

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 24, 2023

Lincoln Town Hall, Lincoln, NH

(video on YouTube) (approved)

ATTENDING: Chairman Mike Simons, Vice-Chairman Herb Gardner, Selectperson Tammy Ham, Town Manager Carina Park, Wayne Baltzer, Paul Beaudin, Tracey Brumlik, (Zoom) Ray D'Amante, Brian Gallagher, Brent Hansma, Cindy Lloyd, Al Poulin, Jim Spanos
Absent: Dennis Ducharme

Audience: Carol Riley, Chief Ron Beard, OJ Robinson

Call to order: 5:34

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: tabled to next meeting

REVIEW OF BUDGETS:

LIBRARY: Carol Riley states that many line items haven't changed due to the Friends of the Library helping. Other increased items, like the utilities, are out of their control. The Library is open 56 hours a week and the budget reflects how well they serve the community. Al asks about the increase under cleaning. Carol states that is just labor. Paul asks about the increase under Fire Alarm Monitoring. Carol states that the old system was unreliable and they couldn't get parts for it anymore, so they got a new fire and security system.

FIRE: Chief Beard states that the on-call wages went up due to increase in calls. Chief's wages went down because he's part-time now and gets a monthly stipend instead of being hourly. Deputy Chief Ryan Fairbrother deals with all the code enforcement, checking job sites, building permits and other administrative work. Ryan received a wage adjustment when more responsibilities were added. He's paid for 20 hours a week under the Fire Budget and 20 hours a week under the Executive Budget. Telephone increased due to getting a better internet service. The Truck Repairs increase is due to needing new tires. CSI is the new record retention software. The Helmets line is for replacements and the bunker gear line is to give each person two sets. Brian asks if the increase in commercial and residential development has increased the call volume. Chief Beard states they have gone from 195-237 this year, but most of those are vehicle accident calls. Al asks if they have any plans to help with assisting EMS. Chief Beard says that they are first-aid and CPR certified, but they only have enough employees to cover the fire end of it. Their insurance and training don't allow for giving medical treatment. Ray suggests that we combine fire departments with Woodstock. Paul states that the BOS for both Lincoln and Woodstock decided they didn't want to do that at this time.

PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION: Carina states that Health Trust has increased the non-union health insurance. Out of the 52 communities asked, we are the only one with no spouse/dependent coverage. Carina wants to get the employees opinions on moving plans because if we move to a plan with spouse/dependent coverage it could cost more and deductibles would be higher. Paul suggests that having that coverage could draw more employees. The Union contract has not been settled, but insurance is not up for negotiation. Other areas that went up like Social Security and Medicare are based on wages and out of our control.

CAPITAL RESERVE: Carina states that CIP met over the summer and this list was recommended. She states that over the next 3 years there are 10 projects “scheduled” to be completed that amount to \$3,590,000.00 and we have \$1,500,000.00 in the bank right now. Carina’s opinion is that these things need to be funded more so that they can be purchased with cash. Carina states that in the past 5 years the CIP has been underfunded. Paul asks why there is such an urgent need for a fire truck now instead of budgeting for it through the CIP. Carina explains there are 2 reasons (post-Covid): (1) prices going up (A \$4,000,000.00 fire truck is now \$7,000,000.00.) and (2) it now takes longer to get a truck. The vendor is telling us that to get a fire truck in 2025, we have to sign the agreement in 2023. This was not anticipated. Carina states that municipal budget law states that we can’t sign a contract unless we have bond authority to do so or we have the cash in the bank. Carina states that the department heads are being told to update their numbers to reflect current prices.

Discussion of how we fund the capital reserve to fully cover the 107 projects coming up and how we use the surplus.

WARRANT ARTICLES:

Carina states that The Highway Block Grant line is the standard one we do every year.

Town Clerk and Cemetery Trustees did not see eye to eye on whether they should purchase Records Retention Software so we are letting the town decide at Town Meeting.

The PD vehicle line went up because of the increased cost of vehicles. Last year a Dodge truck was purchased because Chargers were unavailable. This year the Charger will be purchased.

The Collective Bargaining Agreement line is an estimated number due to the agreement not being finalized yet.

The SRO line is for a school resource officer for 4 years. The grant is for \$120,000.00 for salary and benefits. The grant will cover 75% the first year, 50% the second, 25% the third and then the town will cover 100% the fourth year. The school will share some of the cost with us. The SRO will work a 180-days at the school or it's events and when the school is not open they will be an additional officer on the Lincoln force.

The Lease/Purchase agreement Fire Truck line was already discussed.

The two Route 3 Water Main Upgrade (from Boyce Brook to the Flume) lines will be one or the other. This water main services from the Flume to Woodward's. There were four breaks in that line in 2022. The Town will vote on the Route 3 Construction Bond and if that doesn't pass then we will vote on the Route 3 Engineering Bond, not both. If the construction bond doesn't pass it will push construction out another year. We are looking for grants, but they are not guaranteed.

The estimate for a combined Police/Fire station came in at \$24,000,000.00. The plan was then downsized to the police department only, because it has the greatest need. The two New Police Station lines will be one or the other. We will vote on the New Police Station Construction Bond and if that doesn't pass we will vote on the New Police Station Engineering Bond, not both.

MOTION: "To adjourn at 7:30 pm."

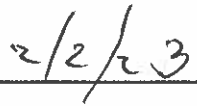
Motion: Paul

Second: Brent

Motion carries unanimously



Chairman Mike Simons



Date:

