

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
January 11, 2022 – 5:30 PM
Lincoln Town Hall, Lincoln, NH
(video on YouTube) (approved as amended)

ATTENDING: Chairman Mike Simons, Vice-Chairman Herb Gardner, Cindy Lloyd, Susan Chenard, Jim Spanos, Paul Beaudin, Dennis Ducharme, Al Poulin, Town Manager Carina Park

Zoom: Selectperson Tammy Ham, Tracey Brumlik, Brent Hansma, Ray D'Amante, David Beaudin, Finance Officer Johnna Hart

Audience: Fire Chief Ron Beard, Jayne Leslie

Call to order: 5:31

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: "To approve minutes from January 4, 2022."

Motion: Herb Second: Jim Yes: 11 Abstain: 1 Approved as amended

MOTION: "To approve minutes from January 6, 2022."

Motion: Herb Second: Jim

Discussion: Cindy states that on line 55-56 it should say, "*Cindy states that, as the statute indicates, **we can review expenditures** and the department head control how they use the total amount.*" Yes: 11 Abstain: 1 Approved as amended

Herb, Dennis, Tracey and Ray are up for reelection and need to sign their notice to run at Town Hall sometime between January 19 and the 28. Brent needs to check with Town Clerk as to whether he needs to be on ballot, since he is filling Jack Daily's term.

REVIEW OF BUDGETS:

WELFARE: Jayne Leslie states that last year the budget was cut, but now there are more residents requesting help with rent, medical, electricity and fuel, because of rental assistance and Covid relief money being cut. Some of these requests are very significant and due to the money being exhausted soon, she would like to see that total increased to about \$10,000. Jayne states a lot of this has been asked for in the last month. Tammy suggests reviewing what Jayne has spent at our January 25 meeting and then adjusting the total at that time.

Ray asks if there is a way for the community to add to this welfare amount. Tammy states that you can't ask for money, but we can ask them to contribute to the food pantry or The Bridget Project etc. Jayne states that another way to donate is for people to give gas, fuel oil or Price Chopper gift cards that could be distributed.

EXECUTIVE: Carina Park states that wages, overtime and elected officials increased. Utilities is about the same.

Tammy states, that due to Covid restrictions, The Highland Games (a nonprofit event) is anticipating low ticket sales. They are asking for \$6800, which will cover security and traffic control, which we have done in past years when they weren't able to cover costs. Tammy states that we can't provide them with police officers because the collective bargaining agreement states that the police can't donate their time. It has to be a monetary amount that can be used to pay us for security and traffic control. The Committee discusses why the Highland Games is getting this money, when the craft fair, ice castles and the brew fest don't. Tammy states that those events aren't facing the same economic problems, due to Covid, and that this will incentivize The Highland Games to continue to take place. This appropriation will not be offered every year, but is dependent on low ticket sales and not being able to cover their costs. The Board of Selectmen (BOS) feel this is a benefit to the town due to it bringing in revenue and jobs.

Carina summarizes the change under Contracted Services. Appraisal Maintenance increased due to more abatement requests. Other line items were added in the amount of \$6,000, under Certified Computers, due to greater security measures that were needed to protect our assets. Holiday Party was increased to bring it back to last year's amount. The Surface Pro line item was put in for \$13,000, which includes security. Some members want them and some don't. BOS took this out last year after the Town Meeting budget cuts. Tammy states and Ray concurs, that courts have a right to access any information on a personal device that you do town business on. Security is the reason why the BOS wanted us to have these. Paul makes a motion to cut the \$13,040 for the SURFACE Pro's. Al seconds this motion. There is also an annual amount of \$2115 being asked for to cover replacement costs, safety and maintenance, but we only have to purchase them once. Carina will look into the details of this contract and get back to us. Paul withdraws his motion so that more information can be obtained before making a decision.

Jim asks why GASB 75 was reduced so much. Carina states that it's an auditing requirement and this year not as much work was needed.

Susan states that the line items for Cloud Hosted and Engineering should say 0% under the "% change" column, and not 100%. Johnna will correct that.

Paul asks if other vendors will be looked at for services such as computers. Carina states that she plans on making it a common practice, that services are put out to bid on a regular basis.

TOWN HALL: Carina states that there are a few projects planned including: replacing the conference room carpet and replacing entry and back hallway flooring. Carpet is better than vinyl to reduce noise since it's above the interrogation room in the police department. Last year the carpet in the kitchen was replaced with vinyl. Tammy states that if we wait too long to replace the flooring then the old flooring would have to be removed first, which would increase the cost. Tammy states that a door in the police department and the main door into Town Hall need to be replaced, but money from CIP will be used to do that.

Paul asks why flooring can't come out of building maintenance under CIP (balance \$55,000). Tammy states that, along with the police door (\$4,500), the front door (\$15,000), the 25 years old furnace and a few other maintenance issues, the BOS didn't want to deplete the CIP funds. The A/C and Heating funds will be used for six AC units, replacing two a year. Paul states that all these town building projects should be put in CIP so that the funds don't come out of the yearly operating budget. Carina agrees that moving these costs to the CIP makes more sense. Paul suggests that we hire someone to monitor all the town buildings' infrastructure and then save money accordingly to pay for carpet, doors etc., from CIP. Ray asks to move the question.

Paul questions why electricity has gone up if the LED updates etc., were suppose to reduce it. This could be related to the rate structure increasing, computer use, the old furnace running constantly and the A/C fans running to filter air due to COVID.

SPECIAL WARRANT ARTICLES: From the Pollard Road Sidewalk Bond and the Additional Funding Levee Bond the remaining funds will be used to pay the principal. On the Beechwood One Roads Bond, the money will to returned to the Capital Reserve Fund for roads and streets. The other two are for The Highway Block Grant Program and the replacement cruiser. Carina wants to look at other ways to use the unexpended fund balance.

Review of Capital Reserves will be moved to the next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS: Next meeting is January 13 at 5:30.

MOTION: "To adjourn at 7:07 pm."

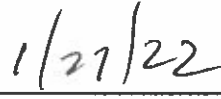
Motion: Tammy

Second: Al

Motion carries unanimously



Chairman Mike Simons



Date:

