucklin Highway Supt., Nick Coates Town Admin., Jeff Chertier Water/Sewer Supt., Shawn Lagueux Selectman, Members of the public.

**Call to Order:**

Committee Chair William Cote called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

**Review of Minutes:** Don Milbrand made a motion to approve the minutes of January 9, 2107, seconded by Kevin MacCaffrie. The Committee voted 12-0 to approve the minutes as written. Rob Glassett made a motion to approve the non-public minutes, seconded by Betsy Schneider. The Committee voted 12-0 in favor of the motion.

**Correspondence:**

**New Business:**

Highway Dept. Budget deliberations: Don Milbrand made a motion to take the Highway Department off the table, seconded by Rob Glassett. The motion passed with all in favor 13-0-0. The Highway Department budget of \$539,100 was approved at the previous meeting with a vote of 12-0-1.

Highway Projects: One of motions was tabled for resurfacing roads. John Sellers made a motion to change line 4312-390, resurfacing roads, to \$0, seconded by Betsy Schneider. John Sellers discussed that pg.3 paragraph 4 code of ethics motion, line item is underspent by thousands of dollars is a disservice to public of Bristol's public safety, work not getting done is a danger to people, put the monies into warrant articles that need to be done that year or incumbent for following year, 60-70,000 dollars is not being used. Was stated that this should be left to Select board and Mark Bucklin, they know what roads need to be repaired and at what cost. JP Morrison commented that if Mark spent the \$250,000 projected every year was used every year for the roads maybe Mark would not have to spend so much in future years, JP was in agreement of leaving it there. Bill Cote said he went over budge for last 5 years and \$200,00 was only spent once and the average for 5 years was \$194,000, he is not in favor of zeroing it but is in favor of cutting it a little bit. The Committee voted 2-11-0 and the motion failed.

Shim Overlays:

Betsy Schneider not certain she is in favor of warrant article idea, feels it is important that town stop taking from it whatever it is they've been taking it for, she thinks it should be reduced considerably since \$99,000 is encumbered for road surfacing. Mark feels with this warrant that it would lock him in with fees for roads and not and he would not be able to move the money around. It was asked if warrant

article was written for incumbents of footage and not streets, Nick Coates said he would look into this. It was stated that maybe multiple warrants be placed so the town would not be locked into just one. Nick Coates raised concern that if the budget zeroed out and warrant article not to pass and something were to happen with roads during storms etc... What would town do! John Sellers said that was his point earlier for multiple warrant articles to prevent this happening. JP Morrison stated that multiple warrants do not make sense, will not attend a mtg. that has warrants for every road; there is not enough time in the year. Tom Keegan stated that if you have separate warrant articles for each street the townsfolk will come to meeting just to push for their street to be done, he is not in favor of reducing budget spending money now prevents future problems and we could be spending more than 250,000 a year in future. Betsy Schneider commented that a way to solve all this is to stop putting money into the budget \$238,000 in there and only \$134,000 is planned for use, she will make a motion to amend that motion. Tom Keegan having a line article locks warrant into number of feet and if price goes up or down that hamstrings Mark, he would like to see a reduction but wants to keep it as a line item in the budget so Mark has flexibility for future repairs. Rob Glassett agrees with what is being said but feels unfortunately presenting this as a warrant article bogs a down so he would like to amend this figure to \$151,000 which is 216,00 less the 99,000 encumbered from last year. Vote was taken, 2-0-11, Mark stated taking the 99,000 out from last year he would be good w/\$216,000, and Nick Coates agrees but want board to remember his earlier comments and if something were to happen to respond to it. Nick Coates also commented that original quote for asphalt was 85.00 a ton and when actual work was done it came out 57.00 and change and the \$99,000 left because of this savings. Rob Glassett made a motion for the bottom line of Highway Projects at \$216,000, seconded by Betsy Schneider. The motion passed with a vote of 12-0-1.

#### Streets and Bridges:

Don Milbrand made a motion for the bottom line of Streets and Bridges at \$35,500, seconded by Bob Emerson. John Sellers asked about the \$500 earmarked for bridges and Mark responded this was used for incidentals and signage that needs repair the 2 bridges in town and 2 bridges shared by other towns. The motion passed with all in favor 13-0-0.

#### Solid Waste:

Don Milbrand made a motion for the bottom line Solid Waste budget of \$281,872, seconded by Bob Emerson. Mark has received an email from Northeast Resource Recovery Assoc. just today and as of 2/1/2017 tipping fees for C&D that are currently \$74 a ton will be increasing to \$86 a ton. John Sellers asked under tipping fees article 4326.366, Mark asked for \$165,00 and it came in at \$140,000, John asked if there was going to be any savings there, Mark responded that rate is set by Coop down at incinerator and we have no control over it. Shawn Lagueux commented that the warrant article for solid waste facility policy would allow the selectman to change those fees because it was originally enacted there are things that cannot unilaterally change without going back to town vote, so warrant article would be written to give the board & future boards the right to adjust those rates as needed. Don Milbrand made motion to amend the Solid Waste Budget to \$285,000, seconded by JP Morrison. The Committee voted 13-0 in favor of the motion.

#### **Water and Sewer:**

Don Milbrand made a motion for the bottom line for sewer operations at \$345,026, seconded by Rob

Glassett. The Committee voted 13-0 in favor of the motion. Don Milbrand made a motion for the bottom line of total Sewer at \$411,229, seconded by Rob Glassett. The Committee voted 13-0 in favor of the motion.

**Water:**

Don Milbrand made a motion for the bottom line of total Water at \$478,222, seconded by Rob Glassett. The Committee voted 13-0 all in favor.

**Patriotic:**

Rob Glassett made a motion for the bottom line of Patriotic at \$23,891, seconded by Scott Sanschagrin. Budget for Concerts is \$17,500, with \$5,000 being separate from donations. Betsey Schneider asked for breakdown of concerts for TTTC etc....She feels town should receive these bills and town should be paying these bills. Betsy Schneider made a motion to table the decision until next meeting, seconded by Don Milbrand. The Committee voted 7-5-1 in favor of the motion.

**Conservation:**

Kevin MacCaffrie made a motion for the bottom line of Conservation Commission at \$4,447, seconded by Tom Keegan. Tom Keegan asked about professional service, is it reimbursable. Nick Coates responded that this work is for wetlands related to the Norther Pass for survey work done by a contractor so it is not reimbursable. John Sellers replied that line 610 is up \$500, why is this. Nick Coates will get that information. JP Morrison is not in favor of monies for wetlands and Nick Coates responded that the money is set aside for any damage that may be done to wetlands. JP Morrison made an amendment to reduce by \$1,000 dollars and John Sellers second that. Total impact is 2 miles in Bristol on power lines of wetlands. JP Morrison withdrew his amendment after more discussion and John Sellers withdrew his second. Kevin MacCaffrie made an amendment for the bottom line of the Conservation Commission at \$2,362.00, seconded by John Sellers. The Committee voted 10-1-2 to approve the motion. Kevin MacCaffrie made a motion for the bottom line at \$2,362, seconded by John Sellers. The Committee voted 9-2-2 in favor of the motion.

**Historic District Commission:**

Don Milbrand made a motion to approve the Historic District Commission at \$986, seconded by Kevin MacCaffrie. Nick Coates explained that there will be a significant amount of work done this year on Historic Properties. The Committee voted 13-0 in favor of the motion.

**Social Services:**

John Sellers made a motion to reduce bottom line from \$27,680 to \$23,680, seconded by Rob Glassett. Nick Coates asked for specific direction on which line to choose to reduce so he does not have to make the choice. John Sellers chose line 4652-570 to be reduced to \$2880.00. The Committee voted 11-1-1 in favor of the motion. Tom Keegan made an amendment to the Social Services bottom line to \$25,680 with line 4652-570 at \$4,880, seconded by Don Milbrand. The Committee voted 2-11 and the motion fails. The Committee vote for the reduction of line 570 to \$2880.00 and the bottom line of \$23,680.00 11-1-1. The motion passes.

**Red Cross:**

Dave Carr made a motion to change line 4652-579 from \$500 to zero. The Committee voted 13-0 in favor of the motion.

**CASA:**

Dave Carr made a motion to reduce line 4652-579 from \$500 to \$200, seconded by Betsy Schneider. The

Committee voted 2-11 and the motion fails. Don Milbrand made a motion for the bottom line of Social Services at \$23,180, seconded by Rob Glassett. The Committee voted 12-1 in favor of the motion.

Committee will take a second look at Patriotic and Warrant Articles on 2/6/17 meeting.

**Old Business:**

John Sellers asked about TTTC scholarships in Hill, money taken in for 2017 was \$3415.00 and Hill paid out \$3,300, for children to come here.

Betsy Schneider asked about transfers, legal is over \$56,000. Nick Coates told them there is a bottom line budget and no transfer occurred, Cassandra is working on this and will submit to committee.

Betsy Schneider had another question regarding merit raises, line 4155.192 on 1/3/17 budget spent \$24,776 what was the breakdown? Nick Coates looked into this for 2015 but no vote was taken by committee, not a binding vote year to year. Betsey asked for a detail on that.

Tom Keegan requested that any written documents or correspondence to be directed to budget be read at that part of meeting. Then he asked about non-public session bills for town counsel, how much did it cost? Nick Coates is not sure on rate.

PD detail expenses, is it a revolving fund? Refer to budget presentation of pg. 6, things that don't affect the budget. John Sellers commented that it is anticipated revenue; part of this committee follows under our jurisdiction. John Sellers says the report they are giving us has 2 different documents that show the fund has this much and the town has this much. Nick Coates will get these documents for 2015 but 2016 has not been reconciled as of yet. John Sellers just wants the print journal out for that fund that is all he is asking. Nick Coates replied that there is personal information on that journal. Committee would like a detail of the revenue.

Board went over letter Wayne Anderson and Bill Cote wrote, there is concern for town policies and procedures for employees and professionals, feel this is an opportunity to prevent future confusion. Letter is not open to the public only submitted to Select board. Rob Glassett made a motion to not send the letter, seconded by Don Milbrand. The Committee voted 6-6-1 and the motion failed. The Committee is divided on the professional and legality issues of letter. Don Milbrand made a motion to send letter, seconded by JP Morrison. The committee voted 6-6-1 and the motion fails.

**Adjournment:**

Don Milbrand made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kevin MacCaffrie. The motion passed with a vote 13-0

Respectfully submitted,  
Gail Sarto, Minute Taker