

Budget Committee
January 10, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Present:

Chair Paul Regan, Vice Chair Rob Glassett, Charlie Therriault, Walter Waring, Sue Sodano, and Select Board Representative Carroll Brown, Jr (arrived late).

Absent:

Janet Cavanagh

Others Present:

Christina Goodwin, Town Administrator; Bill Dowey, Chair of Economic Development Committee, and Steve Favorite, Member of the Public

Call to Order:

Mr. Regan called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Economic Development Committee #4651

Motion to move the bottom line of #4651 in the amount of \$5,000 by Mr. Therriault, second by Mr. Glassett. Introduced Bill Dowey, Chair of the Economic Development Committee (EDC) to speak to the budget. Mr. Dowey's purpose of attending the meeting is to answer any questions members of the Budget Committee had regarding the EDC budget. Mr. Dowey requested that his budget be reduced to \$3,000 as he noted that some of the costs were paid elsewhere in the budget. He added that there are active projects underway that they anticipate applying for grants to assist with costs and this line will help cover the grant costs. Motion to amend line #4651 to \$3,000 by Mr. Glassett, second by Mr. Therriault. Motion passed, 6-0-0. Motion to approve the amended bottom line of #4651 in the amount of \$3,000 passed, 6-0-0.

Beaches #4521

Motion to move the bottom line of #4521 in the amount of \$29,093 by Mr. Glassett, second by Mr. Waring. It was noted that #120 Beach Attendants is overspent for 2022 from non-beach days where the Select Board had attendants selling beach stickers at the Transfer Station and other locations. Ms. Goodwin noted discussion will continue regarding the number of beach stickers allowed for residents who own multiple vehicles, but a final determination was not made at the Select Board meeting. Ms. Goodwin stated materials and supplies cover new beach chairs and shirts for staff each year as it is unknown which staff members will return the next year or if chairs are damaged and need to be replaced. Mr. Brown noted that the Select Board has discussed beach attendant schedules and have concluded they will start Memorial Day and end on Labor Day so staff can also continue to keep up with beach compliance. In inclement weather, attendants do not work or are sent home early except for one attendant. Motion to move bottom line of #4521 in the amount of \$29,093 passed, 6-0-0.

Health Agencies #4415

Motion to move the bottom line of #4415 in the amount of \$36,900 by Mr. Regan, second by Mr. Waring. The Committee discussed both Pemi Baker and the Lakes Region Visiting Nurses Association ([LRVNA](#)). Mr. Waring voiced his concerns regarding Lakes Region Visiting Nurses and their professional practices. Mr. Waring also noted they have not replied to his letter, nor do they offer all the services that Newfound

Area Nursing Association (NANA) had previously provided. Mr. Waring recommended reducing their funding but not so much where they refuse to service Bristol Residents. Mr. Brown asked Mr. Waring to submit a copy of his letter to LRVNA to the Select Board along with sharing his concerns so that they can be investigated and addressed. Mr. Therriault reviewed their website page and found that many services once offered under NANA are no longer available since the merger. Motion to amend the bottom line of #350 LRVNA in the amount of \$1 by Mr. Glassett, second by Mr. Therriault. Mr. Brown noted the Select Board had already reduced the budget for LRVNA. Mr. Glassett withdrew his motion to amend, second by Mr. Therriault. Discussion continued regarding reducing the budget. Motion to amend line #350 in the amount of \$3,500 by Mr. Glassett, second by Mr. Therriault. Motion failed, 3-3-0. Motion to amend line #350 to the amount of \$10,000 by Mr. Regan, second by Mr. Therriault. Motion failed, 3-3-0. Motion to amend line #350 to the amount of \$16,700 by Ms. Sodano, second by Mr. Glassett. Motion passed, 5-1-0. Motion to amend line #360 Pemi Baker Hospice and Home Health to the amount of \$2,000 by Mr. Therriault, second by Mr. Glassett. Mr. Glassett noted in the past Pemi Baker had given the Committee explanations and a breakdown of their budget request and it was not given this time. Motion failed, 3-3-0. Motion to amend line #360 Pemi Baker to the amount of \$6,000 by Mr. Waring, second by Mr. Glassett. Motion failed, 2-4-0. Motion to amend line #360 Pemi Baker to an amount of \$3,500 by Mr. Therriault, second by Mr. Glassett. Motion passed, 5-1-0. Motion to approve the amended bottom line of #4515 in the amount of \$20,200 passed, 4-2-0.

Regional Associations #4197

Motion to move the bottom line of #4197 in the amount of \$11,520 by Mr. Regan, second by Mr. Glassett. Mr. Regan noted the Lakes Region is an approximate municipal line and is not negotiable. Motion passed, 6-0-0.

Outside Agencies #4652

Motion to move the bottom line of #4652 in the amount of \$33,589 by Mr. Therriault, second by Mr. Regan. Motion to amend line #569 Transport Central to the amount of \$1,000 by Mr. Regan, second by Mr. Brown. Mr. Waring stated he was against the amendment, as the service is greatly needed. Mr. Regan informed Mr. Brown and Mr. Glassett that Transport Central had changed their funding formula, now based on the population of each town. Mr. Bolton had discussed at a prior meeting the difficulty in finding volunteer drivers. Motion failed, 1-5-0. Mr. Regan had received email communication from Maggie Pritchard from Lakes Region Mental Health (LRMH) stating Bristol is 4% out of the 24 towns they service from information received from the Census Data compared to those that access the care services. The correspondence also stated the budget request could be reduced to \$3,000, which would level fund the request from 2022. Motion to amend line #575 Lakes Region Mental Health to the amount of \$5,000 by Mrs. Sodano, second by Mr. Regan. Discussion followed regarding the amendment and the need for mental health services. Motion failed, 2-3-1. The Committee discussed Tri County Cap running on an operating deficit and covering those deficits based on census figures for funding. Mr. Glassett asked what services Tri-County Cap offers. Mr. Therriault noted they offer an energy assistance program, homeless intervention, and other services. With no changes to the bottom line, Motion passed, 6-0-0.

Minutes

Motion to approve December 20th, 2022, minutes as written by Mr. Regan, second by Mr. Waring. Motion passed, 5-0-1.

Public Correspondence

Steve Favorite, a member of the public, spoke about the lakes and beaches being Bristol's gems. He watched the growth of the town, his experience working for Transport Central, and housing needs in Bristol. He noted the Budget Committee works hard to create a budget that is affordable and addresses the needs of the town.

Correspondence:

Mr. Brown had emailed Mr. Regan with a health concern. Ms. Cavanagh emailed earlier regarding updated budget documents but was not able to make the meeting. Mr. Regan also noted he received an email from Wendy Smith about the upcoming deadline for a letter to be entered into the Town Report.

Mr. Brown thanked the Committee for their hard work and dedication this budget season and appreciated the opportunity of being the Select Board Representative for the Committee, while learning the budget process. Mr. Therriault stated the Committee worked hard to find a consensus to create a reasonable budget to put before the taxpayers.

Member Comments

None

Staff Comments

Ms. Goodwin gave an update on the Public Safety Building delay. The project was \$600,000 over budget but with recommended cuts, is approximately \$400,000 over budget. Bid documents will be reviewed by the building committee and further cuts may be made.

Select Board Comments

None

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:24pm by Mr. Regan, second by Mr. Waring. Motion passed, 6-0-0.

Next Meeting

Next meeting is January 31, 2023, at 6pm in Town Office Meeting Room A to review and discuss the Warrant Article preview along with proposed 2023 Revenues. If there is a need to revisit any sections, then the Committee members should let the Chair know, in advance of the meeting.

The final meeting is February 7th, 2023, at 6pm in Town Office Meeting Room A for the First Public Hearing, followed by a Meeting to Vote on Revenues, Budget and Warrant Articles. February 8th, 2023 will be an extra day allotted for Revenues, Budget and Warrant Articles if needed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shannon Wharton