

Budget Committee
January 29, 2018
Meeting Minutes

Present:

Chair- Rob Glassett, Wayne Anderson, William Cote, Dave Carr, Scott Sanschagrín, John Sellers, Walter Waring, Betsy Schneider, JP Morrison, Ashley Dolloff, Bob Emerson.

Absent: Janet Cavanagh, Joseph Caristi.

Others Present: Nik Coates–Town Administrator, Bob Blanchette-Finance Officer, Mark Bucklin-Highway, Jeff Chartier –Water/Sewer, Les Dion.

Call to Order:

Committee Chair Rob Glassett called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

Rob Glassett asked the committee to review the minutes from the last meeting. Scott Sanschagrín made a motion to accept the minutes of January 22, 2018 as written, seconded by Betsy Schneider. The committee voted **10 in favor – 0 opposed** in favor of the motion.

Correspondence:

Rob Glassett stated there was no correspondence.

Rob Glassett asked the committee to jump over old Business and go right to new business.

New Business – Budget Deliberations:

Section 4311 – Highway Department:

Wayne Anderson asked if the encumbrances were available for Cummings Beach as there was \$34,000.00 encumbered. Nik Coates stated that there were two projects at Cummings Beach one for the steps and also the erosion repairs. Scott Sanschagrín motioned to approve the bottom line for section 01- 4311 Highway Department at \$509,846.00, seconded by Walter Waring. The vote was **9 in favor - 1 opposed** the motion passed.

Section 4312 – Highway Projects:

John Sellers asked Mark Bucklin what roads were being resurfaced at Cummings Beach. Mark Bucklin stated that they weren't resurfacing. We are fixing erosion at the south end of the beach, the funds were encumbered from this year to take care of the beach next year. JP Morrison said they were regrading and resurfacing because of the erosion. Betsy Schneider asked what streets were done this year. Mark Bucklin said they were all completed and that there was money left over. Discussion continued and John Sellers motioned to reduce line item 390 Resurfacing Roads to \$190,000.00, seconded by Bill Cote. Rob Glassett asked Mark Bucklin how that would affect him. Mark stated it would not be too bad. The vote was **11 in favor – 0 opposed** and the motion passed. John Sellers motioned to approve the bottom line for section 01-4312 Highway Projects at \$302,301.00, seconded by Wayne Anderson. The vote was **11 in favor – 0 opposed** and the motion passed.

Section 4319 – Streets/Bridges:

Scott Sanschagrin asked if the town had done any upgrading of street lights and if there were any LED lights. Mark Bucklin said the town did upgrade a number of years ago and that there were some new lights installed but the town does not have any LED lights. Wayne Anderson motioned to reduce line item 410 Street Lighting to \$32,000.00, seconded by John Sellers. The vote was **10 in favor – 1 opposed**. John Sellers motioned to approve the bottom line for section 01- 4319 Streets/Bridges at \$32,500.00, seconded by Wayne Anderson. The vote was **11 in favor - 0 opposed** the motion passed.

Section 4324 – Solid Waste Disposal:

Wayne Anderson said that contractors can no longer use the town dumpsters and asked if that made a difference. Mark Bucklin stated that it has made a difference however it is too soon to know the figures. he town has also increased fees. Things are slow this time of year. John Sellers motioned to reduce line item 364 SW Freon Removal from \$2,000.00 to \$1,200.00, seconded by Bill Cote. The vote was **10 in favor – 1 opposed** the motion passed. Wayne Anderson motioned to reduce line item 366 Tipping Fees from \$165,000.00 to \$150,000.00, seconded by Betsy Schneider. Ashley Dolloff thought it would be better to wait until next year to cut this line item so that we have the data. Betsy Schnneider said that it would be offset with revenue from Hebron as they do use Bristol’s transfer station. John Sellers amended the motion from \$150,000.00 to \$160,000.00, seconded by Betsy Schneider. The vote was **10 in favor – 1 opposed** the amendment motion passed. John Sellers motioned to reduce line item 366 from \$165,000.00 to \$160,000.00, seconded by Betsy Schneider. The vote was **11 in favor – 0 opposed** the motion passed. John Sellers asked if we spent anything last year on line item 630 Maintenance/Repairs. Mark said the town did not. Scott Sanschagrin motioned reduce the bottom line for section 01-4324 Solid Waste from \$282,774.00 to \$276,974.00, seconded by Bob Emerson. The vote was **11 in favor – 0 opposed** the motion passed.

Section 4583 – Patriotic:

Betsy Schneider asked if there were any police officers being paid out of line item 881. Les Dion stated that they were not. Bill Cote asked Les Dion why it was about \$7,000.00 more than last year. Les Dion said that we do usually spend what we have. We also have no concert sponsor yet this year. John Sellers motioned to reduce line item 890 from \$1,700.00 to \$1,000.00, seconded by Dave Carr. Ashley Dolloff asked why it was \$1,700.00 this year. Nik Coates said it was Christina’s best guess with what the town has on hand for bunting and flags from last year. Les Dion said the town was going to replace the buntings this year and that may have been the difference, however we do not have the new buntings. The vote was **8 in favor – 1 opposed – 2 Abstained** the motion passed. Wayne Anderson motioned to reduce the bottom line of section 01-4583 Patriotic from \$23,950.00 to \$23,250.00, seconded by Ashley Dolloff. Betsy Schneider asked if the committee had heard anything from the garden club or the downtown decorating committee. Les Dion stated that they are two different committees and that they do different areas. Walter Waring said he thinks that they are important committees to the town and should not be cut. The vote was **9 in favor – 2 abstained** the motion passed.

Section 4611 – Conservation Commission:

Bill Cote asked if the water testing for spring was done in house. Jeff said that it was. Nik Coates also said that they were working on getting wetlands ordinance up to speed. John Sellers motioned to reduce line item 320 Legal Services update wetlands ordinances from \$200.00 to \$1.00, seconded by Walter Waring. The vote was **11 in favor – 0 opposed** the motion passed. John Sellers motioned to reduce line item 731 Professional Services from \$ 250.00 to \$1.00, seconded by Wayne Anderson. The vote was **10 in favor –**

1 abstained the motion passed. Ashley Dolloff motioned to reduce the bottom line of section 01-4611 Conservation Commission from \$2,362.00 to \$1,914.00, seconded by Betsy Schneider. The vote was **10 in favor – 1 abstained** the motion passed.

Section 4612 – Historic District Commission:

Nik Coates stated that the \$500.00 in line 621 is for Liz Kelly the planner to go to training classes so that the town can be eligible for grants and other opportunities. Scott Sanschagrín motioned to approve the bottom line for section 01-4612 Historic District Commission of \$1,485.00, seconded by Ashley Dolloff. The vote was **8 in favor – 3 abstained** the motion passed.

Section 4651 – Economic Development:

Betsy Schneider questioned line item 550 EDC projects for \$36,000.00. Nik Coates said that it included the town hiring a marketing company to help generate new business and strengthen existing business. There was an RFP to hire a company to redo the town's website. One of the company's that presented wasn't recommended by the RFP committee for the website project, but the committee was impressed with this company's ability to brand communities. The company has done good work with Fall River, Massachusetts which is also a community on the rise. The company would supply videos, and materials for the information booth and also all rest areas statewide. Another project that is in 550 line request was to purchase and put up tourism signs such as 3 miles to X or 5 miles to the fudge factory and so on. There was also a project to do a community profile to capitalize on tourism so we can learn what would attract people to Bristol and what would keep people local to spend their dollars. Wayne Anderson asked Nik what would be the number one priority. Nik Coates said it would be community profile. We do have the lake but also need to look beyond that. Bill Cote motioned to reduce the bottom line of section 01-4651 Economic Development to \$0.00, seconded by Dave Carr. Nik Coates stated that if the bottom line were \$0.00 we would not be able to do anything, which would not allow us to go for grants and use the grants if we got them. Scott Sanschagrín motioned to amend the motion to \$1.00, seconded by Walter Waring. John Sellers asked if we expected grants. Nik Coates said that the town hoped to get grants, however sometimes will need the funds to match the grant. Les Dion said that this committee has done great work. Betsy Schneider said that this wouldn't stop the EDC from doing anything. Les Dion said lets show this committee that we are leaving something there and that we believe in them. The vote was **7 in favor– 4 opposed** the motion passed.

Section 4325 - Sewer Capital Projects:

Dave Carr stated that they need to live within their budget by law. Jeff Chartier stated that he noticed that the select board forgot the other half of his truck which is line item 906. Nik Coates stated that they missed line item 906 Water Cap Outlay – other half of the truck purchase. After discussion Betsy Schneider stated that the bottom line of this section was \$22,500.00 she then motioned to add \$22,500.00 for item 906, seconded by Bob Emerson. The vote was **10 in favor – 1 abstained** the motion passed. Nik Coates stated that line item 916 was also missed. Bob Emerson motioned to add \$12,000.00 to line item 916 CCTV inspection, seconded by Ashley Dolloff. The vote was **10 in favor – 1 abstained** the motion passed. Bob Emerson motioned to approve the bottom line for section 05-4325 for Sewer Capital Projects at \$74,500.00, seconded by Ashley Dolloff. The vote was **10 in favor – 1 Abstained** the motion passed.

Section 4326 – Sewer Operations:

Ashley Dolloff motioned to reduce the bottom line for section 05-4326 Sewer Operations from \$354,095.00 to \$352,582.00, seconded by Bob Emerson. The vote was **10 in favor–1 abstained** the motion passed. Rob Glassett told the committee that if this figure was wrong it could be revisited subject to verification.

Section 4712 –Sewer Debt Service:

Wayne Anderson questioned line item 733 Dewatering Equipment. Jeff Chartier said that the town purchased the unit and I re-budgeted \$40,000.00 for the loan and interest because it couldn't be encumbered. Ashley Dolloff motioned to approve \$76,938.00, seconded by Wayne Anderson. The vote was **10 in favor – 1 opposed** – the motion passed.

Section 4331 – Water Operations:

The committee had no comments. Ashley Dolloff motioned to approve the bottom line for section 07-4331 at \$352,659.00, seconded by Bob Emerson. The vote was **10 in favor – 1 abstained** the motion passed.

Section 4332 – Water Capital Projects:

The Committee had no comments. Ashley Dolloff motioned to approve the bottom line for section 07-4332 Water Capital Projects in the amount of \$22,500.00, seconded by Wayne Anderson. The vote was **10 in favor – 1 abstained** the motion passed.

Section 4712 – Water Debt Service:

Betsy Schneider stated that the department asked for \$24,255.00 for line item 731 DB Radio Meter Project and the select board suggested \$30,000.00. Betsy Schneider then motioned to reduce line item 731 from \$30,000.00 to \$24,255.00, seconded by John Sellers. The vote was **6 in favor – 5 opposed** the motion passed. Wayne Anderson motioned to reduce the bottom line for section 07-4712 Water Debt Service to \$ 89,084.00, seconded by John Sellers. The vote was **6 in favor – 5 opposed** the motion passed.

Section 4652 – Outside Agencies:

Dave Carr motioned to reduce line item 570 Community Action from \$3,500.00 to \$0.00, seconded by John Sellers. Rob Glassett said he would rather leave it at \$1.00. Nik Coates said that Welfare Officer Kelly Lacasse makes efforts to work with outside agencies before she tries town funds for things like fuel oil assistance. The vote was **5 in favor – 3 opposed – 3 abstained** the motion passed.

Dave Carr motioned to reduce line item 571 Senior Citizens Council from \$8,500.00 to \$5,000.00, seconded by John Sellers. Rob Glassett said he couldn't agree on reducing this. Wayne Anderson stated that the average age in Bristol is now 60 years old. The vote was **1 in favor – 10 opposed** the motion failed.

Dave Carr motioned to reduce line item 573 Voices against Violence from \$3,300.00 to \$2,500.00, seconded by Betsy Schneider. Betsy stated she would like to keep this line item level funded and she motioned to amend it to \$3,000.00, seconded by Wayne Anderson. The vote was **8 in favor – 3 opposed** the motion passed.

Dave Carr motioned to reduce line item 575 Genesis from \$3,000.00 to \$0.00, seconded by John Sellers. JP Morrison asked if this agency is also located in Laconia. Les Dion stated that they have mental health services that are used by Bristol residents and they did come in and speak about their services. Ashley

Dolloff said she disagreed with zeroing out some of these agencies as they do provide free services when needed. Ashley Dolloff would like to amend this line item from \$3,000.00 to \$2,500.00, seconded by Walter Waring. The vote was **6 in favor – 5 opposed** the motion passed. John Sellers motioned to reduce line item 575 from \$2,500.00 to \$1,500.00, seconded by Betsy Schneider. The vote was **6 in favor – 5 opposed** the motion passed. Rob Glassett said that line item 575 was \$3,000.00 and reduced to \$1,500.00. The vote was **7 in favor – 4 opposed** the motion passed.

Dave Carr motioned to reduce line item 577 CADY from \$ 2,000.00 to \$1,000.00, seconded by Betsy Schneider. Les Dion stated that with the drug epidemic we have this is a good program for our kids. We haven't had the DARE program for many years in our schools. The vote was **1 in favor – 9 opposed – 1 abstained** the motion failed.

Dave Carr motioned to reduce line item 579 CASA from \$500.00 to \$250.00, seconded by Wayne Anderson. Rob Glassett said they do provide a valuable service. Walter Waring the community needs to show support. The vote was **2 in favor – 9 opposed** the motion failed.

Dave Carr motioned to reduce line item 580 Day Away from \$1,500.00 to \$ 1,000.00, seconded by John Sellers. Betsy Schneider I can't support this. The vote was **1 in favor - 9 opposed – 1 abstained** the motion failed.

Dave Carr motioned to reduce line item 583 Transport Central from \$ 359.00 to \$0.00, seconded by John Sellers. Nik Coates said this agency provides rides for people with disabilities and health challenges to doctor's appointments and shopping. The vote was **8 in favor – 3 opposed** the motion passed. Wayne Anderson motioned to approve the bottom line for section 01-4652 outside Agencies at \$18,800.00, seconded by Betsy Schneider. The vote was **11 in favor – 0 opposed** the motion passed.

Old Business:

Rob Glassett went to Section 01-4152-312 Prop Contract Service and read an email from Nik Coates regarding the \$12,000.00 for George Sansoucy and asked the committee to re-consider their vote. After discussion Scott Sanschagrín motioned to increase line item 312 from \$30,000.00 back to \$38,000.00, seconded by Bob Emerson. The vote was **6 in favor – 5 opposed** the motion passed. Scott Sanschagrín motioned to increase the bottom line for section 01-4152 Property Reappraisal from \$93,264.00 to \$101,264.00, seconded by Bob Emerson. The vote was **7 in favor – 4 opposed** the motion passed.

Dave Carr then motioned to reduce Section 01-4192-342 GGB Computer Expense from \$99,700.00 to \$0.00, seconded by Betsy Schneider. Dave Carr thought this was for purchasing computers and Nik Coates stated no, this was for annual IT services for the town. After discussion the vote was **1 in favor – 10 opposed** to motion failed.

Member Comments:

Scott Sanschagrín said he appreciates Wayne Anderson's comments in a recent editorial letter however he feels that because it was signed as vice chair of the Budget Committee that some residents may think that it was from the whole committee. Wayne Anderson said he would take it under advisement.

Select Board Comments:

None

Staff Comments:

None

Audience Comments:

Paul Simard said that he sat on the Budget Committee for 17 years. He is very concerned about the tax burden. The police department is growing we have new officers being hired but we still do not have a police chief. People are getting older, incomes are being reduced, and the population is going down. Taxpayers and voters are upset. This committee needs to keep that in mind. We need to look at the reality and reducing our costs.

Adjournment:

Ashley Dolloff made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Scott Sanschagrin the motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Vogan, Secretary