

Budget Committee
November 14, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Present: Chair Paul Regan, Vice Chair Sue Sodano, Walter Waring, Charlie Therriault, Daniel Kenney, Janet Cavanagh and Les Dion, Select Board Representative.

Others Present:

Christina Goodwin, Town Administrator, and Shaun Lagueux, Select Board Representative.
Ernest Roy, Quality Director and Melissa Smith, Directory of Home Care from Pemi Baker Hospice and Home Care.

Call to Order:

Mr. Regan called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Kenney led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Non-Profit Presentation:

01-4652-581 Pemi Baker Hospice and Home Health

Ernest Roy, Quality Director, introduced himself and Melissa Smith, Pemi Baker's new Director of Home Care. Pemi Baker Hospice and Home Care offers services for those in need of physical therapy, occupational therapy, spiritual care, and any hospice or palliative care. In 2022, there were 526 visits to Bristol residents and 629 visits by the end of October 2023. Mr. Roy noted that many of their staff members live in different parts of NH such as Meredith and other areas, creating opportunities for their services to extend to different areas of NH.

General Review of 2024 Proposed Budget:

Mr. Kenney asked Mr. Lagueux where the proceeds of the sale of the old Firehouse would go. Mr. Lagueux stated the proceeds of the sale of the old Firehouse would go into the Unexpected Fund Balance and could be used at a later date to offset taxes. Mr. Therriault stated he feels there are some line items that should belong on the Warrant Article such as a police line for speeding and equipment. Ms. Goodwin cautioned the committee to keep in mind Warrant Article deadlines and if any significant changes need to occur, it would be best to give the Select Board enough time to do so to meet those deadlines. Mr. Lagueux discussed one of the major components of the 2024 Proposed Budget is employee wages and employee retention. The Town of Bristol was behind in employee wages and steps and are working to fix the wage gap and employee recognition.

Budget Committee Goals:

Mrs. Sodano and the committee discussed the goal to reduce the budget by 3-4% as the budget has seen an overall increase by 10%. The committee will discuss this goal further at the November 28th meeting.

Review and Approval of Agencies and Associations:

#4197 - Regional Associations

Motion to move the bottom line of #4197 in the amount of \$7,250 by Mr. Regan, second by Mr. Waring. Ms. Goodwin noted the NH Municipal Association line should be updated to \$3,654. Motion to amend line #832 NH Municipal Association to the amount of \$3,654 by Mr. Regan, second by Mrs. Sodano.

Motion passed, 6-0. Motion to move the amended bottom line of #4197 Regional Associations in the amount of \$7,173. Motion passed, 6-0.

#4415 - Health Agencies

Motion to move the bottom line of #4415 in the amount of \$23,500 by Mr. Regan, second by Ms. Dion. Motion to amend line #350 Lakes Region Visiting Nurses Association to the amount of \$16,700 by Mr. Waring, second by Mrs. Sodano. Discussion by the committee on adjustment. Motion passed, 6-0.

Motion to amend line #360 Pemi Baker Hospice and Home Health to the amount of \$6,800 by Mr. Waring, second by Mrs. Cavanagh. Discussion by the committee on adjustment. Motion failed, 1-5. Motion to amend line #360 Pemi Baker Hospice and Home Health to the amount of \$4,000 by Mrs. Sodano, second by Mr. Waring. Discussion by the committee on adjustment. Motion failed, 3-3. Motion to move the amended bottom line of #4415 Health Agencies in the amount of \$20,200. Motion passed, 6-0.

4652 - Outside Agencies

Motion to move the bottom line of #4652 in the amount of \$38,838 by Mr. Regan, second by Ms. Dion. Motion to adjust line #836 Pasquaney Garden Club to the amount of \$2,760 by Mr. Regan, second by Mr. Kenney. Discussion by the committee on adjustment. Motion passed, 5-1.

Motion to adjust line #837 Newfound Lake Region Association to the amount of \$2,000 by Mr. Regan, second by Mrs. Sodano. Discussion by the committee on adjustment. Motion failed, 3-3.

Motion to adjust line #837 Newfound Lake Region Association in the amount of \$2,250 by Mr. Waring, second by Mr. Regan. Discussion by the committee on adjustment. Motion passed, 6-0.

Motion to adjust line #575 Lakes Region Mental Health to the amount of \$5,000 by Mr. Regan, second by Mr. Waring. Discussion by the committee on adjustment. Motion failed, 1-5.

Motion to move the amended bottom line of #4652 Outside Agencies in the amount of \$38,348. Motion passed, 6-0.

Review and Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve amended minutes of October 24TH minutes by Mr. Regan, second by Mr. Waring, 6-0. Motion passed.

Correspondence:

None

Member/Select Board Comments

Mrs. Sodano asked when the Fire and Police Departments would come to speak on the budgets to the committee. Ms. Goodwin stated they will be at the December 12th meeting. Mrs. Sodano stated she would not be able to attend this meeting.

Staff Comments

None

Next Meeting

Tuesday, November 28th, 2023 at 6pm in Town Office Meeting Room A.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:24pm by Mr. Kenney, second by Mrs. Sodano. Motion passed, 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shannon Wharton