

**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Lincoln Town Hall, Lincoln, NH**  
**(video on YouTube) (approved as amended)**

**ATTENDING:** Vice-Chairman Herb Gardner, Selectperson Tammy Ham, Wayne Baltzer, Paul Beaudin, Tracey Brumlik, Ray D'Amante, Dennis Ducharme, Brian Gallagher, Brent Hansma, Cindy Lloyd, Al Poulin, Nate Hadaway, Carina Park, Kristyn Brophy, Becky Farnsworth  
**Absent:** Mike Simons (excused), Jim Spanos (excused)

**Call to order:** 5:30 pm

**REVIEW OF BUDGETS:**

**TOWN CLERK:**

Kristyn Brophy reports that wages increased due to hours the office is open, COLA and there are 4 elections this year. Dues increased some due to getting her certification. It will cost \$1100 per year for 3 years. Contracted Services went down due to no longer using the Certified Computer Services for motor vehicles. The motor vehicle upgrade is faster and more efficient. The Offsetting Revenue increased due to more cars being registered.

**ELECTIONS:**

Kristyn reports that this budget increased due to the four elections this coming year: Primary (January), Town Meeting (March), State Primary (September) and the General Election (November).

**TAX COLLECTOR:**

Carina states that we now have a tax collector and a deputy during busy times. Money was added to the dues line item for a new certification. Tax collection software will be switched to a new billing program, Avitar. Therefore, the Computer Support Contract was cancelled, saving \$2500. Reduced title and mortgage search service was reduced, but Materials/Supplies went up slightly. Overall, this budget went down 5.94%. Brian asks if there is a breakdown of what percent in taxes is paid by local residents. Carina recollection is that in 2023, 7% was paid by the local residents.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

Nate Hadaway reports that this budget stayed mostly flat. Wages increased due to an unfilled position. Decreased the overtime to \$20,000. Sweeping went up by \$500. Telephone cost is due to employee cell phones and internet. Nate saves the town a lot of money by doing things in-house.

**WATER:**

Nate reports that wages went up due to 4% COLA. Contracted Services went down due to Loon Pond and the storage tank not being on cleaning schedule. Overspent in chemicals due to how much rain we had last year. Therefore, money needed for chemicals was increased. Could have saved about \$5,000 if there was a place to store more chemicals. Paul suggests putting a line item on the CIP to save money for the storage that will be needed. Nate agrees, saying that once the 4<sup>th</sup> filter is put in, he will be completely out of storage. Even though only approximately \$119,000 of the \$151,000 budgeted for electricity was used, that number will stay the same due to the projected increase in the cost per kilowatt hour.

**SEWER:**

Nate reports that there was an increase to contract with H2O Innovations and the rest remained the same. Upgrades were done out of CIP. The \$10,000 budgeted for electricity is paid for by H2O Innovations. Paul states that we should then have a revenue line that shows that money coming in.

Nate states that once we reach 75% capacity then we will have to look at an upgrade to our plant. Tammy states that currently the plant is at 68% capacity and the trigger is 72%. EPA permit will show when we reach that point. Paul states that the town continues to put money in to the CIP for design and engineering for the plant upgrade. Carina states that it will have to be a bonded project.

Route 3 water line is in the final stage of design.

Cindy states that as we get closer to having to rebuild the sewer plant, we will need to look at the topic of water meters again. This will have an effect on our ability to get funds from the federal government.

Brian asks if the board is going to look at new impact fees to new developments. Carina states that the fees have to be proportionate to what is being proposed as additional usage and they can only be put on new builds not those already approved. Carina states that there needs to be an impact fee ordinance to access fees in the future.

**MOTION: "To continue meeting and discuss Legal and Insurance."**

Motion: Tammy                      Second: Al      Yes: 11 Motion carries unanimously

**LEGAL:**

Carina states that Legal is down to \$95,000 due to just two outstanding cases. A line item was put in for the Planning Board so they can get general legal questions answered so they don't have to go through Carina and the BOS.

**INSURANCE:**

Carina states that PRIMAX went up 9.04%. We are now in a CAP program so they can't go over 9%. It's a 3-year program. Last year it was a 12% increase. Dennis asks if it makes more sense to go with a higher deductible to get a lower payment. We have a \$1000 deductible right now. Dennis suggests \$10,000 deductible. Carina will look into other options including raising the deductible. PRIMAX offers risk training, and compliance too.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Move Cemetery and Patriotic Purposes from January 11<sup>th</sup> to the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

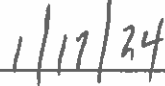
**MOTION: "To adjourn at 6:42."**

Motion: Paul

Second: Tammy

Motion carries unanimously

  
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Chairman Mike Simons

  
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Date: