

Budget Committee
January 12th, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Present:

Chair Charles Therriault, Walter Waring, Paul Regan, Janet Cavanagh, and Select Board Representative Les Dion (remote).

Absent:

Vice Chair Joe Caristi and Sue Sodano

Others Present:

Nik Coates, Town Administrator (remote); Bob Blanchette, Finance/Human Resources Director (remote), Mark Bucklin, Highway Superintendent (remote), and Jeff Chartier, Water/Sewer Superintendent (remote).

Call to Order:

Mr. Therriault called the meeting to order at 6:08pm.

Old Business:

Mr. Regan requested past budget documents of what was actually spent from the last few years to compare to the requests this year. Mr. Coates and Mr. Blanchette will work together to get these documents.

New Business:

#4311 - Highway Department

Motion to move bottom line of #4311 Highway Department in the amount of \$568,647 by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Mr. Regan. Mr. Regan asked about the merging #121 HD P/T Administrative Assistant to another line. Motion to amend line #121 to \$0 due to change of positions recommended by the Select board by Mr. Regan, seconded by Ms. Dion. Motion passed by roll call vote 4-0-1. Motion to amend line #220 to \$18,016 due to adjustment to change in position by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Therriault. Motion passed by roll call vote 4-0-1. Motion to amend line #225 in the amount of \$3,682 by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Therriault. Motion passed by roll call vote 4-0-1. Motion to move amended bottom line of #4311 Highway in the amount of \$552,698. Motion passed by roll call vote 5-0-0.

#4312 - Highway Projects

Motion to move bottom line of #4312 Highway Projects in the amount of \$592,793 by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Mr. Regan. Mr. Therriault inquired if line #693 is being underspent like last year. Mr. Bucklin stated he budgets the same for salt each year. Last year was a mild winter therefore the line was underspent. Mr. Therriault inquired on line #352 Contracted Plowing and if the plowing company was currently being used. Mr. Bucklin stated yes. Discussion followed on line #394 Salt and Sand Shed. Mr. Coates stated that the Select Board approached Mr. Bucklin about adding the shed in if the pavement budget was reduced due to a grant from the Economic Development Committee for the pavement project of Hall Rd. Mr. Bucklin stated the shed is falling apart and the salt needs to be covered properly. Mr. Coates stated the problem is the potential for an employee injury while being in the shed if it does collapse. More discussion followed about adding the shed as a Warrant Article rather than in the operating budget. Mr.

Waring stated that the Highway Department does a great job and he supports the shed if it is truly needed but the spending needs to slow down until other projects such as the library are paid in full and fall off so tax payers do not see more of an increase. Motion to amend line #394 Salt and Sand Shed to \$150,000, seconded by Mr. Regan. Motion passed by roll call vote 3-1-1. Motion to amend line #390 Resurfacing Roads to \$300,000 by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Mr. Regan. Motion passed by roll call vote 4-0-1. Motion to move

#4319 - Streets/Bridges

Motion to move bottom line of #4319 Streets/Bridges in the amount of \$30,500 by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Mr. Waring. Motion passed by roll call vote 4-0-1.

#01-4324 - Solid Waste

Motion to move bottom line of #4324 Solid Waste in the amount of \$303,254 by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Mr. Waring. Motion passed by roll call vote 4-0-01

#4327 - Fire Betterment

Motion to move bottom line of #4327 Fire Betterment in the amount of \$10,000 by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Mr. Regan. Mr. Therriault stated that \$20,000 was to make for a zero balanced year. Motion passed by roll call vote 5-0-0.

#05-4324 – Sewer Surplus Transfer

Motion to move bottom line of #4324 Sewer Surplus Transfer in the amount of \$0 by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Ms. Dion. Motion passed by roll call vote 5-0-0.

#4325 - Sewer Capital Projects

Motion to move bottom line of #4325 Sewer Capital Projects in the amount of \$35,000 by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Ms. Dion. Motion passed by roll call vote 5-0-0.

#4326 - Sewer Operations

Motion to move bottom line of #4326 Sewer Operations in the amount of \$376,327 by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Mr. Waring. Mr. Therriault stated this budget covers operations. Motion passed by roll call vote 5-0-0.

#4711/#4721 Sewer Principal L/T Debt / Sewer Interest L/T Debt

Motion to move bottom line of #4711 Sewer Principal L/T Debt/#4721 Sewer Interest L/T Debt in the amount of \$57,503 by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Mr. Regan. Motion passed by roll call vote 5-0-0.

#4331 - Water Operations

Motion to move bottom line of #4324 Water Surplus Transfer in the amount of \$372,803. Everything else is level funded. Motion passed by roll call vote 5-0-0.

#4332 - Water Capital Projects

Motion to move bottom line of #4332 Water Capital Projects in the amount of \$20,000 by Mr. Therriault, seconded Mr. Waring. Motion passed by roll call vote 5-0-0.

#4711/4721 - Water Principal/Interest L/T Debt

Motion to move bottom line of #4711 Water Principal/Interest L/T Debt in the amount of \$372,803 by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Mr. Regan. Motion passed by roll call vote 5-0-0.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

Motion by approve amended January 5th, 2021 minutes by Ms. Dion, seconded by Mr. Waring. Motion passed by roll call vote 5-0-0.

Correspondence:

Mr. Therriault stated there may be increases seen in the election lines and Property and Appraisal lines for the new position and current contract. More details to follow the Select Board meeting on the 21st. There was a budget meeting scheduled for January 19th but by roll call vote, the meeting is cancelled, and the next meeting will be on January 26th. Mr. Therriault said it would be best to meet after the Select Board does so that any recommendations can be addressed.

Member Comments:

None

Select Board/Staff Comments:

None

Adjournment:

Motion by roll call vote to adjourn meeting at 7:26pm by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Mr. Waring. Motion passed by roll call vote 5-0-0.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, January 19th at 6pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Shannon Wharton