

Budget Committee  
February 7, 2023  
Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Paul Regan, Chair; Rob Glassett, Vice Chair; Sue Sodano; Carroll Brown, Select Board Representative, Charlie Therriault, and Janet Cavanagh (attending via zoom)

**Others Present:**

Christina Goodwin, Town Administrator; Raymah Simpson, Town Clerk/Tax Collector; Bob Blanchette, Finance/Human Resources Director; Chief Kristopher Bean, Police Department; Chief Ben LaRoche, Fire Department; Mark Bucklin, Highway/Transfer Station Superintendent; Jeff Chartier, Water/Sewer Superintendent; Shaun Lagueux, Select Board; Jennifer Davis, Minot-Sleeper Library Director; and Ingrid Heidenreich, Welfare Director.

**Members of the Public**

Boake Morrison, Nancy Dowey, and Rosemarie D'Arcy

**Absent:**

Walter Waring

**Call to Order:**

Mr. Regan called the meeting/public hearing to order at 6:04pm.

**OPERATING BUDGET**

**#4130 Executive**

Line #312 Projects has decreased by \$20,000, less than the Select Board recommended. Mr. Morrison, a member of the public, discussed concerns over wages for the Town Administrator. Mr. Brown stated wages are decreased for 2023. Mr. Brown also noted the three-monthly layovers filling the Town Administrator position.

**#4140 Tax/Town Clerk**

No discussion or public comment.

**#4150 Financial Administration**

No discussion or public comment.

**#4152 Property Reappraisal**

No discussion or public comment.

**#4153 Legal**

Legal is often budgeted lower than needed but difficult to project future legal services. No further discussion or public comment.

**#4155 Personnel Administration**

Budget was increased for health insurance, COLA, and merit-based raises for employees. Mr. Brown also noted that Health Insurance costs vary and cannot be controlled.

**#4191 Planning Board**

No discussion or public comment.

**#4192 Zoning Board**

No discussion or public comment.

**#4193 Tax Map**

This budget is level funded. Tax maps are available on the website. No further discussion or public comment.

**#4194 General Government Buildings**

This budget is \$10,000 less than the Select Board's recommendation. Line #342 Technology and Computer Management is budgeted for the IT company services, license and software upgrades, security, and system backups. No further discussion or public comment.

**#4195 Cemeteries**

No discussion or public comment.

**#4196 Insurance**

A member of the public asked if all Town properties are insured. It was noted that yes, all Town properties are insured including the library.

**#4197 Regional Association**

No discussion or public comment.

Mr. Regan stated the total amount budgeted for General Government is \$2,032,707.

**#4210 Police Department**

Mr. Regan noted there were cuts made due to the lack of building use as the new Public Safety Building is being constructed.

**#4220 Fire Department**

Mr. Therriault noted changes from Forestry lines that belonged within the Fire Department budget.

**#4230 Forestry**

No discussion or public comment.

**#4290 Emergency Management**

No discussion or public comment.

Mr. Regan stated the total amount budgeted for Public Safety is \$2,496,409.

**#4311 Highway**

Mr. Morrison, a member of the public, inquired about sidewalk clearings and paving. No further discussion or public comment.

**#4312 Highway Projects**

Line #390 Resurfacing Roads is budgeted for Bristol Hill Road and Smith River Road. Mr. Morrison, a member of the public, asked if Peaked Hill was among the list of roads to be resurfaced. It was noted that Peaked Hill was resurfaced last year.

**#4319 Streets/Bridges**

No discussion or public comment.

**#4324 Solid Waste Disposal**

Mr. Morrison, a member of the public, commented on the shared usage of the Transfer Station from other surrounding towns. It was stated that Bristol generates \$22,500 in revenues from Hebron for usage of the Transfer Station.

**#4327 Fire Betterment**

This line funds the maintenance of the fire hydrants.

Mr. Regan stated the total amount budgeted for Public Works is \$1,498,092.

**#4411 Land Use/Health Office**

No discussion or public comment.

**#4414 Animal Welfare**

No discussion or public comment.

**#4415 Health Agencies**

This is budgeted less than the Select Board's recommendation.

**#4441 Welfare Admin**

No discussion or public comment.

**#4445 Welfare Services**

No discussion or public comment.

**#4520 Recreation**

This budget has increased for town contribution.

**#4521 Beaches**

No discussion or public comment.

**#4522 Kelley Park**

No discussion or public comment.

**#4550 Library**

Mr. Morrison, a member of the public, asked if the library offers resources to all surrounding towns. It was noted that other towns can use the library, with nonresident patrons purchasing a library card for \$25.

**#4583 Patriotic**

No discussion or public comment.

**#4611 Conservation Commission**

No discussion or public comment.

**#4612 Historic District Commission**

No discussion or public comment.

**#4651 Economic Development**

No discussion or public comment.

**#4652 Outside Agencies**

No discussion or public comment.

Mr. Regan stated the total amount budgeted for Public Services is \$672,074.

Mr. Regan stated the total amount budgeted for General Fund Operations is \$6,699,282.

**#4711 Principal L/T Debt**

No discussion or public comment.

**#4721 Interest L/T Debt**

No discussion or public comment.

**#4723 Tax**

No discussion or public comment.

Mr. Regan stated the total amount budgeted for Debt Service is \$506,632.

Mr. Regan stated the total amount budgeted for General Fund Operations & Debt Service is \$7,205,913.

**#4324 Surplus Transfer**

No discussion or public comment.

**#4325 Sewer Capital Projects**

No discussion or public comment.

**#4326 Sewer Operations**

No discussion or public comment.

**#4711/4721 Sewer Debt and Interest**

No discussion or public comment.

Mr. Regan stated the total amount budgeted for Sewer is \$600,454.

**#4324 Water Surplus Transfer**

No discussion or public comment.

**#4331 Water Operations**

No discussion or public comment.

**#4332 Water Capital Projects**

No discussion or public comment.

**#4711/4721 Water Debt/Interest**

No discussion or public comment.

Mr. Regan stated the total amount budgeted for Water is \$551,284.

Mr. Regan stated the total amount budgeted for General Municipal Operations is \$8,357,651.

**Revenues**

Motion to move the bottom line of Revenues in the amount of \$3,178,754 by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Mr. Regan. Motion passed by roll call vote, 6-0-0.

**Warrant Articles**

Article 1 was for re-elections.

Article 2-10 covered zoning amendments on the ballot.

Article 19-21 are voted on by the Select Board only.

**Article 11**

Motion to recommend Article 11 by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Therriault. Motion passed by roll call vote, 5-0-1. The Budget Committee does recommend this Article.

**Article 12**

Motion to recommend Article 12 by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Therriault. Motion passed by roll call vote, 6-0-0. The Budget Committee recommends this Article.

**Article 13**

Motion to recommend Article 13 by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mrs. Sodano. Motion passed by roll call vote, 5-1-0. The Budget Committee recommends this Article.

**Article 14**

Motion to recommend Article 14 by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Therriault. Motion passed by roll call vote, 6-0-0. The Budget Committee recommends this Article.

**Article 15**

Motion to recommend Article 15 by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Glassett. Motion passed by roll call vote, 6-0-0. The Budget Committee recommends this Article.

**Article 16**

Motion to recommend Article 16 by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Brown. Motion failed by roll call vote, 1-4-1. The Budget Committee does not recommend this Article.

**Article 17**

Ms. Goodwin stated this Article is being removed and is working with the auditors to resolve these funding matters.

**Article 18**

Motion to recommend Article 18 by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Therriault. Motion passed by roll call vote, 5-0-1. The Budget Committee recommends this Article.

**PUBLIC HEARING CALLED TO CLOSE AT 8:35 PM****RECESS**

A short recess was agreed on by Committee members. Recess was held from 8:28pm to 8:35pm.

**Review and Approval of Minutes:**

Motion to approve January 31, 2023, minutes as amended made by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Mr. Regan. Motion passed by roll call vote, 6-0-0.

**Correspondence:**

None

**Member/Select Board Comments:**

None

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:44pm by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mrs. Sodano. Motion passed by roll call vote, 6-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Shannon Wharton