

Budget Committee
January 28, 2019
Meeting Minutes

Present:

Chair-Rob Glassett, Dave Carr, Selectmen's Representative-Les Dion, Janet Cavanagh, John Sellers, Paul Simard, Scott Sanschagrin, Walter Waring, Shaun Lagueux, Bob Emerson, and Joe Caristi.

Absent:

Others Present: Town Administrator, Nik Coates; Finance Director, Bob Blanchette; Fire Chief, Benjamin LaRoche; Police Chief, Jim McIntire; Selectman, Don Milbrand; Highway Superintendent, Mark Bucklin; Highway Foreman, Victor Greenwood; and Christina Goodwin, Land Use/Assessing Manager.

Call to Order:

Committee Chair Rob Glassett called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

January 7, 2019 Minutes: Mr. Coates asked the Committee to strike "Walter Waring arrived at 6:36 PM." Motion by Mr. Lagueux, seconded by Ms. Dion to approve amended minutes of January 7, 2019. The Committee voted **9 in favor - 0 opposed - 2 abstained, motion passed.**

January 14, 2019 Minutes: Mr. Simard asked that his email correspondence be included in the minutes. Motion by Mr. Lagueux to include Mr. Simard's email correspondence in the January 14, 2019 minutes, seconded by Ms. Dion. The Committee voted **11 in favor - 0 opposed, motion passed.** Motion by Mr. Lagueux, seconded by Mr. Sanschagrin to approve the January 14, 2019 as amended. The Committee voted **10 in favor - 0 opposed - 1 abstained, motion passed.**

Correspondence: Water/Sewer Superintendent Jeff Chartier sent correspondence to Mr. Coates regarding hydrants maintenance cost break down. This correspondence was sent to the Budget Committee.

Mr. Lagueux received an email from Fire Chief Ben LaRoche regarding cuts that were made to his budget and explanations of affected lines. Mr. Lagueux will forward this email to Mr. Glassett.

Old Business:

Mr. Caristi also received an email from Chief LaRoche and had a discussion with him regarding the Fire Department budget. Mr. Caristi would like to revisit two Fire Department line items. Mr. Glassett also determined that the bottom line of that budget was not voted on, only the amendment. Mr. Caristi proposed increasing 4220-411 (Heating Oil) because Chief LaRoche informed him that based on new oil rates, the \$7,000 amount should actually be \$9,000. Mr. Caristi also suggested restoring 4220-192 (Part-time Shift Coverage) to \$70,000. Mr. Caristi made a motion to increase line 4220-192 (Part-time Shift Coverage) by \$10,000, from \$60,000 to \$70,000, seconded by Mr. Sanschagrin. Discussion followed with Chief LaRoche and members of the Budget Committee. The Committee voted **8 in favor - 3 opposed, motion passed.** Mr. Caristi made a motion to increase line 4220-411 (Heating Oil) by \$2,000, from \$7,000 to \$9,000. Ms. Cavanagh seconded. **11 in favor - 0 opposed, motion passed.** Motion made by Mr. Caristi

to recommend amended bottom line of Fire Department (4220) budget of \$905,715, seconded by Ms. Dion. No further discussion. **8 in favor - 3 opposed - 0 abstained, motion passed.**

New Business: Budget Sections

Group 4210, Police Department: Ms. Cavanagh suggested that the model and year be added to the PD Car description in the future. Discussion on cruiser maintenance and the K-9 program took place. Mr. Glassett brought up line 4210-190 (Certified Special Police) and discussion followed with Chief McIntire. Mr. Glassett made a motion to reduce line 4210-190 (Certified Special Police) by \$10,000 from \$15,000 to \$5,000. Seconded by Mr. Simard. Discussion followed. The Committee voted **2 in favor– 8 opposed – 1 abstained, motion failed.** Discussion followed.

Group 4311, Highway Department: Mr. Lagueux motioned to move Group 4311, Highway's bottom line of \$538,571. Mr. Glassett seconded. Discussion followed on Line 4311-121 (P/T Administration Assistant), 4311-681 (Catch Basins), 4311-433 (Radio Repairs/Portable Batteries), 4311-610 (Materials/Supplies), and 4311-671 (1987 Vacuum Truck). Mr. Caristi motioned to reduce line 4311-681 (Catch Basins) by \$500, from \$3,000 to \$2,500. No discussion. The Committee voted **8 in favor– 2 opposed – 1 abstained, motion passed.** Mr. Glassett motioned to reduce line 4311-671 (1987 Vacuum Truck) by \$2,000, from \$5,000 to \$3,000. Mr. Caristi seconded. The Committee voted **7 in favor– 3 opposed – 1 abstained, motion passed.** Motion on the floor to reduce Highway's budget from \$538,571 to \$536,071. The Committee voted **9 in favor – 1 opposed – 1 abstained, motion passed.**

Group 4312, Highway Projects: Mr. Simard motioned to move Group 4312, Highway Project's bottom line of \$310,001. Mr. Lagueux seconded. Discussion followed on road resurfacing and the option of Road Resurfacing as a Warrant Article. Mr. Sellers made a motion to reduce Line 4312-390 (Resurfacing Roads) from \$250,000 to \$1.00. Discussion followed on the pros and cons of going to Warrant Article as opposed to keeping this line in the budget. The Committee voted **2 in favor – 7 opposed– 2 abstained, motion failed.** Motion on the floor to vote on Highway Project's budget of \$310,001. The Committee voted **9 in favor– 1 opposed – 1 abstained, motion passed.**

Group 4319, Street Lighting: Mr. Lagueux motioned to move Group 4319, Street Lighting's bottom line of \$30,500. Ms. Dion seconded. Discussion followed. Motion on the floor to vote on Street Lighting's budget of \$30,500. The Committee voted **10 in favor – 0 opposed – 1 abstained, motion passed.**

Group 4324, Solid Waste: Mr. Lagueux motioned to move Group 4324, Solid Waste's bottom line of \$341,102. Ms. Dion seconded. Discussion followed. Motion on the floor to vote on Group 4324, Solid Waste's budget of \$341,102. The Committee voted **9 in favor – 0 opposed - 2 abstained, motion passed.**

Group 4583, Patriotic: Mr. Glassett motioned to move Group 4583, Patriotic's bottom line of \$23,890. Mr. Lagueux seconded. Discussion followed. Motion on the floor to vote on Group 4583, Patriotic's budget of \$23,890. The Committee voted **10 in favor – 1 opposed – 0 abstained, motion passed.**

Group 4611, Conservation Commission: Mr. Lagueux motioned to move Group 4611, Conservation Commission's bottom line of \$2,714. Ms. Dion seconded. No Discussion. Motion on the floor to vote on Group 4611, Conservation Commission's budget of \$2,714. The Committee voted **9 in favor– 1 opposed – 1 abstained, motion passed.**

Group 4612, Historic District Commission: Ms. Dion motioned to move Group 4612, Historic District Commission's bottom line of \$8,737. Mr. Sanschagrín seconded. Discussion followed. Motion on the floor to vote on Group 4612, Historic District Commission's budget of \$8,737. The Committee voted **10 in favor – 0 opposed – 1 abstained, motion passed.**

Group 4651, Economic Development Committee: Mr. Glassett motioned to move Group 4651, Economic Development Committee's bottom line of \$15,550. Ms. Cavanagh seconded. Discussion followed. Motion on the floor to vote on bottom line of Group 4651, Economic Development Committee's budget of \$15,550. The Committee voted **8 in favor – 2 opposed – 1 abstained, motion passed.**

Group 4652, Outside Agencies: Mr. Lagueux motioned to move Group 4652, Outside Agencies' bottom line of \$29,090. Mr. Glassett seconded. Mr. Carr made a motion to reduce Group 4652, Outside Agencies to the 2018 budget amount of \$9,400. Mr. Simard seconded. Discussion followed. Mr. Carr and Mr. Simard withdrew their motions. Mr. Glassett made a motion to reduce Line 4652-568 (Red Cross) by \$500 from \$500 to \$0. Seconded by Mr. Carr. Discussion followed. The Committee voted **10 in favor – 0 opposed – 1 abstained, motion passed.** Mr. Glassett motioned to reduce Line 4652-570 (Tri County CAP) from \$6,880 to 0. Mr. Caristi seconded. Discussion followed. The Committee voted **6 in favor– 4 opposed – 1 abstained, motion passed.** Mr. Lagueux made a motion to reduce Line 4652-575 (Genesis) by \$1,500 from \$3,000 to \$1,500. Seconded by Mr. Glassett. The Committee voted **10 in favor – 1 opposed – 0 abstained, motion passed.** Mr. Carr made a motion to reduce Line 4652-575 (Genesis) by \$750 from \$1,500 to \$750. Seconded by Mr. Simard. The Committee voted **6 in favor – 5 opposed – 0 abstained, motion passed.** Motion on the floor on amended Outside Agencies' bottom line of \$19,460 from \$29,090. The Committee voted **9 in favor– 2 opposed – 0 abstained, motion passed.**

Group 4711 Principal L/T Debt: Mr. Lagueux motioned to move Group 4711, Principal L/T Debt's bottom line of \$216,142. Mr. Sanschagrín seconded. The Committee voted **11 in favor – 0 abstained – 0 opposed, motion passed.** Motion on the floor on Principal L/T Debt bottom line of 216,142. The Committee voted **11 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained, motion passed.**

Group 4712, Interest L/T Debt: Ms. Dion motioned to move Group 4712, Interest L/T Debt's bottom line of \$39,268. Mr. Caristi seconded. The Committee voted **11 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstained, motion passed.**

Group 4723, Tax: Mr. Lagueux motioned to move Group 4723, Tax's bottom line of \$1,001. Mr. Caristi seconded. Discussion followed. Motion by Mr. Simard to reduce Line 4723-830 (TAN Interest) by \$500, from \$1,000 to \$500. The Committee voted **11 in favor – 0 opposed, motion passed.** Motion on the floor on amended Tax bottom line of \$501 from \$1,001. The Committee voted **11 in favor– 0 opposed, motion passed.**

Member Comments:

Ms. Cavanagh would like to have a Budget Committee Session on the cohesiveness of the Budget Committee and to determine what the Committees goals are. Mr. Simard agreed that the Committee needs to agree on goals. Discussion followed on the decrease of revenues, the increase of the operating budget and the tax impact of warrant articles. Mr. Lagueux said that in his years on the Budget Committee, there has not been a cohesive Committee goal. Individual goals yes, but not a Committee

goal. Mr. Waring added that it is good to hear different opinions and vote on what you feel is best for the Town. Ms. Cavanagh recommended that the Budget Committee get more involved with the workings of the Town. Mr. Caristi felt the Committee does need a strategic vision. Mr. Glassett stated that he was frustrated with the budget process. Further discussion ensued.

Select Board Comments: None

Staff Comments: None

Adjournment:

Mr. Lagueux motioned to adjourn at 9:00 PM, seconded by Mr. Sellers, the motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Smith