

Budget Committee
February 9th, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Present:

Chair Charles Therriault (remote), Vice Chair Joe Caristi (remote), Walter Waring (remote), Paul Regan, Janet Cavanagh (remote), and Susan Sodano (remote).

Others Present:

Bob Blanchette, Finance/Human Resources Director (remote); Chief McIntire Bristol Police Department (remote); Raymah Simpson, Town Clerk/Tax Collector; Christina Goodwin, Land Use Manager (remote); Nik Coates, Town Administrator; Chief LaRoche, Bristol Fire Department (remote), Brittany Overton, Library Director (remote); Hector Hsu (remote).

Absent:

Les Dion

Call to Order:

Mr. Therriault called the meeting to order at 6:06pm.

Public Hearing Open/Close:

OPERATING BUDGET

Executive

Member of public stated line #4130- Town Administrator is too large of an increase.

#4140 Election

Mr. Therriault stated that the Budget Committee is recommending increasing due to the increase of elections.

#4150 Financial Admin/Tax Collector

No public comment.

#4152 Property Reappraisal

No public comment.

#4153 Legal

Member of the public John Cellars asked if the budget increases or decreases. Mr. Coates stated that there is always the possibility for a lawsuit or need of council so it is budgeted as necessary.

#4155 Personnel Administration

No public comment.

#4191 Planning Board

No public comment.

#4192 Zoning Board

No Public Comment

#4193 Tax Map

No Public Comment

#4194 General Government Buildings

#4195 Cemeteries

No public comment

#4196 Insurance

No public comment

#4197 Regional Association

No public comment

#4210 Police Department

Member of public asked if the Chief drives his own car or the cruiser back and forth from his residence to Bristol. Chief McIntire stated he does drive the Cruiser back and forth to his residence 19 miles away. The vehicle is a Ford Fusion and gets around 28 miles to the gallon.

#4220 Fire Department

John Cellars, member of the public, inquired on the large increase of line #350 Medical Expense – Infection Control/Physicals. Chief LaRoche stated that full time staff is required to have annual physicals but would like to start testing the part time

#4230 Forestry

No public comment

#4290 Emergency Management

No public comment

#4311 Highway

No public comment

#4312 #Highway Projects

No public comment

#4319 Streets/Bridges

No public comment

#4324 Solid Waste Disposal

John Cellars, member of the public, inquired on line #371 Clean Glass. Mr. Bucklin stated that the glass comes from the mainstream, sent over to New London that stockpiles and crushes the glass. It costs \$30 per ton versus the \$70 per ton being in the regular trash stream. Mr. Cellars also inquired on #410 Electricity and the reason for the increase. Mr. Bucklin stated that the electricity is for the compactors and shed. Member of the public asked about line #120 Attendants and how many attendants are currently at that station. Mr. Bucklin stated there a few full-time staff and there is always three attendants present.

#4327 Fire Betterment

No public comment

#4411 Land Use/Health Office

Mr. Therriault stated that line #130 Planner has been removed and have added line #121 Planning Technician due to change in job description.

#4414 Animal Welfare

No public comment

#4415 Health Agencies

No public comment

#4441 Welfare Admin

No public comment

#4445 Welfare Services

Member of the public asked about #440 Rent. Mr. Therriault stated that with eviction freezes due to the pandemic eventually coming to an end, this amount is to help Bristol residents with rental assistance.

#4520 Recreation

No public comment

#4521 Beaches

Mr. Therriault stated that line #120 Attendants increased to add more staff due to the way some of the attendants were treated.

#4522 Kelley Park

No public comment

#4550 Library

Member of the public stated that he feels line #190-194 wages of the employees have increased largely. Mrs. Overton stated that three employees have Master's degrees in Library Science and have worked very hard to compete and obtain competitive wages. Line #191 covers four staff members' totals.

#4583 Patriotic

No public comment

#4611 Conservation Commission

No public comment

#4612 Historic District Commission

No public comment

#4651 Economic Development

No public comment

#4652 Outside Agencies

Mr. Therriault stated that Tri County Cap is less then previous years and now is under one line #572.

#4711 Principle L/T Debt

#4721 Interest L/T Debt

No public comment

#4723 Tax

No public comment

#4324 Surplus Transfer

No public comment

#4325 Sewer Capital Projects

No public comment

#4326 Sewer Operations

No public comment

#4711/4721 Sewer Debt and Interest

No public comment

#4324 Water Surplus Transfer

No public comment

#4331 Water Operations

No public comment

#4332 Water Capital Projects

No public comment

#4711/4721 Water Debt/Interest

No public comment

Revenues

Warrant Articles

Article 11 (Solar Multi-Year Agreement) & 12 (Lease Land for Solar Array)

Mr. Coates stated that Article 11 is to enter a 25-year electricity power purchase agreement with a third party that will install, own, and maintain a solar array. Article 12 is the lease agreement between the Town of Bristol for land.

Article 14

Mr. Coates stated the State requires the Town to establish a contingency fund which is taken out of the reserve balance.

Article 15

Mr. Coates stated this Article is continuing reserve fund to the general fund.

Article 17

Mr. Caristi stated that this is for the 4th of July fireworks.

Article 18

Mr. Therriault stated this Article is to bring back cardboard recycling which is cost neutral.

Article 19

Mr. Therriault stated that the salt and sand shed was removed from the operating budget and put into the Warrant Articles.

Article 20

Mr. Therriault stated that this is for the purchase of radios for the Fire Department.

Article 21

Mr. Therriault stated that this is for the Capital Reserve Funds.

Article 22

This is for the yearly police cruiser.

PUBLIC HEARING CALLED TO CLOSE AT 8:31 PM

Vote of Revenues

Motion to move bottom line of the 2021 Revenues in the amount of \$2,661,332 by Mr. Therriault.

Motion passed by roll call vote 6-0-0.

Vote to Recommend/Not Recommend Warrant Articles

Motion to recommend Article 11 by Mrs. Cote, seconded by Mr. Waring. Motion passed by roll call vote 6-0-0.

Motion to recommend Article 12 by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Mr. Caristi. Motion passed by roll call vote 6-0-0.

Motion to recommend Article 13 by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Mrs. Cote. Motion passed by roll call vote 6-0-0.

Motion to recommend Article 14 by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Mr. Regan. Motion passed by roll call vote 6-0-0.

Motion to recommend Article 15 by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Mrs. Cote. Motion passed by roll call vote 6-0-0.

Motion to recommend Article 16 by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Mr. Caristi. Motion passed by roll call vote 6-0-0.

Motion to recommend Article 17 by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Mr. Caristi. Motion passed by roll call vote 6-0-0.

Motion to recommend Article 18 by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Mrs. Sodano. Discussion by Mr. Regan discussed how the investment does pay back fast enough. Mr. Waring stated this should have occurred during the remodeling of the transfer station. Mrs. Sodano and Mr. Caristi stated that this is a great way to invest for future years. Motion passed by roll call vote 3-2-1.

Motion to recommend Article 19 by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Mrs. Sodano. Mrs. Sodano stated she believes there are other ways to build a shed as \$150,000 is a little high. Mr. Regan asked where the figure came from whether from the Select Board or somewhere else. Mr. Coates stated that contractors

were brought in and this was the quote given. Mr. Waring stated the taxes are high enough and this project should be put on hold until other projects are paid off. Motion passed by roll call vote 3-1-2.

Motion to recommend Article 20 by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Mr. Waring. Mrs. Cote stated that there was a death at Profile Falls partially due to radio problems. Motion passed by roll call vote 6-0-0.

Motion to recommend Article 21 by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Mr. Caristi. Motion passed by roll call vote 6-0-0.

Motion to recommend Article 22 by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Mrs. Sodano. Motion passed by roll call vote 6-0-0.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve amended February 2nd minutes by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Mr. Waring. Motion passed by roll call vote 6-0-0.

Correspondence:

None

Old Business:

None

Member Comments:

None

Select Board Comments:

None

Staff Comments:

None

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:11pm by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Mr. Waring. Motion passed by roll call vote 6-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shannon Wharton