



Town of Bristol  
5 School Street  
Bristol, NH 03222  
—  
townofbristolnh.org  
(603) 744-3354

Budget Committee  
January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Meeting Minutes

**Present:**

Chair Charles Therriault, Walter Waring, Paul Regan, Janet Cavanagh, and Select Board Representative Shaun Lagueux.

**Absent:**

Sue Sodano

**Others present:**

Nik Coates, Town Administrator; Bob Blanchette, Finance/Human Resources Director

**Call to Order:**

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

**New Business:**

**Resignation/Nomination**

Mr. Therriault informed the committee of Mr. Caristi's intent to resign as Vice Chair so that the democratic process of electing a new committee member can continue. Motion to nominate Mr. Regan as Vice Chair by Mr. Waring, seconded by Mrs. Cavanagh. Motion passed, 4-0-1. Mr. Therriault asked Mr. Coates if there would be any legal complications from not posting the open position and waiting for elections. Mr. Coates stated no.

**Revisit Budget Sections**

Motion to move the bottom line of #4194 General Governments in the amount of \$309,930 by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Lagueux. Discussion regarding changes in electrical rates. Motion to amend line #410 in the amount of \$28,082 by Mr. Therriault, seconded by Mr. Lagueux. Motion passed, 4-0-0. Mr. Coates stated that Mr. Bemis, Chair of the Energy Committee is working on an agreement with a company to utilize the hydroelectric dam which could cut rates down in the future. Motion to move the amended bottom line of #4194 in the amount of \$319,012. Motion passed, 5-0-0.

Motion to move the bottom line of #4652 Outside Agencies in the amount of \$26,201 by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mrs. Cavanagh. Discussion followed letters of support for Transport Central and the amount of the budget request. Motion to amend line #569 Transport Central in the amount of \$2,000 by Mr. Waring, seconded by Mr. Lagueux. Motion passed, 3-2-0. Motion to move bottom line of #4652 Outside Agencies in the amount of \$27,801. Motion passed, 4-1-0.

Mrs. Cavanagh inquired on the budget for tuition reimbursement. Mr. Coates stated this line is for the purpose of employees to further their education and skills by taking college classes and receiving credit.

Mrs. Cavanagh asked about the \$6,000 jump in the Planning Board's budget. Mr. Therriault stated that the Board is working on two sections of the Master Plan, which needs to be updated every ten years. Some funding for this update comes from previously encumbered funds.



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### **Warrant Articles Draft Discussion**

Mr. Therriault stated that the committee only votes on article lines with appropriations included. Mr. Therriault also discussed Article 1: Town Officers. Mr. Caristi had one year left on his term and Mr. Regan was up for reelection.

Discussion followed over review of Warrant Articles:

Article 10 – Public Safety Building

Article 11 – General Municipal Operations funding

Article 12 – Contingency Fund

Article 13 – Patriotic, Recreational, and Special Events Expendable Trust Fund

Article 14 – Capital Reserve Funds

Article 15 – Accrued Wages Capital Reserve Fund

Article 16 – Discontinuation of the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund

Article 17 – Leasing of Town Property to Hub

Mrs. Cavanagh asked questions regarding Article 10. The answers are not yet available but more sessions regarding the building will happen prior to Town Meeting. Mrs. Cavanagh asked how Article 12 Contingency Fund is spent. Mr. Lagueux stated it is used only for specific purposes and is voted on by Select Board. Discussion followed on Article 13, stating this is for the fireworks and other events. Funds can also be accepted from outside of the Town. Article 14 consists of recommendations by the CIP, which spreads the cost over five years and does change from year to year. Article 15 is the benefit to time off; for retirees or those with accrued, unused, bonus, or personal time. Article 17 is tied into the Fiber project. The leasing of town space for the remaining four out of five years to the company promotes working relations along with bringing business and renovations to the Town.

### **Review and Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve amended minutes from December 14<sup>th</sup> by Mr. Lagueux, seconded by Mr. Regan. Motion passed, 5-0-0. The amendment reflects just the line of #410 in Streets/Bridges.

### **Correspondence:**

The committee acknowledged two letters that were received in support of full funding for Transport Central. Mr. Waring and Mrs. Cavanagh both stated that services are greatly needed and the impact of those services if not given. Mr. Regan stated he did not question the importance of Transport Central and the service provided, but more questioned the reason behind the increase of funds.

### **Staff Comments:**

None

### **Select Board/Member Comments:**

Mr. Lagueux stated there will be more informational sessions regarding the Water & Sewer Project along with the Public Safety building prior to Town Meeting. Mr. Coates also noted that the Bond Public Hearing is the same day as the Sewer Project informational meeting however the Sewer meeting will be recorded and available on the website next day for viewing.

The budget and public hearing will be at the Bristol Town Office - 5 School Street: Meeting Room A.



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**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:52pm by Mr. Lagueux, seconded by Mr. Regan. Motion passed, 5-0-0.

**Next Meeting:**

February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 6pm. Bristol Town Office - 5 School Street: Meeting Room A

First Public Hearing: vote on Revenues, vote on Budget, vote on Warrant Articles, sign MS737

February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 6pm. Bristol Town Office - 5 School Street: Meeting Room A

Second Public Hearing if necessary

Respectfully Submitted,

Shannon Wharton