

**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**  
**Lincoln Town Hall, Lincoln, NH**  
**(video on YouTube) (approved as amended)**

**ATTENDING:** Chairman Mike Simons, 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, Jim Spanos, Town Manager Carina Park, Becky Farnsworth (finance director)

**Call to order: 5:31**

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION: "To approve minutes from September 21, 2023."**

Motion: Herb                      Second: Cindy      Yes: 11      Motion carries unanimously

**REVIEW OF 23-24 MEETING SCHEDULE:**

Cancel January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting due to Presidential Primary and move those items to 25<sup>th</sup>.  
Move Capital Reserve and Special Warrant Articles discussion to January 11<sup>th</sup>.

**REVIEW OF BUDGETS:**

**Planning:**

Carina states that wages increased by 4% due to COLA and town not offering any merit/step increases (except for fire and police departments). Paul asks if we can have a list of all the wages by employee name. Carina will bring this to Thursday's meeting.

Mike asks about the number of hours needed for the recording secretary. Carina states that a current employee is being paid overtime to cover this position temporarily. The 45 meetings listed is due to this person typing the minutes for the PB, ZBA and CIP. Planning Board Meeting minutes can take a long time to research and type up.

Paul asks about employee insurance being offered. Carina states that right now we only offer 100% for a single person plan insurance plan and if an employee needs a 2-person or family plan then they have to cover 100% of the difference. Carina and the BOS will look at offering other plans that could include a 2-person and family plan with deductibles.

Training expenses were reduced. NCC dues increased. Carina states that except for Tax Map Maintenance and GPS capture, which went up \$100.00, everything else remained flat this year.

Al asks what the Engineering and Technical Review meetings are for. Carina states that these meetings are Ray Corber reviewing applications and permits and he is working in the interests of the town, not the individual applicant. Paul asks if this cost should be billed out to the applicants. Ray asks if it could be a flat fee. The escrow account is to pay for work that is done for the applicants.

Short Term Rentals Management program tracks about 400 rentals, but there are always new ones coming on and others going off the list. Time shares and hotels are exempt. Each rental pays \$100. Board of Selectmen are looking at increasing this fee. There were a few problems at the beginning, but program is currently working as it should. Overall, it's a helpful and efficient program and it pays for itself. About 75% of the short-term rentals are registered.

Carina states that a new fire-resistant filing cabinet is bought every year.

The total increased 1.39%, but the offsetting revenue had an increase of 7.84%. Offsetting Revenue includes building permits, sign permits, cost reimbursements and the short-term rental fee.

Paul asks why more is being asked for this year than what we spent last year. Carina states the actuals were looked at and deductions to the budget were made. The budget is much tighter this year than in years past, but we don't want to underfund them.

#### **Street Lights:**

Carina states we have been in a contract for the past 3 years and now our kilowatt hour is increasing by .07 cents. So even though we only spent approximately \$51,000 of the \$69,000 budgeted we will keep the budget at last year's amount.

(audio on video went out at approximately 52:01)

#### **Long Term Debt/Tan:**

Carina states that this went up considerably, which is due to us having 2024 payments on the bond for the water main on Route 3 and the police department. Property is assessed by what is on the lot as of April 1<sup>st</sup>. Water System Improvement and Sewer Sludge Removal terminated in 2023.

The bond bank has a lot of stipulations and isn't always the best option.

#### **Health Appropriations:**

Bridge House sent a one-page letter requesting \$1,000. Carina will ask Pemi Baker and

Lin-Wood Ambulance to justify their increases. We would also like The Bridge Project to report out how many people they service in Lincoln.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**MOTION: "To adjourn at 6:44."**

Motion: Paul

Second: Al

Motion carries unanimously

  
Chairman Mike Simons

1/12/24  
Date:

